

Name

Ms. Jessica Morse

Campaign Committee Name:

Jessica Morse for Congress

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Andy Wong

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USAID, State Department, Defense Department (former)

Occupation:

National Security Strategist (former)

Office You Are Seeking:

U.S. Representative

Specify District/Seat/Ward Number or Indicate At Large:

California's 4th Congressional District

Estimated Campaign Budget:

500,000

As of this Questionnaire, Amount Raised:

500,000

1. How have you and/or will you support the mission and purposes of the RainbowPAC as outlined above? Please be specific.

I'm running to make sure that all residents of the 4th District finally have something that they have lacked for years: a real partner in Washington who will advocate for them and work with community leaders to build on solutions that have already found success at the local level. That very much includes all of our small business owners, who provide the majority of jobs in our district and who've been ignored by a Representative who doesn't understand how government can be a partner to employers. Every member of our community deserves to be heard and valued, and I am committed to standing up for anyone that needs their voice amplified regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

2. Are you a current member of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce? If yes, since when? And, are you or any of your staff or key volunteers openly LGBT?

I am not currently a member of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. Several members of our campaign staff and our leadership volunteers, including our senior campaign advisor and our digital and research directors, openly identify as LGBT.

3. Describe how you would support/oppose the use of programs to ensure equal opportunities, policies, laws, and/or ordinances that protect LGBT individuals in the workplace.

I am committed to protecting the civil rights of all of our citizens and will champion legislation that protects individual rights and freedoms, including those of the LGBT members of our community. I was thrilled by the recent decision in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals finding that the Civil Rights Act's prohibition on workplace discrimination based on sex applies as well to sexual orientation-- despite that Trump Administration arguing before the court that it does not. In Congress, I would support employment discrimination protections for LGBT Americans, including by sponsoring legislation.

4. What are the most pressing issues facing our region, and how do you propose we resolve them?

I started my campaign with a three month-listening tour, meeting with local elected leaders and community board members throughout the ten counties of our district. I am committed to advocating for the real needs of our community. In particular, I am committed to:

- Training workers for the jobs needed within our district
- Expanding access to rural broadband
- Preserving our precious water resources
- Restoring our forests' health and resilience
- Ensuring high quality public education for all
- Creating good middle class jobs in every corner of our district
- Ensuring healthcare is affordable and accessible for all
- Investing in and increasing access to capital lending for small businesses

5. What is your vision to attract major business/Fortune 500 companies into our region?

I see four keys to attracting major employers to our part of the state. First is a high-quality infrastructure, and with much of the traffic on our major roads and highways coming from visitors or interstate travel, there is a strong case for greater federal investment. Second is competitive energy costs, which we can achieve by boosting generation from renewable sources including solar and biomass. Third is a ready workforce, trained in needed job skills through investment in vocational training, community college, and apprenticeships. And fourth is construction of more workforce housing, to reduce cost-of-living pressure and enable workers to remain in our region.

6. Share your vision to make our region a better place for small businesses.

Our district is full of innovators and risk-takers, people who've started their own businesses and created jobs in their towns. But all too often, the current Administration seems to favor the largest companies over the small businesses that drive our local economies. I will be an advocate for rebalancing our economy toward local enterprise, through tax fairness, regulatory reform, and a real anti-monopoly policy.

7. Describe your position on Community Benefit Resolutions, Living Wage Ordinances, and Project Labor Agreements.

Done right, these can be platforms through which employers and developers engage constructively with workers and the community to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. That requires an attitude of partnership, one that takes into account the realities for employers as well as the needs of employees. I believe government can support job quality, but ultimately job creation will come from investments that make sense for the private sector.

8. What is your position on requiring employers to provide health care insurance to workers and families?

The employer mandate is a key component of the ACA as it is currently written; in order for the ACA to work, we must have a strong partnership with businesses large and small. I'll fight to preserve and expand access to affordable coverage, by working with legislators in both parties to build on the ACA. To start, Congress can lower co-pays and deductibles by approving long-term

funding for cost-sharing payments. We can also expand choice and offer lower premiums by reviving the public option, extending the existing Medicare network to all Americans who want to buy in.

9. Describe your vision for improving economic conditions and job security of people within the office you are seeking.

I'm running because I want every member of our community to have the tools, resources, and opportunities to succeed on their own. That means connecting our district to the modern economy through high-speed broadband, teaching the skills that new jobs demand, preserving a level playing field for small businesses, and growing new industries that solve problems for our people.

I will be a champion for closing the rural digital divide. Fast, reliable internet is as vital to today's economy as electricity and running water. It's what allows our small business owners to market their products; our farmers to run modern agricultural equipment; our teachers to connect children to a world of educational resources; and our hospitals to deliver the highest quality of care.

I will advocate for training our district's young people for the skills needed in our community. Our rural hospitals need nurse's aides and technicians; Cal Fire needs workers to build fire breaks; mills need loggers to return our forests to a healthy density. I will partner with chambers of commerce and local business leaders to ensure that students graduate with an employable skill set. As a member of Congress, I will work to preserve and expand grants for career and technical education in community colleges and vocational institutes.

And I will leverage federal resources to create jobs that help our district address its biggest challenges. Appropriately harvesting the more than 120 million trees killed by the bark beetle in the Sierra can provide material for our wood products industry, and fuel for biomass energy production. Protecting our homes and communities against fire can create jobs in fire prevention. Fixing our rusty, leaking municipal pipe systems can be the catalyst for infrastructure projects. I will ensure that federal risk management strategies connect to rural economic development policies, allowing our businesses to put people to work helping to solve problems.

10. Identify three (3) key endorsements that you have received for your candidacy.

I was recently honored to receive the endorsement of the California Democratic Party, thanks to the votes of party leaders and activists here in our district.

I'm also proud to have been endorsed by several members of California's congressional delegation:

- Congresswoman Julia Brownley (CA-26)
- Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11)
- Congressman Jared Huffman (CA-2)
- Congressman Ro Khanna (CA-17)
- Congressman Eric Swalwell (CA-15)

Finally, I've made it a point during my campaign to meet with small business owners across our district. I'm grateful that several, including Ken Boche of Yosemite Close-Up Tours and Paco Lindsay of Paco's Truckee Bike and Ski, have endorsed my candidacy.

Virtual Signature

Jessica Morse

Date

03/02/2018