Chris Kluwe, AD-72 candidate, 2026 primary election questionnaire

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By ANGELA ROTCHE | arotche@ocregister | Orange County Register
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Ahead of the primary elections, the Southern California News Group compiled a list of questions to pose to the candidates who wish to represent you. You will find the full questionnaire below. Questionnaire may have been edited for spelling, grammar, length or clarity. Where applicable, we have linked to campaign websites.

Name: Chris Kluwe

Current job title: Small Businesses/Focused Self, Mom, Prayer

Age: 49

Chris Kluwe at Capitanes Beach park in a photo provided by candidate for AD-73 website. | Photo: Chris Kluwe

Political party affiliation: Democratic

Incumbent: No

Other political positions held: None

City where you reside: Huntington Beach

Campaign website or social media: KluweOC.com

CALIFORNIA PRIMARY ELECTION: ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 73 CANDIDATES

- Matthew Harper
- Shirley Tan Del Real
- Chris Kluwe
- Frank Wagner

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PRINTABLE CHAIR YOGA
BY: MARYANN

Cat Cow	Cat Cow	Cat Cow	Cat Cow
Side Bend	Side Bend	Side Bend	Side Bend
Twist	Twist	Twist	Twist
Forward Fold	Forward Fold	Forward Fold	Forward Fold
Mountain	Mountain	Mountain	Mountain
Warrior 1	Warrior 1	Warrior 1	Warrior 1
Warrior 2	Warrior 2	Warrior 2	Warrior 2
Triangle	Triangle	Triangle	Triangle
Warrior 3	Warrior 3	Warrior 3	Warrior 3
Tree	Tree	Tree	Tree
Eagle	Eagle	Eagle	Eagle
Cow Face	Cow Face	Cow Face	Cow Face
Bridge	Bridge	Bridge	Bridge
Fish	Fish	Fish	Fish
Child's Pose	Child's Pose	Child's Pose	Child's Pose
Corpse	Corpse	Corpse	Corpse

Were seen what happen when there is little accountability or oversight, overnight, as in the case of Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do misusing millions of taxpayer dollars, and when there is no accountability or oversight, overnight, as in the case of Do's colleagues who allowed this happened with little sight accountability measures in place, and it should be a little difficult undertaking to be overlooked.

Secondly, we need to protect small businesses and workers who are being cheated by others that exploit loopholes in the system and ensure large corporations are actually paying their fair share of taxes, and those loopholes should be closed by people who have a vested interest in their future (hint at the only).

Through a balanced, commonsense approach that restores accountability, tackles fraud and corruption at its root, and ensures our tax system works for everyday families, not just those at the top, we can actually take meaningful action to address the projected budget deficit.

For you, what is a non-starter when talking about budget cuts? Please answer in 250 words or less.

Public education. A strong public education system is one of the strongest investments we can make. It serves as the backbone of our democratic system, not only because it addresses the fundamental needs of our children, but because it ensures that every child has an opportunity and success. When our children are able to learn and develop in an environment of freedom and democracy, and the sacrifices previous generations made to ensure those freedoms are not taken for granted, they will be able to carry on the work of those who came before, for more likely to grow up nurturing the wisdom of the American Dream for their child — that anyone, regardless of their background, income, or zip code, has the opportunity to build a life for themselves and their loved ones through hard work and dedication. Without strong public schools, that dream is lost, or at least, is not what we are as Americans.

There are also important public services that I would do everything in my power to stop from having funding, including cuts to emergency response services and supportive services for veterans, the elderly, and people with disabilities. It is the bare minimum that we protect our neighborhoods and the most vulnerable.

What are the top three ballot measures/propositions you would support or oppose in the November 2026 ballot? Please answer in 250 words or less.

1. Affordability. Californians are watching hard to make ends meet, but too many still cannot provide for their families' future, and we are falling them. The rising cost of housing, healthcare, and everyday necessities has left families struggling to keep up, and too many still cannot afford a home or even a single bedroom apartment, and too many have not been enough homes for decades, especially near jobs, schools, and transit, and working families are paying the price. I believe we can move faster on housing by increasing the supply, lowering costs, and supporting good-paying local jobs — all without sacrificing the workforce protections that make sure those who are doing the heavy lifting and building the infrastructure that protect our communities.

2. The environment. Climate change is real, and not going away. We were hit by a tropical storm two years ago, and experienced wildfires nearby in Orange County. Wildfires are now our fifth-largest industry in California, and the damage to our state's economy and natural resources is well recorded together with environmental advocacy, businesses, and insurance companies. Tax solutions focused on safety, accessibility, and sustainability.

3. Healthcare. AI is a threat to jobs and while it might benefit efficiency-conscious, it is also a threat to our economy and our workforce. Healthcare is a human need and should be carried out by people. AI is a tool, not a replacement for a doctor's judgment, the relationship that one AI implementation, whether public or private, is putting human beings first, not corporate profits.

