



**EAST BAY YOUNG DEMS**  
**Questionnaire for Candidates Seeking National**  
**Office**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

1. **Name as it will appear on the ballot:** John Garamendi
2. **Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):**  
United States House of Representatives, District 10
3. **Are you the incumbent?** No
4. **How long have you resided in this district?** I have lived in Walnut Grove for 32 years.
5. **Is the office you seek partisan or nonpartisan?** Partisan
6. **If partisan, please indicate party:** Democratic

**CAMPAIGN CONTACTS**

<b>Campaign Name:</b>	Garamendi for Congress
<b>Address:</b>	1661 Botelho Drive
<b>City, State, Zip:</b>	Walnut Creek, CA 94596
<b>Name of staff contact:</b>	Josh Franco
<b>Campaign Phone:</b>	916-863-6881
<b>Campaign E-mail:</b>	jfranco@garamendi.org
<b>FEC#</b>	C00462697
<b>Campaign Fax:</b>	916-558-6964

**Please limit each answer to 250 words or less.**

1. **Young adults entering the workforce seem to have an especially hard time finding employment in this economy, let alone a good job with fair pay and benefits. Trickle-down from the stimulus is moving slowly, and the government has spent much more bailing out financial institutions than creating jobs or building infrastructure.**

**What kind of economic policies must we adopt to get out of this recession and feeling prosperous as a nation? How will you work to advance your goals at the national level and within your district?**

*As Chairman of the Commission on Economic Development, I was involved in the development of a regional employment strategy that builds on the strength of existing industries and aids in the transition of the economy toward 'green' technologies. These strategies if implemented will boost employment, improve education by connecting business to schools, enhance vocational education, and coordinate existing economic development programs to enhance their effectiveness. These programs must focus on green industries. A new industrial revolution is possible as we create tens of thousands of jobs, building and maintaining the renewable energy systems of the future. I want to be in Congress to pursue these strategies – and to insure that the stimulus money is used to create jobs here and now!*

*Moreover, as your Insurance Commissioner, I built the best consumer protection agency in America. I was there protecting the victims in the Oakland Hills fire, and in ending discriminatory pricing in auto and homeowner insurance saving customers over \$24 billion. I created the Home owner bill of rights and I forced the Insurance Companies to rebate over \$1 billion, I know the financial industry – the need for oversight, regulations and enforcement – to assure solvency, security, and the payment of claims. President Obama talks of creating a consumer protection agency. I know what it takes to do that. I will bring that experience to Washington as Congress debates the future regulation of Wall Street.*

**2. How would you use your elected office to improve public education and make higher education affordable and accessible? Specifically, how would you improve federal student aid policies to reduce the reliance on personal debt to finance higher education?**

*Education and research are the most important elements in the creation of economic growth and social justice. Among the casualties of California's budget crisis are our universities and our K-12 schools. Our universities have been among the premier research institutions in the world. As Lieutenant Governor, I am a Regent of the University of California and a Trustee of the California State University. I have fought fee and executive salary increase every step of the way. I have learned, in depth, the systems and their needs. I want to be in Washington DC to make the case for increasing funding for education and research to allow the Universities and the national laboratories at Livermore and Berkeley to continue to excel and address our multiple challenges. I will support increased Pell Grants, and I will support laws that reduce the obscene profits of the private education loan programs, thereby reducing cost to students. I will also support efforts to expand post graduate work programs that forgive student debt.*

*I want to emphasize that as Lt. Governor, a Regent or Trustee, I have never voted for a student fee increase because its destroys access. However, the Legislature and Governor recently cut billions from education and raised community colleges fees 30% by passing and signing ABX4 1 and ABX4 2, respectively, Here are link to the bills:*

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=abx4\\_1&sess=CUR&house=B&author=evans](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=abx4_1&sess=CUR&house=B&author=evans)

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=abx4\\_2&sess=CUR&house=B&author=evans](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=abx4_2&sess=CUR&house=B&author=evans)

- 3. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have claimed the lives of too many young adults. Money spent on the war is needed for healthcare and education programs for young people at home. While there seems to be overt movement towards withdrawing combat troops from Iraq, the war in Afghanistan is escalating How do you see the US's involvement in the future of Iraq and Afghanistan? Please be specific.**

*I opposed the military invasion of Iraq. President Obama is correct to bring the war to a quick conclusion. Our focus should be on Afghanistan and Pakistan – the real home of the Al Qaeda international terrorists. As Peace Corps volunteers in Ethiopia, Patti and I learned early on that wars and insurgencies are often the result of social and economic injustices. We learned the importance of education, food, health care and shelter in the development of a nation. Patti was President Clinton's Associate Director of the Peace Corps and I created two teams of returned Peace Corps volunteers to assist in the negotiations to end the Ethiopia Eritrea war and the civil war in Congo. Specifically, I want to bring that Peace Corps perspective to the Congressional and international debate.*

- 4. Young adults face special challenges to obtaining health care and many go without. How would you use your office to promote universal health care and move us towards a single-payer system?**

