

Overview

MAGA Michelle Steel is too extreme for Orange County families.

Message #1

- *MAGA Michelle Steel is so extreme she twice tried to ban abortion nationwide without exceptions for rape, incest, or to save a woman's life. Now, MAGA Michelle is doubling down on her attacks against women by supporting the extreme Project 2025 agenda, which would eliminate access to birth control while stripping health care from millions of Californians. Orange County families deserve better than MAGA Michelle Steel's dangerous extremism.*
- *MAGA Michelle Steel has been called out by the LA Times for her dishonesty, and now she is lying about Derek Tran. Derek Tran has stood up for women. He has advocated for victims of harassment and abuse and will protect women's reproductive rights. MAGA Michelle Steel has led the effort to ban abortion nationwide with no exceptions for rape, incest or to save the life of the woman. That's why Planned Parenthood and law enforcement trust Derek Tran to keep women and families safe.*

MAGA Michelle Steel is so extreme she twice tried to ban abortion nationwide without exceptions for rape, incest, or to save a woman's life.

2024: Steel Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act, A National Abortion Ban. “In 2021, Representative Michelle Steel, a California Republican whose district President Biden won in 2020, cosponsored the Life at Conception Act, a bill to recognize a fertilized egg as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment. It was a year before the Supreme Court would overturn Roe v. Wade. Ms. Steel was one of 166 House Republicans — then roughly three-quarters of the conference — who would ultimately sign on to the legislation, which amounted to a nationwide abortion ban. She did so just weeks after it was introduced. [...] Ms. Steel waited nearly a year to sign on — doing so on Friday morning, only after her Democratic challenger criticized her for flip-flopping on the issue for political gain and The New York Times notified her of a story documenting her change in position. Nearly three dozen other Republican lawmakers who supported it during the last Congress, including several who face tough re-election races in competitive districts, have yet to sign on again.” [New York Times, [1/12/24](#)]

2021: Steel Cosponsored The “Life At Conception Act. Steel co-sponsored the “Life At Conception Act”, which “declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual comes into being. Nothing in this bill shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.” [HR1011, [4/23/21](#)]

Gazette Fact Check: Legal Experts Argued The Life At Conception Act, Which “Would Outlaw All Abortions With No Exceptions In Cases Of Rape, Incest Or Risk To The Pregnant Person,” Could Result In Criminal Charges Against People Who Help Women Get Abortions, Including Health Care Providers, And It Did Not Explicitly Protect Them From Criminalization. “With the idea that life begins at conception, personhood laws grant fertilized eggs, zygotes, embryos and fetuses the same status as victims in other scenarios. Because of this, some legal experts — as well as Mathis's campaign — have argued abortion could result in criminal charges, such as homicide. The Life at Conception Act specifically states that nothing within the bill ‘shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.’ But the bill does not explicitly protect anyone else from criminal charges, such as abortion providers or those who help others obtain an abortion. The freshman representative from Iowa has not publicly stated whether she would support criminal charges in this scenario. [...] The Life at Conception Act, co-sponsored by Hinson, would outlaw all abortions with no exceptions in cases of rape, incest or risk to the pregnant person. The bill in question does eliminate the

possibility for criminal charges for individuals who receive an abortion, but it does not provide the same guarantees for others. Hinson has never publicly stated she would support legislation that includes criminal penalties for abortions. But the broad scope of the personhood law does have implications for criminalization of abortion.” [Cedar Rapids Gazette, [7/11/22](#)]

Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.” “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

Washington Post: The Life At Conception Act Signaled That Many Members “Would Like To See A Total Ban On Abortion.” “Several abortion bans have already been introduced in Congress. A six-week abortion ban has been introduced in the House, by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), and the Life at Conception Act, which would recognize a fetus as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, has been introduced in both chambers. Nineteen Republican senators and well over 100 Republicans in the House have co-sponsored the measure, signaling that many would like to see a total ban on abortion.” [Washington Post, [5/2/22](#)]

Now, MAGA Michelle is doubling down on her attacks against women by supporting the extreme Project 2025 agenda, ...

