

# Coastside Democrats



## COVER SHEET - NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION

I, **Kevin de Leon**, hereby apply for the Coastside Democrats Club endorsement for the office of **United States Senate**.

My email address is: [info@kevindeleon.com](mailto:info@kevindeleon.com) .

My cell phone number is: **213-232-1674**.

The contact person for my campaign is: **Jennifer Barraza**.

The contact person's email address is: **jennifer@kevindeleon.com**.

The contact person's phone number is: **213-232-1674**.

I am a registered Democrat and have been since **I was eligible to vote**.

I certify that the information provided on this application and in any subsequent interview or written submission is true and correct.

Signature: **Kevin de Leon** Date: **08/19/2018**

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS – NOVEMBER 2018

### 1) Why are you running for this office?

As the leader of the CA State Senate for the past several years, I used my political capital to confront essential issues for all Californians. This past year I worked with my colleagues to face California's housing crisis by increasing funding to proven programs for homeless veterans, families, seniors, and people with disabilities. I was the critical negotiator to extend the state's landmark greenhouse gas reduction program. I authored and supported a package of legislation to safeguard our people and communities that included California's so-called "Sanctuary State" law and immigrant legal services funding. Working closely with my colleagues, the Senate passed bills to keep young children out of the juvenile justice system and fix longstanding inequity for youth and adults. Working in partnership with the California Clean Money Campaign, I helped negotiate the California Disclose Act that exposes dark money in political ads. Although stalled in the Assembly, I worked to pass SB562 the Healthy California Act that would pave the way for comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage for all residents of California. Over the years, I helped raise the State's minimum wage to \$15/hr, authored a model retirement security program, passed farm worker overtime, worked to relieve student debt and authored bills to stop wage theft from our most vulnerable workers. When I was first elected to the State Assembly, CA regularly failed to pass its Budget on time and wallowed in a terrible fiscal crisis. 24 years ago Republicans controlled the State Assembly. Today, because of our bold democratic leadership our state is on the right path. We made structural reforms, chose to pass social and economic policies to stimulate our economy and now we regularly pursue democratic control for 2/3's of both the upper and lower houses. I played essential roles in those efforts which stand in stark contrast to the failures of our democratic leaders in Washington DC. I have the conviction and vigor to impact Washington DC for the good.

### 2) What will your top priorities be if you are elected?

California and our Nation need a Senator that will stand up to Wall Street, fight for Medicare for all and prioritize the fight against climate change. California needs a Senator that is focused on the lives of everyday people and how we are going to make this economy work for everyone, not just for the top 1%. I am committed to pursuing comprehensive immigration reform, fight climate change and promote clean energy options.

### 3) What do you see as the major issues on the Coastside?

The Trump administration has begun a full-scale attack on the California Coast. Our Senators cannot be complacent and must stand firm to protect one of California's greatest assets. Beyond the political offensive, I see several critical issues with our coast: Problems with Marine Debris, Challenges with Clean Boating, Coastal Habitat Restoration, Climate Change, Oil Spills, Sustainable Seafood and Coastal Access for the public at large.

### 4) How will you support the Democratic Party, Democratic Clubs and other Democrats if elected?

During my time as Senate President Pro Tem, I was charged with ensuring our democratic elected and retained a majority of Democrats in the California State Senate. I have been fortunate to have played an integral role in the recruitment, training, and providing of critical resources to many first-time democratic candidates for the California Legislature. Democratic clubs, Central Committees and the Statewide Party were the backbone to many major electoral victories. I valued our partnership and would seek to continue and build on it for the future of our nation.

**5) What have been your most significant contributions to your organization, city or district?**

Having served in the Legislature for the past 11 years, I worked with many civic and non-profit organization throughout the state. Every bill proposal I've carried partnered with advocacy organizations. I've worked with Equality California, Planned Parenthood, Everytown, Parks for People, Sierra Club, CHIRLA, CARACEN, the Trust for Public Land, Friends of the LA River (to name a few). Furthermore, I have been the author of 3 statewide ballot measures: Proposition 39 (closed a corporate tax loophole and created energy efficient jobs); Proposition 68 (California Park and Water Bond) and Proposition 2 on the November Ballot that proposes to move Existing tax funds to help house mentally ill homeless individuals.