*I support President Obama's push for a universal health care system, and I want cost controls on that system. I strongly support and advocate for Medicare for All, HR676. This legislation would provide every one with comprehensive health coverage. As a fall back position I support the public insurance option. The laws I wrote in 1976 and in 1982 established both community clinics and emergency medical systems in California and I wrote together with Senator Art Torres a universal single payer insurance program that was vetoed by Governor Wilson. As California's first elected Insurance Commissioner, I know how insurance companies operate. I understand their motivations and what will be necessary to regulate them if the law requires insurance reform. I want to bring that knowledge of insurance and health care systems to the Congressional debate as we reform our health care financing and delivery systems.*

**5. The next generation's health and well-being depends on our choices regarding energy, development, and environmental stewardship. How will you use your office to promote sustainable energy, building, and environmental policies?**

*As Deputy Secretary of the Interior, I stood side by side with President Clinton and Vice President Gore as we sounded the alarm on climate change years before others knew its name. Together we developed the American proposal for the Kyoto climate change conference. This experience has lead me to believe that we must reduce green house gases much faster than currently planned. As State Senator, I wrote the first state law in America to provide a solar, wind, and conservation tax credit which was responsible for the Altamont and Suisun wind industries. As Congress debates the issue of energy independence and atmospheric pollution, I will support the policy of freeing America from its dependency on oil, gas, and coal. I will support a cap and trade program that auctions the credits. I will support and argue for legislation that limits emissions beyond that level presently proposed.*

**6. How will you use your campaign and position to defend the rights of GLBT families, promote marriage equality in California and other states, protect domestic partnership laws, and end Don't Ask Don't Tell?**

*I support the inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2009 (ENDA). I also support the Dallas Principles. I believe every American should be treated equally under the law. No Exceptions. I support Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2009 I also support the repeal of DOMA and it's restrictions on spousal recognition and federal benefits. I also support H.R.1913: To provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes. (Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009)*

*I believe every American should have the right to serve our nation. Nations as diverse as Great Britain, Israel and South African all permit openly gay soldiers to serve and this has quite apparently not undermined "unit morale or cohesion", as conservatives often claim will happen if DADT is repealed.*

*Former Joint Chiefs Chairman General Shalikashvili has said the time for this change is now. Our nation simply cannot afford to continue discharging highly motivated, talented and educated soldiers.*

*I support full repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act. Equal rights for all means equal rights for ALL. There is no special exemption to the word "all," just because a person may be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Furthermore, as a society we should promote and foster strong and healthy relationships. The government should not be in the business of deciding who someone loves or whether or not to recognize a relationship.*

*That is for people themselves to decide.*

**7. Women's right to choose is under attack in our country. How would you use your office to protect a woman's right to choose in all 50 states?**

*As the father of five daughters I am keenly aware of the many challenges facing women in their health care needs, education opportunity, insurance, and employment. I supported without reservation the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. I support a women's right to choose, I support equal pay for equal work. I support Title 10. I will not vary from these bedrock positions, and continue to advocate for these issues as I have for 35 years while in public office.*

**8. If you could choose, what committee(s) would you sit on in the House of Representatives, and why?**

*I am interested in serving on the Committee on Armed Services because it has jurisdiction over Armed Forces, Atomic Energy and War and National Defense.*

*I can offer my Peace Corps perspective, further oversee atomic energy and its military application and military deployments. For more information, visit <http://armedservices.house.gov/>*

*The second committee is the Committee on Energy and Commerce because it has jurisdiction over national energy policy, consumer protection, conservation, biomedical research, public health, and regulation of the domestic nuclear energy.*

*I will be able to offer the unique perspective of advancing clean energy policy since the 1970s, the intersection of public policy and university research because of my time as a Regent and Trustee and maintain oversight of nuclear development and its implications on Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. For more information, visit <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>*

*The third committee is the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure because it has jurisdiction over flood control and improvement of rivers and harbors, marine affairs, including coastal zone management, as they relate to oil and other pollution, and transportation, including civil aviation and railroads.*

*As a resident of the Delta for over 30 years, I can offer a compelling perspective on marine affairs and the intersection between or human demands and environment. Moreover, as Chair of the State Lands Commission and founder of the Clean Seas Coalition, I can advance clean up efforts through coastal zone management. Lastly, as a champion for mass transit, I can advance the implementation of high speed rail. For more information, visit <http://transportation.house.gov/>*

## EXPERIENCE

**Please list or describe your current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement includes many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life. You may include a list of endorsements here as well.**

*John Garamendi is the 46th Lieutenant Governor of California. He brings to the office 34 years of public service. Well into the third year of his term he has made the office a powerful advocate for families and hard working Californians. He has been a tireless proponent of job creation, vocational and college education, the environment, and health care, while always working to ensure the stability and success of the state he has always called home.*

*Garamendi, a lifelong rancher, dedicated family man, and longtime public servant, has forged a reputation as a fierce defender of consumers and a visionary, effective leader. He possesses the unique wealth of knowledge and experience necessary to tackle the complex challenges of today's economy and Washington politics.*

