



## Response to accusations by Robert Rivas and John Laird

Rep. Zoe Lofgren has been spreading falsehoods about me and my campaign. In a recent email to members of the Democratic Party, voters, and editors, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas and State Senator John Laird make several misrepresentations:

- *Rivas and Laird wrongly link me to The South Bay Chronicle.* That publication is the independent work of Matthew Ricchiazzi, an indigenous liberation activist that has long feuded with Lofgren, well prior to my congressional candidacy. **The Charlene for Congress Campaign does not own, finance, or distribute the South Bay Chronicle. I was not made aware of the publication and had no editorial input.**
- *Rivas and Laird wrongly attempt to connect Matthew Ricchiazzi to my campaign by referring to his title as my “Chief of Staff”.* I am a Tribal Chairwoman of a sovereign nation with a functioning Tribal Government. I am also chairwoman of 3 non-profits, and I operate multiple textile recycling businesses here and overseas. As I explained one year ago to Rep Zoe Lofgren, Mr. Ricchiazzi was hired as a consultant and as an executive assistant to assist me in various projects. He has an MBA in structured finance and an urban planning degree from Cornell University. **He is not and never has been a paid staffer on my campaign.** His title as my chief of staff is necessary in his outreach efforts to members of congress as well as his representing me in many complex projects in which I am engaged.
- *Rivas and Laird accuse me of implying that Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and House Leader Hakeem Jefferies had endorsed me.* On campaign materials, I included images of both politicians. As a lifelong Democrat, I’ve supported our party’s elected leaders at fundraising events, and I’ve interacted with many on Capitol Hill in my capacity as Chairwoman of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. I shared images of myself with Pelosi and Jefferies with the headline, “It’s time to pass the torch of leadership to the next generation”, an ode to Pelosi stepping aside for Jefferies. **My point was not to imply that either had endorsed me, but to suggest that it’s also time for Rep. Lofgren (who is in her 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional term) to consider following Speaker Emerita Pelosi’s lead and make space for the next generation of leaders.**
- *Rivas and Laird make reference to an alleged ‘fake endorsement’ from Blanca Alvarado.* I did no such thing. *The South Bay Chronicle* (which is not affiliated with me or my campaign) published that “Alvarado backs Nijmeh for Congress” based on the fact that Alvarado endorsed my petitions to run for Congress. Those documents are on file at the Secretary of State’s Office in Sacramento, and Alvarado’s signature is available for viewing. Alvarado endorsed those petitions in the presence of the publisher of *The South Bay Chronicle*. **If you have a concern over how that publisher characterized her endorsement or signature, then that issue should be raised with the publisher.**

- *Rivas and Laird accuse me of embracing an extreme MAGA agenda* This accusation is particularly troublesome when you consider my positions in support of Justice for Palestine, the indigenous ‘Landback’ Movement, universal single payer health care, my unabashed assertion that housing is a human right, my work in the textile recycling space, and my refusal to vote to fund any war that hasn’t been declared by Congress. **On all of the most pressing matters of the day, I’m considerably more Progressive than Rep. Lofgren.**
- *Rivas and Laird accuse me of being dishonest by omission.* Rep. Lofgren frequently deflects on the issue of federal recognition for the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Bay Area academics have all weighed in on Muwekma’s evidence and the consensus is that Muwekma is a sovereign nation that has existed as a continuous political community for hundreds of years. **The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe is one of only three Ohlone/Costanoan Tribes to have been historically recognized by the Federal government. Neither of the two organizations referenced in the Supporting Evidence was previously recognized by the Federal Government. The Lofgren for Congress Campaign appears intent to derail the reaffirmation of Federal recognition to a historically-recognized sovereign Tribe.**
- *Rivas and Laird accuse me of violating election law.* I have not violated any election laws. Rivas and Laird wrongly assert that I omitted a ‘Paid For’ disclosure statement on the flyer that includes the images of Pelosi and Jefferies. **I have enclosed the flyer in question, which clearly includes a disclosure statement.**

### **More misinformation coming out of the Lofgren camp.**

Today, I was sent an email that Rep. Zoe Lofgren sent to voters where she said, **“My Republican opponent, Charlene Nijmeh, has been tied to these pages”** *\*\*See attached email below.*

I’m a lifelong Democrat, and Rep. Zoe Lofgren knows that. On the ballots, you’ll see four Democrats running in this election and I’m one of them. **Rep. Zoe Lofgren deliberately and directly spread misinformation about me 2 weeks prior to the polls closing.**

**I’m demanding that Rep. Zoe Lofgren and her campaign send an immediate retraction to all those voters, making it clear that she was lying to them about my party affiliation.** The attempt to convince voters that there is no other viable Democratic candidate in this race is her way of taking the choice away from voters. We need more debate within our party not less.



ZOE

LOFGREN FOR CONGRESS

ZOELOFGREN.COM

SAN JOSE  
**spotlight**  
Your search for truth starts here.

## Silicon Valley Congressional Candidate Tied to Fake Newspaper

Rebecca,

Fake newspapers filled with misinformation and outright lies about my family and me have been popping up across the South Bay. My Republican opponent, **Charlene Nijmeh**, has been tied to these pages, which are filled with baseless accusations and attacks.



**It's time to pass the torch  
to the next generation.**



**Imagine what she will get done in  
office, working for you.**

PAID FOR BY CHARLENE FOR CONGRESS 2024