**6) How will you work with, lead, motivate and support your city or district's officers and employees?**

I believe one of the most vital characteristics of successful leaders is Humility. Leaders who practice humility engender trust, empower their subordinates, look at failures as challenges and develop a team spirit. I believe it is of vital importance to solicit honest feedback from employees and peers. Additionally, I view myself as an activist elected officials with an open door policy to constituents. My career has been dedicated to working with the most vulnerable. Unlike the "Ivory- Tower" approach of governance utilized by our incumbent US Senator, I believe elected officials owe their jobs to the people and as much should strive to be connected to the people personally and through their staff.

**7) Have you ever run for political office, served on a political committee or been identified publicly with a political organization, candidate, ballot measure or issue? If so, please provide the details of your involvement.**

I come from humble beginnings. I rose out of poverty thanks to a dedicated immigrant mother who labored on her hands and knees so I could have a better life. After college, I taught citizenship classes, was an immigrant rights organizer and a public school advocate. Voters then gave me the opportunity to be their voice in the State Assembly (2006) and State Senate (2010). In 2014, I became the first Latino elected leader of the Senate in over a century and a half. With a focus on using the legislative process to empower the least fortunate and voiceless, I used my position as Leader of the State Senate to move an agenda that increases opportunity for all Californians.

**8) Is there anything in you background which, if you receive the Club's endorsement, could cause embarrassment to the club? If so, please provide the details.**

No.

**9) How can we resolve the following two major conflicting elements on the Coastside:**

- a. The need to preserve the natural coastal environment for all, including future generations, as spelled out in the CA Coastal Act passed by the voters; and
- b. The need on the Coastside for additional housing (both market rate and low-income) and the currently proposed numerous developments on the Coastside (hotels, RV parks, etc.), taking into consideration the Coastside's limited infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.) and the current traffic congestion?

California is in a Housing crisis, my expectation is that all levels of government, advocates and neighbors come together and be solutions-oriented to provide housing, services and infrastructure support for our people. Clearly housing type and density must balance the delicate needs our coast and environment. The availability of resources and infrastructure must be included into smart growth and high quality urban design.

**10) What are your ideas for Highway 1 safety and traffic improvements?**

Local government must always prioritize infrastructure planning and needs. Regional, State and Federal entities must also collaborate to protect and improve national landmarks that not only deal with local needs but also welcome millions of tourists annually. The road to California's future infrastructure has long been in disrepair. This past year, I led the Legislature in creating solutions that will benefit future generations of Californians. I was instrumental in shepherding SB 1 (Beall) into law this year, making an additional \$5.4 billion a year investment in road, freeway, bridge and transit projects over the next decade. The result will be lower commute times, safer roads and job creation. The Federal government must follow suit and support California's efforts.

**11) If you would like to comment on anything concerning the office for which you are running or any other issues that you care about, concerning the Coastside, please do so here.**

This year I successfully passed SB 5 that became Proposition 68 on our June 2018 Ballot. With Prop 68's success, over \$1 billion will go to protecting local communities from flooding, with over \$200 million more dedicated specifically for coastal and ocean protection, restoration and adaptation to coastal climate change. In total, \$4 billion will be invested in natural resources and disaster prevention, cleaning up contaminated drinking water, increasing local water supplies, and providing safe parks for children and future generations. Prop 68 breaks new ground by ensuring disadvantaged communities that are "park poor" and vulnerable to climate change get the attention they need and deserve. Because of the passage of Prop 68, we will be able to protect our coastline, increase access to our coast and beaches, protect the ocean from runoff and pollution, improve our fisheries and increase the resilience of our natural systems and our communities' ability **to adapt to climate change.**