*Garamendi was raised on his family's cattle ranch in Mokelumne Hill, California. John graduated with a Bachelors Degree in business from the University of California at Berkeley, where he was an outstanding scholar- athlete, was second-team All-American offensive guard in football, a two-time member of the All-Pacific Coast Conference team, and the 1964 West Coast heavyweight wrestling champion. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School.*

*Garamendi and his wife started their married life as Peace Corps volunteers teaching and doing community development work in remote southwest Ethiopia. Patti is now the Assistant Manager at the California Exposition and State Fair, and was previously the Deputy Secretary of California's Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. She also served for eight years in the Clinton Administration as Assistant Director of the U.S. Peace Corps. John and his wife make their home in Walnut Grove and have six children and nine grandchildren.*

*As Lieutenant Governor, Garamendi is Chairman of the California Commission for Economic Development, where he has transformed this important body into a powerhouse to advocate policies that will lead to a sustainable growing economy. Emphasizing work force development and vocational education together with focused research on new energy, health care, agriculture, bio-tech, aerospace, and transportation systems the commission is effectively advancing legislation and regulations to create opportunities for economic growth, research, job creation and new markets for California.*

*As a Regent of the University of California and Trustee for the California State University System the Lieutenant Governor has been a leading advocate to hold*

*the line on student fee increases, and stop excessive salaries for administrators. He argues for increased state investment in education, which he believes is the key to future economic growth and social justice.*

*John Garamendi was elected to the California State Assembly in 1974 and the State Senate in 1976 where he served for 14 years, and attained the position of Senate Majority Leader. He chaired the Joint Committee on Science and Technology, the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, and the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee. His laws established California's emergency medical system, community health clinics, a work-oriented welfare program, protected Lake Tahoe and Mono Lakes, revised the State's tax code, and developed an overall State agenda for economic competitiveness and scientific advancement. He authored the Senior Center Bond Act and the 1990 ballot proposition that provided \$18 billion for mass transportation and highways.*

*In 1991, Garamendi became California's first elected Insurance Commissioner. He successfully accomplished the monumental task of implementing Proposition 103, reforming the auto and homeowner insurance industry. He delivered over a \$1 billion in rebates to insurance consumers, and lowered homeowner and auto insurance rates saving consumers over \$24 billion in the ensuing years. He created a very successful anti-fraud program and consumer help line within the Department.*

*Under his leadership the Department protected homeowners devastated by the Oakland Hills Fire forcing insurance companies to fully pay for rebuilding destroyed homes. As a direct result of his guidance and vision, the Department earned the reputation among consumer organizations as the best consumer protection agency in the nation.*

*In 1995, President Bill Clinton appointed Garamendi as Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior, where his efforts led to significant environmental improvements for the nation and California. John spearheaded efforts to resolve water disputes in California, and protect the Sacramento San Joaquin River Delta. He negotiated the purchase of the Headwaters Forest, coordinated research on global warming, established habitat conservation plans in California, and improved the diversity of the work forces at the National Parks Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

*At the time, U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt remarked, "I'm very grateful to John for his outstanding service to this Department and the country. John is a good man with extraordinary skills. I can't think of anyone who cares more about the critical issues facing the West or who is willing to put in as much time and work to address them."*

*Reelected California's Insurance Commissioner in 2002, he set about rebuilding the Department into the best consumer protection agency in the nation. His 2003 Road Map to Reform Workers' Compensation Insurance culminated in new laws that led to a 58% reduction in workers compensation costs. His Home Owners Bill of Rights legislation and his regulation of rates added protections for home owners and reduced homeowner premiums by over \$500 million. John re-*

*established an aggressive anti fraud task force, sponsored legislation to prevent senior insurance scams, and stopped insurance brokers from over charging business consumers.*

*He developed a comprehensive health care report entitled Priced Out that analyzed the crisis in California's health care system and made 43 recommendations for change. In addition, he completed the implementation of Proposition 103 by writing regulations that based premiums principally on driving records, not on zip codes*

*Garamendi proved he could not be bought and would not back down when he took on the nation's largest title insurance firms in a far-reaching investigation into illegal kickback schemes, and won multi-million dollar fines and refunds of \$36 million to California home buyers. He also fined the nation's largest disability insurer \$8 million and stopped the company from denying legitimate disability claims. The settlement changed the way all disability insurers handle claims and improved protection for disabled consumers.*

*One of Garamendi's passions is a commitment to international service. He led a group of returned Peace Corps volunteers on a peace mission during the Ethiopian Eritrea war in 1998-2000. His five member team met with Ambassadors, Foreign Ministers, and the Heads of State of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Many of their proposals formed the basis for the eventual peace treaty. They also met with President Clinton and top U.S. officials. Garamendi created a similar team that assisted in peace negotiations in the Congo Civil War.*

## **ENDORSEMENTS**

<http://www.garamendi.org/endorsements>