



2020 SCREENING & ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE
FEDERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE

1. Name: Royce West
2. Position Seeking: US Senate
3. Current Occupation: Senator, Texas Senate District 23
4. Undergraduate School: UT Arlington
- Law / Graduate School: University of Houston Law Center
5. Age: 67 Marital Status: married Number of Children: 7

CAMPAIGN

6. Campaign Contact: Vince Leibowitz
- Campaign Email: info@roycewest.com
- Campaign Phone: 214-943-9378
- Campaign Address: 320 South R.L. Thornton Freeway Suite 210 Dallas, TX 75203
- Campaign Website: roycewest.com

7. Who is your primary political consultant? Jeff Dalton
8. Have you retained any Hispanic firms to help with our campaign? If so, what role do they play?

Yes, GNI Strategies and they are doing strategy and field work for the campaign.

9. Please indicate how many minorities and women you currently have on your campaign staff. (Specify their respective positions.)

Currently the majority of the roles in the campaign are filled by women and/or minorities. 10 minorities on staff/contract; 4 are minority women including the Finance Director.

10. Have you been endorsed by another organization in this race? If so, please list.

Not at this time; it is still early in the endorsement process.

11. What are your plans for increasing Hispanic voter participation throughout the state?

Our campaign will be using a combination of digital, mail, and field to reach Hispanic voters.

HISTORY & ISSUES (Please provide brief responses)

12. Have you ever voted in or sought office with the Republican Party? NO

13. Have you held any public office? If so, identify the office, years elected, and political party through which the office was sought. Additionally, list major legislative accomplishments.

Texas State Senator, District 23, since 1993. Major legislative accomplishments include multiple achievements in education, women's healthcare, civil rights, voting rights, criminal justice reform, higher education, etc. Among these include getting Dallas its first major public university and its first major law school, and passing legislation to require body cameras for police officers. Additionally, I authored and passed the legislation that requires CPS first work to place children in their custody with family members instead of in the state system.

14. What qualifications/assets do you feel you have which sets you apart from your opponent(s) and why should you be considered for endorsement by this organization?

I believe that my legislative experience and my proven ability to work with diverse coalitions to achieve results for my constituents is my greatest asset I have over my opponents. In addition, the majority of Hispanic elected State Senators and Representatives have endorsed me. They know my work and what it has meant to Texas and Hispanic community.

15. List at least three organizations that you belong to that reflect your personal and professional values. (Include positions or offices held with each)

Democratic National Committee-Executive Committee

Senate Democratic Caucus- Vice Chairman

Circle Ten Council Boy Scouts of American- Executive Vice Chairman

16. Are there any past or pending criminal charges or convictions against you that are relevant to or would have an effect on the position you are seeking?

No

17. Are there any pending civil suits or judgements against you that are relevant to or would have an effect on the position you are seeking?

No

18. What are five major issues that you believe are faced by the Latino community and what would you do to bring about positive changes?

I believe five major issues faced by the Latino community in Texas are education, healthcare, civil rights, criminal justice reform, and environmental justice. In terms of education, we must redirect federal education funding away from charters and back into true public education. That is a big start—bringing more money in the system. In terms of healthcare, we need to pass a public option, but one that is a true, public option competing with America's insurance companies. A true public option will enable union members, for example, to keep the healthcare benefits they've bargained for. In terms of criminal justice reform, it is no secret that the criminal justice system disproportionately impacts the Hispanic community. As I've done in Texas for years, we must look for opportunities at the federal level to pass legislation that will help make the criminal justice system more fair to minorities, and this includes looking at sentencing guidelines for low-level federal drug offenses. In terms of environmental justice, we know that Latino communities are disproportionately impacted by superfund sites, brownfield, and pollution. We've got to take steps to better regulate polluters and hold environmental agencies at the state level accountable for doing their jobs properly. We can do that through changes to the code of federal regulations, since most state environmental agencies are performing functions of the EPA in their states.

19. What components of comprehensive immigration reform do you plan to champion?

First and foremost, I believe that everyone who is here needs to be provided a path to citizenship—if they want it. There are some people here who do not want to be citizens, and if they want to be guest workers, we need to make sure there is a well-funded, well-staffed process in place for that. Second, we've got to add more money and manpower to every federal agency that is processing citizenship and asylum requests—this includes more money for counsel for immigration defendants. Third, we need to make most immigration violations civil, not criminal offenses. Fourth, we've got to look at ICE and determine if we can fix the agency and if not, take drastic steps to create something better. Finally, we've got to stop separating families, putting kids in cages, and actually treat people held in government custody awaiting immigration decisions with dignity and respect.

20. What ideas do you have to address income inequality and reduce poverty rates?

First, I believe a \$15 minimum wage, which I support, will go a long way toward this. Second, we've got to provide young people with two free years of college or technical school so they can, even if they do not need a four year degree, have the chance without student loan burdens, to learn skills that can help them pull themselves out of poverty.

21. What will you do to achieve universal access to affordable health care?

I support a true public option plan that competes with the insurance industry, but allows you to keep your existing plan if you like it.

22. What is your position on the issues of public schools vs charter schools?

I fully support true public education options. While I believe Charter Schools have some place in the mix, I believe we've grown too dependent on them as a fix-all, especially in low-performing school districts, to the detriment of our public, neighborhood, schools.

23. What action items of the "Green New Deal" do you most support?

Currently, there is a bill making its way through the House supported by Citizens Climate Change Lobby. This organization is comprised of environmentalist, persons in fossil fuel industry, experts on climate change and others. They advocate a market based approach to move from fossil to renewable sources such as wind and solar. In addition, once I become the senator, I will join the climate change Caucus of the United State Senate that was formed last year. Allowing the market to build the technology we need to move off fossil fuels.

24. Are you pro-choice or pro-life?

I support the right of women to make their own choices regarding their medical care.

25. Please share additional comments concerning your candidacy.

Experience and service should count in our party. I have been endorsed by 10 of 12 Democratic State Senators, publicly by 4 of the 6 Hispanic Senators. In addition, I have been endorsed by 47 of the 69 Democratic House members. They know my work and service!