What specific policy would you champion in the statehouse to improve the cost of living for residents? What, if any, bills have been introduced in Sacramento or California or would it take some time? Please answer in 250 words or less.

The rising cost of living is causing the California dreams to fade. We can revive it with common sense leadership that is focused on putting people first and regaining the trust of our neighbors. The whole reason why I'm running is because I'm fed up with the political gridlock that won't actually address the issues that are affecting our neighbors, and I'm tired of politicians making decisions to serve powerfully. Additionally, we must ensure large corporations are paying their fair share. I want to be clear that this isn't an attack on business or economic growth, but rather a call for a level playing field where small businesses, local manufacturers, and working families aren't being disadvantaged by tax loopholes and unfair competition. The American Dream is not supposed to be a game where only those who can afford the best lawyers and accountants can win. We can and should do more to make sure everyone has a fair shot at success.

My initial focus would be on addressing the housing crisis as stated previously. We must remove unfair bureaucratic red tape that is blocking our ability to build more homes, and we must do so in a way that ensures that the housing we build is actually affordable for working families, not just those who can afford the most expensive units. Additionally, we must ensure large corporations are paying their fair share. I want to be clear that this isn't an attack on business or economic growth, but rather a call for a level playing field where small businesses, local manufacturers, and working families aren't being disadvantaged by tax loopholes and unfair competition. The American Dream is not supposed to be a game where only those who can afford the best lawyers and accountants can win. We can and should do more to make sure everyone has a fair shot at success.

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There have been numerous efforts made in the state legislature to curtail federal immigration enforcement in California, from prohibitions on agents wearing masks and banning federal officers from future employment in a public agency. Do you are any of these efforts, or do you believe there should be more? Should there be more adequate immigration candidates? Should you prefer the state work more hand in hand with the federal government on immigration? Where does the role as a state legislator fall into your beliefs here? Please answer in 250 words or less.

The Trump Administration's current enforcement operations are unconstitutional coded as by the Supreme Court and violate the rights of both citizens and immigrants. Many of my American citizens being unlawfully detained merely based on the color of their skin, and directly in contrast to the idea of a democratic society that upholds law and order and treats everyone equally. Our immigration system is broken and needs reform, but the actions of Trump, Miller, and others, I stand and work with the incoming governor and other legislators to ensure we work together in response to the cruel, unlawful, and ineffective actions of the Trump administration and hold them accountable.

I support establishing a state fund to help provide legal aid and I support strengthening protections for immigrant workers and families, including the right to work, the right to vote, the right to be free from racial profiling, the right to be free from unlawful searches and arrests of emergencies, and I support the recent legislation that bans face coverings.

Health care costs — like in many other areas — are continuing to rise. What policies, specifically, would you support or like to champion that could lower premiums or out-of-pocket expenses? Please answer in 250 words or less.

I grew up the son of an anesthesiologist (thanks mom) and have had a front row seat to our healthcare system. I know firsthand how it works, and I know firsthand how it doesn't work. I'm the way forward for the rest of the nation on tackling healthcare costs. We's supposed to be a state of innovators and cutting-edge research, yet we trail the entire developed world when it comes to taking care of our people.

We more excessive administrative bloat, no more for profit health insurance price gouging, no more pharmaceutical companies charging Americans more than anyone else, and no more surprised no-one in the NFL. It's that you need to have a problem as soon as you're aware it exists, not wait for it to get so bad that your future health is out in jeopardy. A healthy population is a productive one, and we need to ensure that our healthcare system in California is giving people the tools they need to succeed and put people's health over profits.

Would you support expanding state health care programs to ensure more residents — including those who are not citizens — are covered? How would you propose the state pay for such programs? Would you be willing to increase taxes on residents or corporations? Would you call the necessary cuts into question? Would you support some proposed? (Please answer in 250 words or less.)

There is no reason the CEO of a nonprofit hospital should be able to make more in one year than three times the TOTAL amount I make in my NFL career, and move on while hospital staff are left to deal with the fallout. We need to hold healthcare companies accountable for bad behavior, and I refuse to accept a world where only a few have healthcare while others are forced to suffer without access to the care they need.

It's a fact that our state is the fourth largest economy in the world. Californians should be asking our state officers to buy a house in your neighborhood and ask you how that works out for them. Californians are being priced out of their communities, and it's because all of us are contributing to California success, but very few of us are actually living the American Dream.

Healthcare is not only a human right, it's a common-sense investment in our economy and our future. We need to stop treating it like a luxury that only the wealthy can afford and start making it work for everyone. Expand Medicaid, ensure every Californian has access to quality care, and reduce costs that families and emergency rooms are forced to handle. In the NFL, our trainers would call a concussion, "time on TV, INJECTION!" you have to stop the pain so that it's early, and I don't see why we can't adopt that mindset as a state and strengthen long-term healthcare for our people.

As part of addressing homelessness, elected officials often talk about the need to prevent people from losing their homes in the first place. What policies or programs would you support or champion to prevent evictions or increase affordable housing? Would you support the Housing Production Strategy development and expedited review process? Please answer in 250 words or less.

