DoR emailed the following five questions to the Susan Bonilla campaign. Bonilla’s written responses follow the questions.

**DoR: What is the single biggest difference between you and your opponent?**

**Bonilla:** I have a strong track record of effective leadership and bringing people together to get results for Contra Costa County families and small businesses. That's why I've been endorsed by the California Democratic Party and leaders like California Attorney General Kamala Harris, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, former Congressman George Miller, and former Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan.

**DoR: What progressive values drive your position on that difference?**

**Bonilla:** I was raised in a family that put great value in helping others and public service. I became a teacher and have raised daughters who teach as well.

**DoR: What single accomplishment are you proudest of in your many years in public life?**

**Bonilla:** It's impossible to pick one, but I'm very proud of the work we did to expand Monument Impact to become a center for job training, protecting the Delta and opposing the twin tunnels, reforming the state’s education funding formula to put more money into local schools while giving local districts and parents more control, and balancing budgets 13 years in a row.

**DoR: In a nutshell, why is it critical that we keep our schools public and fend off attempts to privatize them?**

**Bonilla:** Public education is a core part of the American dream; and ensuring that every child has access to a high quality public education is absolutely essential for the future of our State and the success of future generations.

**DoR: With so many ongoing crises in our state, what gives you the single greatest hope for optimism in the coming years?**

**Bonilla:** I'm optimistic because I know how great our State is and how amazing the people are. Seeing the innovation and the energy that drives young people in our communities give me great optimism despite the challenges we face.
Susan Bonilla: What Has She Really Done?

Susan Bonilla is a former high school teacher who won a seat on the Concord City Council and worked her way up the political ladder to become mayor of Concord and Contra Costa County supervisor. She is currently District 14 State Assemblywoman representing Contra Costa and Solano counties. She is now running against Steve Glazer for the District 7 State Senate seat. The Democrats of Rossmoor Board of Directors, while considering whether or not to endorse her, took a good look at Susan’s record as a public official. We found that she has a long and impressive record of public service during which she worked tirelessly for Progressive causes.

In the Assembly, Susan is chair of the Assembly Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection Committee and sits on both the Assembly Health Committee and the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. She also chairs the Assembly Select Committee on increasing the integration of STEM education in California K-12 schools. She recently was appointed to the State Allocation Board, which apportions the remaining voter-approved California school construction bonds and addresses all policy issues put forward from school districts statewide; the board is also responsible for hearing and taking action on school appeals.

While serving in her local community, Susan built and expanded job training programs and job creation efforts and successfully helped residents get back to work during the recession. As a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors she created the Foster Youth Employment Program, which provides young people in the foster care system with county job opportunities. She developed partnerships to open the Michael Chavez Center for Economic Opportunity to provide job training for residents along Concord’s Monument Corridor.

Working to balance consumer protection with small business needs, she authored a bill that clarifies insurance coverage for transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft. This bill ensures that drivers and passengers are protected while still supporting the innovative ride-sharing model. Susan worked on legislation that establishes the highest safety standards for California industrial sites while protecting manufacturing jobs.

Susan has also authored historic legislation expanding health-care access for women and several public safety measures. The Message Therapy Reform Act works to eliminate human trafficking and prostitution from the massage industry. AB2560 and A1432 address child abuse cases in the public schools by ensuring that all credentialed school employees understand their reporting responsibilities and training them to identify child abuse and neglect.

Susan has a long history of advocating for the public schools. She was active in supporting transitional kindergarten and hopes to make preschool available to all children. She authored Assembly Bill 484, signed into law by Governor Brown in 2013. This law enables our schools to phase out outdated STAR testing and prepares students for better assessments that reflect the real-world knowledge needed for today’s job market. Susan recently gained committee approval of a bill that establishes the Common

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and Next Generation Science Standards Implementation Fund, which together allocate $1 billion from the State’s General Fund for educational resources, teacher support, and integration of technology in the classroom.

She also introduced a bill that establishes the California STEM AmeriCorps program, which is designed to improve the academic performance of K-12 student in STEM areas. As a leader for women’s rights, Susan also authored AB2350, which requires universities to adopt policies to implement Title IX and protects the rights of pregnant graduate students. She recently introduced the College Opportunity Act, which reverses the proposed cuts to the Cal Grant program, which is the State’s largest financial aid program.

Adding to her legislative accomplishments, Susan led efforts to secure an additional $26.7 million for the K-12 high-speed network to meet the Internet requirements for implementation of Common Core standards. This additional funding is in addition to last year’s successful procurement of $1.2 billion for Common Core implementation, professional development of teachers and technology upgrades for schools.

In the health area, Susan authored legislation that expanded health care access for women and a successful bill that addresses the shortage of trained medical students in this State by allowing graduates of accelerated or fully accredited medical education programs to become licensed physicians. This bill was co-sponsored by the Medical Board of California and the University of California.

Susan has an exemplary record of supporting environmentally friendly bills in the Assembly. Recently she introduced legislation that will ensure that a specified amount of cap-and-trade revenue will be used for the development of infrastructure and purification technology for biogas. This will reduce the emissions of green house gases and increase investments in biogas development, which will ultimately decrease our reliance on natural gas.

The evidence is clear: Susan Bonilla has an impressive record of accomplishment in working for progressive causes during her years of public service. If elected to the State Senate there is no question that she will build on this record in an exemplary manner. That is the main reason that I support her candidacy for this position and that is the main reason that she was endorsed by the Democratic Party, former Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, former Congressman George Miller, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, and all of the Democratic clubs in the area, including the Democrats of Rossmoor.

