



Open Letter to Sylvia Rubio

February 9, 2020

Dear Sylvia Rubio,

As California's largest progressive organization with 1.4 million members -- dedicated to building a progressive, equitable, truly representative democracy -- we recently learned that you were registered as a Republican voter for most of the last decade. We believe a big tent is necessary to achieve prosperity for *all* Californians, and we are always happy to welcome former Republicans into our diverse movement.

That said, the Republican party has a well-documented record of supporting the worst aspects of our society, both via policy priorities and cultural contributions. We are troubled that you have "no recollection of registering as a Republican." We find that hard to believe and are not alone in this sentiment.

As you're aware, 2008 marked the beginning of the racist "birther" movement, and 2009 the beginning of the so-called "Tea Party," both closely aligned with the Republican Party. Your potential constituents have a right to know: **Were you aware of either of these when you became a Republican in 2010?**

In 2016, public records indicate you voted in the Republican Party primary, when the GOP platform called for the repeal of Obamacare and using billions in taxpayer dollars to construct a costly, yet largely ineffective, border wall.¹ **On behalf of your potential constituents, we demand to know: did you then -- and do you now -- agree with these signature Trump policies?**

Should we assume you voted for Trump in the 2016 Republican primary? And if not, for which Republican presidential candidate did you cast your vote?

You have stated that you now share Democratic values, which we applaud, but this does not explain your voting history. In fact, it raises more questions than answers. **At what point did your values change? What happened in 2017 that caused you to register as a Democrat?**

Voters -- your potential constituents in this deep blue district -- deserve an honest and accountable member of the State Assembly that represents them accurately. Your refusal to answer a question as basic as your motivations for switching parties leads to even more questions about what you stand for, the heart of your values, and your priorities should you be elected to the State Assembly. Without clear answers, district voters are left to make assumptions about your history, motivations, and unwillingness to be forthright.

Please clear up your story.

Sincerely,

Eddie Kurtz, Executive Director
Courage California (formerly Courage Campaign)

1. Republican Party platform, 2016. https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL%5B1%5D-ben_1468872234.pdf