

On April 23, 2008 the Public Policy Committee of the Planning Council sent out a "Candidates' Questionnaire" to 36 people running for the following offices:

- US Representative – District 9, 10, 13
- CA Assembly – Districts 14, 15, 16, 18 and 20
- CA Senate – District 9, 11, 13, 15

To date we have received responses from three candidates but look forward to more in the future. Their answers are shown in no particular order.

Note: No editing was done to the responses received from the candidates nor are we endorsing any candidate by publishing their information.

**Marsha Feinland**

Peace & Freedom Party candidate for State Senate, 9th District  
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**1. Top three priorities:**

- a. Free quality preschool and childcare for all.
- b. Minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all, including child care workers.
- c. Parent-child programs at all high schools. Child development classes and participation in "laboratory" infant and child program a requirement for a high school diploma.

**2. Actions**

I would introduce a bill for universal childcare funded by taxes on corporate profits.

I would challenge all legislators to take a workshop/class on child development and early childhood education. This would be a step toward eliminating the standardization movement currently strangling our schools, especially in the early grades. When we advocate for preschools, we need to make sure they are grounded in developmental principles.

I would support a real living minimum wage.

I would work to establish well-equipped and staffed child care centers in housing developments and business parks.

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**Assemblywoman Wilma Chan 16<sup>th</sup> AD, ret.**  
Democratic Candidate for Senate District 9  
www.wilmachan.org

**1. What are your top three priorities for early care and education in CA and in Alameda County?**

Top priorities:

Recruit and retain more childcare providers and early childhood education teachers by improving funding.

Expand access to affordable, quality childcare.

Make voluntary pre-school available to every child in California

One of my strongest passions is childcare and early care issues. As a parent volunteer in the late '80s, I organized hundreds of parents to protest when the Oakland School District was threatening to close the early childhood centers. That issue was the impetus for me to run for School Board and enter the electoral arena.

While on the Board of Supervisors, I strongly supported the 1998 initiative, Proposition 10, which provided tobacco tax money to establish the First Five Commission, now Every Child Counts. I debated the opponent, the owner of Cigarettes Cheaper on numerous occasions. I worked to establish Every Child Counts and encouraged my former Chief of Staff, Mark Friedman, to apply for the executive director position which he has now held for 9 years. I served as chair of the commission for 1-1/2 years, helped write the first strategic plan, initiated a Spruce Up Day which provided grants of up to \$5000 to child care programs to make minor repairs and improvements, and the Child Care Corps that provide stipends of up to \$6000 for childcare providers who continue their training.

During my tenure in the State Assembly, I authored several bills to provide high quality universal preschool to 3 and 4 year olds. I led the battle in the women's caucus to prevent budget cuts to childcare programs. I was a statewide leader of Proposition 82 (Universal Preschool Initiative), and when it failed passage, I authored a bill signed into law to provide an additional \$100 million for state subsidized preschool. I participated for 9 months in meetings to create a new ECE Plan for Alameda County that integrated early care from infancy through universal preschool.

Locally my office 'adopted' Fruitvale School in Oakland, where we started a new public pre-school and Woodstock Child Development Center in Alameda. Among other activities, we recruited hundreds of volunteers to spruce up the two schools, including gardening, painting murals and helping teachers put up bulletin boards.

Most recently, I have worked with the Peralta Community College District on infant care issues.

**2. If elected/re-elected, what specifically would you do to strengthen the early care and education field? If elected to the State Senate, my top three priorities will be:**

Protecting childcare and early care programs from additional cuts and, as the budget improves, increasing funding to quality programs. This includes making sure funding formulas, including regional rates, benefit children in the 9<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

I want to continue to work for universal preschool. I think this is critical to the success of this generation of young children. It needs to be high quality, developmentally appropriate, and include both family and center based providers.

I want to work on programs with the ECE community on early assessments (mental, eye, etc.) of young children.

If elected, a few of the things I will do to strengthen the early care and education field besides what I have listed above are:

Work to simplify funding streams to maximize dollars

Fight for higher reimbursements for infant care

Working with Alameda County to support the SART Program and looking at legislation to help this effort (early assessment – see above)

Dealing with troubling on-going licensing issues (including spotty inspections)

Create opportunities for workforce training for providers and increase in pay for childcare and early care staff

For more information, please visit [www.wilmachan.org](http://www.wilmachan.org)

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**Lou Filipovich** Republican Candidate  
State Assembly Member District 18  
15376 LaVerne Drive, San Leandro, CA 94579  
510-357-0555

Personal Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding Legislative Matters- As an Elected Official- I shall both support and oppose legislation on the California economy, and/or any other relevant matter's or issues that also requires state legislative enactment-

Regarding Legislative Enactment- Before supporting any proposed legislation, be it Private/Public/Businesses/Unions/Employees/Workers/ or any other partisan group – with any proposed legislative platform- (My test shall be passed on Cost...!)

Both federal and state government have failed to enact or mandate any forum's of (equality) within their Tax-Revenue distribution systems: Today's disaster is evident and, is overly evident that Taxpayers are subsidizing Taxpayers:

Political Party Platforms: Elections/Voters/Candidates and/or Campaigning Rights go hand in hand with Constitutional Rights: Such as, (supporting and/or opposing What ever may be the “Voters” selection other than any “endorsements”. – And, most likely “Endorsing” is in violation of (political free speech).

Lou Filipovich, is not a Attorney at Law- Nor provides legal advice)

Endorsements: As a Register Republican “Voter” and also as a Republican Non-Affiliated Political Party Candidate- Seeking or accepting political favored candidacy endorsements- Shall be similar to “accepting” provided political “cash” contributions and also could be in violation of Elc Code § 20000

Lou Filipovich, as a Candidate for Public Office “welcomes” support – and respectfully decline endorsements-

Sincerely,

/S/ Lou Filipovich, Republican Candidate  
For Partisan/Non/Partisian Elected Offices

Nicholas Gerber  
Candidate for US Congressional Representatives- District 10  
[www.goGerber.org](http://www.goGerber.org)

Wow. Your organization has taken on a large task. Trying to help both education and health care. My top priorities absolutely include these two vitally important issues.

We need to strengthen our health care (including early care) by reforming the current system to include more competition and faster approval of safe drugs which will decrease the cost of services and allow more people to be covered.

Specifically we can:

- \* Allow importation of FDA approved drugs from Canada.
- \* Allow cross State lines selling of health insurance.
- \* Change the FDA mandate to provide us with safe drugs, not safe and effective drugs. Let our doctors decide which prescription is best for us.

As far as education goes. We need to fund it more and allow greater flexibility and responsibility for the teachers and principals. I would establish parental vouchers and let the parents pick and choose which schools best fit their kids need.

Hope these answers help and are in time.

-- Nicholas Gerber, CA CD10 Congressional Candidate 2008  
[www.goGerber.org](http://www.goGerber.org)

A Breath of Fresh Air.