The state should have a non-negotiable program for homeless prevention due to unforeseen circumstances like medical emergencies or sudden loss of job that keep them from paying their mortgage or rent. We need to ensure that Medicaid, Medicare, and behavioral health expansions are included in the budget! How would you prevent people from having to pay property? (Please answer in 250 words or less.)

I support the push for more housing to include behavioral treatments in the budget. Many local jurisdictions want to apply the option for proper drug treatment, but lack the funding to make it happen. Expand Medicaid and ensure every Californian has access to quality care, reduce costs that families and emergency rooms are forced to handle, and expand mental health programs and wraparound services that to see taxpayer dollars incarcerating people in expensive prisons with little resources that fail to address the underlying issues that drive them to crime.

In order to ensure state funds are spent appropriately, I would want to establish regional independent, bipartisan oversight boards composed of current and former judges, licensed social workers, and community advocates to ensure that the needs of their specific communities are being met appropriately.

What role should the state play in ensuring hospitals and doctors are providing gender-affirming care to their patients? Should the state be able to force hospitals to do so? Why or why not? Should the state adopt policies that restrict that care? (Please answer in 250 words or less.)

I don't want the government inserting itself into deeply personal medical decisions. I don't want the government dictating what care individuals or families can or cannot access, or what medical professionals can or cannot provide. Healthcare is a human need and should not be in the business of putting people's bodies or private healthcare decisions. Instead, I prefer that the government spin interfering in the lives of law-abiding people who are just trying to live their lives in peace.

And if other states feel to provide the level of care needed, I would support efforts to ensure California residents have access to that care, and I would support efforts to make sure that the state is not forced to relocate to Orange County and across California which has been where surgeons are necessary for them to live their lives. I would hope we could extend the same courtesy to our neighbors in other states who are being forced to leave their homes and families.

Some concerns around the conflict in Venezuela are centered around oil and refinery interdictions or social media use among young people. Along marital health and other concerns. Do you believe it's the state's responsibility to intervene in foreign affairs and why? Or why not? And what specific interventions or safeguards would you propose as a state legislator? Please answer in 250 words or less.

Spying is a hard world, and we have to just that and hit it, but the state should also recognize and intervene where parents don't have the time to be aware of the latest threats, and in our neighbor's online existing, those threats pop up alarmingly frequently.

Artificial intelligence has become a ubiquitous part of our lives. No public concerns about the technology's environmental impacts, its use in schools, its use in the workplace and that the technology would replace jobs and have no heavy California employees. How specifically would you balance such concerns with the desire to ensure that Silicon Valley/California remains a leader in this space? (Please answer in 250 words or less.)

I am not against AI that works particularly to pattern matching of large datasets, never medical-use impacts, and weather forecasting, but the vast majority of AI, specifically "gen-AI" or "chatbots AI" that's being pushed into the public sphere is nothing more than a cash grab by tech companies looking to make a quick buck off people who don't know any better or are weak or desperate or lonely enough to be taken in by the promise of companionship or sweet talk from a machine. And we can accomplish this while still encouraging research and innovation with it where it makes sense.

Statistically, violent crime rates in California is on the decline, but still, residents are not feeling safe in their communities. Homicides are up in Los Angeles. What role do the legislature in addressing the underlying issues that make California feel unsafe in their own neighborhoods? (Please answer in 250 words or less.)

When families are struggling, with high costs, limited opportunity, and a sense that the system isn't working for them, it creates a real sense of unease for people. Housing is too expensive, jobs are harder to find, and many feel that the system is rigged against them. Crime is growing desperation and protest in instances that are supposed to protect and serve them.

Obviously, we can't dictate how people feel, but we do have a responsibility to help people feel secure and supported. Californian crime is to provide a framework within which we all can live and work together in peace. That means ensuring that the basic needs are met so that people are feeling strong, the need a balanced, commonsense approach focused on safer neighborhoods, more opportunity, and a government that shows up and works for everyone.

My role will be to build bum the trust were lost over the past several years, particularly with those communities that have been overly targeted, and to secure them that the California Dream is there to fairly represent and respect the rights of everyone in the state, not only the few.

What's a hidden solvent you have? (Please answer in 250 words or less.)

I can stand a 300-page book in under two hours, and I designed a tabletop game. I'm proud of the 8-year long career I had in the NFL, where I am almost every team record, but an injury ended it, and I'm proud of the work I did with the Minnesota Vikings to help other players and earned back his my family through my career as a professional athlete, coach, and business owner. Now I'm working to represent my community. And I'm going to give people the 100% effort they deserve from our leaders in Sacramento.

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Sourcing & Methodology:

The Orange County Register sent questionnaires, based on current events and questions from readers, to candidates on the ballot in Orange County via email, phone and/or mail in August. Answers have been lightly edited only to correct spelling or grammar or to remove offensive language and hate speech.

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