Best Wishes,

Jane

Donate, signup for opportunities to volunteer, or read Susan’s statements on important issues at www.susanbonilla.com/.
Who Pays for all this Garbage?  
It’s Time to unPAC by Marilyn Davin

As we approach yet another election, and this one for a single State Senate seat, I seem to find more mailers in my mailbox than ever before. They are printed on expensive glossy paper stock and hurl insults at his/her opponent, depending of course on whose bull is being gored.

So who or what exactly is paying for all this garbage? In my admittedly unscientific study of the matter, I decided to follow the money for the four most recent mailers I have received: two for Bonilla, two for Glazer.

The two for Glazer were paid for, respectively, by Bill Bloomfield and by JobsPAC. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, Bloomfield, a wealthy Southern California Republican-turned-Independent, has donated more than $850,000 of his own money to the Glazer campaign. He writes, in an open online letter to potential donors, that the District 7 State Senate seat race is “the single most consequential” state legislative race in years.

On to the PAC: JobsPAC, sponsor of the second Glazer mailer. JobsPAC describes itself as “a bipartisan coalition of California employers” but also funds charter school interests. JobsPAC’s list of contributors reads like a “Who’s Who” of big business.

The two mailers supporting Bonilla were paid for by, respectively, “Working Families Opposing Glazer 2015” and “Susan Bonilla for Senate 2015.” Working Families Opposing Glazer describes itself as “a committee to elect Bonilla for Senate 2015, sponsored by firefighters, doctors and dentists organizations.” According to Election Track, Working Families Opposing Glazer has spent $120,175 to support Bonilla. Susan Bonilla for Senate 2015 is Bonilla’s campaign fund, which lists endorsements from many state elected officials, teachers, and public employee unions.

I have renewed respect for journalists who cover in-depth campaign funding. It was cumbersome to ferret out just this general information from endless online pages of campaign- and candidate-related lists, letters, endorsements and the like, all slanted in their presentations by the biases of the authors — on all sides.

One thing that is clear is that, in general, Glazer’s supporters are heavy on the business and charter school side, and Bonilla is heavy on the side of educators and public employees. This is a divide one would typically expect from a Republican/Democrat contest rather than one between Democrats. But then, unsurprisingly, the Republican who withdrew from the primary threw her support to Glazer, who looks in many respects more like a Republican than a Democrat. Bonilla is the true Democrat in this race.

“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt
Susan Bonilla and Steve Glazier will be on the ballot of the May 19 Special General Election. The Special Election is to fill the unexpired term for the State Senate District 7, vacated following Mark DeSaulnier’s election to Congress.

Rossmoor Polling Place Is the Fireside Room

Each Rossmoor voter has a precinct number that is preceded by the city code: WLCRxxx. Your precinct number is on the back page of your Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet, in the middle on the left side. **Bring your precinct number or the pamphlet with you so that you can go directly to your precinct table at Fireside when you arrive.**

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are in line at the polling place before 8 p.m., you will be able to vote.

**Vote-by-Mail Voters**

Important Dates

• April 20: vote-by-mail ballots mailed
• May 12: last day to request vote-by-mail ballot
• May 19: last day to mail back a vote-by-mail ballot, which must be received by May 22

Complete and send your ballot as early as possible. Every vote counts in the final results. But if you want your vote to figure in the early returns and election night results, mail early. In mailing your ballot, be sure to:

• Remove the stubs on the ballot.
• Sign and date the back of the envelope.
• Put a $0.49 or Forever stamp on the envelope.

You can deliver your Vote-by-Mail ballot to the Fireside Room (or any polling place in the County) on May 19. If you do, be sure to sign and date the back of the envelope and seal it.

If you are registered to Vote-by-Mail, your name will not appear on the precinct roster at the polling place. If you go to the polling place to vote—but don’t have your Vote-by-Mail ballot to surrender—you have the right to cast a provisional ballot.
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.democratsOFrossmoor.org

Let’s Hear from You!

Your board will be producing more communications for you between now and the General Election in November 2016. We want to hear from you! Please send your letters, comments, or other creations to Marilyn Davin at mgdavin@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

April 23 General Meeting
Gateway Fireside Room, 6 p.m.

May 4 last day to register to Vote

May 4 Book Club: The Partisan Divide
Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

May 8 Q & A: Susan Bonilla
7:30 p.m. Creekside Club Room

May 11 Film: Pay to Play
Peacock Hall, 1 & 7 p.m.

May 19 VOTE — go to the polls, or return your vote-by-mail ballot

Democrats of Rossmoor 2015 Membership Dues

Membership runs January through December and costs $20 per person.

Check One: [ ] New member [ ] Returning member

Name(s) ___________________________ Date ___________

Please print.

Address ________________________________

Phone __________ Email ________________________________

Are you a registered voter? ______ Are you a registered Democrat? ________

(We need this information for the Democratic Party, Region Two)

Can you occasionally volunteer for any of the following?

_____ Voter Registration  _____ Phoning on behalf of Democratic Party candidates

_____ Putting together mailings  _____ Event set-up

Place your check (made out to Democrats of Rossmoor) and this form in an envelope and:

• Leave it in the Democrats’ mailbox at Gateway during office hours,
• Mail it to Patsy Sharaf, 3441 Golden Rain Rd. #4, Walnut Creek, CA 94595,
• Or bring the form/check to the Membership Table at any meeting.

Thank you for joining the Democrats of Rossmoor.