2024: Steel Was A California Delegate For Donald Trump. “Rep. Michelle Steel’s office and campaign didn’t respond to at least four calls and emails spanning six weeks requesting comment on a Trump endorsement. When approached by a POLITICO reporter at the Capitol last week, she promptly darted away in heels. But she was listed as a delegate for the former president in California’s recent primary.” [Politico, [3/11/24](#)]

At Least 140 People Who Worked For Trump Were Involved In Writing The Project 2025 Playbook. “Donald Trump has lately made clear he wants little to do with Project 2025, the conservative blueprint for the next Republican president that has attracted considerable blowback in his race for the White House. ‘I have no idea who is behind it,’ the former president recently claimed on social media. [...] In fact, at least 140 people who worked in the Trump administration had a hand in Project 2025, a CNN review found, including more than half of the people listed as authors, editors and contributors to ‘Mandate for Leadership,’ the project’s extensive manifesto for overhauling the executive branch.” [CNN, [7/11/24](#)]

Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts Said He Saw Project 2025’s Role As “Institutionalizing Trumpism.” “Since taking over the Heritage Foundation in 2021, Kevin D. Roberts has been making his mark on an institution that came to prominence during the Reagan years and has long been seen as an incubator of conservative policy and thought. [...] Roberts told me that he views Heritage’s role today as ‘institutionalizing Trumpism.’ This includes leading Project 2025, a transition blueprint that outlines a plan to consolidate power in the executive branch, dismantle federal agencies and recruit and vet government employees to free the next Republican president from a system that Roberts views as stacked against conservative power.” [New York Times, [1/21/24](#)]

... which would eliminate access to birth control ...

Center For American Progress: Project 2025 Would Take Away Access To Free Emergency Contraception For 48 Million Women. “In ‘Project 2025: A Presidential Transition Project,’ far-right extremists outline their intent to exclude some forms of emergency contraception from no-cost coverage. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires most private health insurance plans to provide no-cost coverage—without copayment, coinsurance, or deductible—for recommended preventive services. This benefit includes the full range of U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved birth control methods and counseling, including emergency contraception. Rescinding no-cost coverage could have lifelong consequences for women nationwide. A new Center for American Progress analysis estimates that if Project 2025 were enacted, nearly 48 million women of reproductive age would lose their guaranteed no-cost access to emergency contraception.” [Center for American Progress, Article, [6/18/24](#)]

Project 2025 Called To Restore Trump Era Religious And Moral Exceptions To The Contraception Mandate. “Restore Trump religious and moral exemptions to the contraceptive mandate (also a CMS rule). HHS should rescind, if finalized, the regulation titled ‘Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act,’ proposed jointly by HHS, Treasury, and Labor. This rule proposes to amend Trump-era final rules regarding religious and moral exemptions and accommodations for coverage of certain preventive services under the ACA. Preventive services include contraception, and it appears the proposed rule would change the existing regulations for religious and moral exemptions to the ACA’s contraception mandate. There is no need for further rulemaking that curtails existing exemptions and accommodations.” [2025 Mandate for Leadership, Pg 483, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

- **The Contraception Mandate Was A Part Of The ACA And Required All Health Insurance Plans To Cover Female Contraception.** “As of August 1, 2012, the ACA contraception mandate required that all new health insurance plans provide FDA-approved female contraception and contraceptive services, without patient cost-sharing[9,10]. This mandate reduced out-of-pocket costs[11–15], and while evidence is mixed[11,15–18], some research suggests the mandate increased use of specific contraceptives such as LARCs[14,19,20]. Patterns of contraceptive use and effects of the mandate on contraceptive use also appear to differ by race/ethnicity, insurance type, and relationship status[7,19,21–25]. Whether the ACA contraception mandate reduced unintended pregnancies (i.e., via increased access and affordability of contraceptive resources), and whether that decrease was uniform across women of reproductive age, or if it differed by demographic characteristics (race/ethnicity, insurance type, or relationship status) remains unknown.” [National Library of Medicine, [10/23/19](#)]

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Project 2025 Would Add Work Requirements To Medicaid. “Add work requirements and match Medicaid benefits to beneficiary needs. Because Medicaid serves a broad and diverse group of individuals, it should be flexible enough to accommodate different designs for different groups. For example, CMS should launch a robust ‘personal option’ to allow families to use Medicaid dollars to secure coverage outside of the Medicaid program. CMS should also: Clarify that states have the ability to adopt work incentives for able bodied individuals (similar to what is required in other welfare programs) and the ability to broaden the application of targeted premiums and cost sharing to higher-income enrollees. Add targeted time limits or lifetime caps on benefits to disincentivize permanent dependence.” [2025 Mandate for Leadership, Pg 468, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services: “Medicaid Work Requirements Would Jeopardize Health Coverage And Access To Care For More Than 4 Million Californians.” [U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services, [4/24/23](#)]

MAGA Michelle Steel has been called out by the LA Times for her dishonesty, and now she is lying about Derek Tran.

LA Times: “Her Extreme-Right Values And Occasional Dishonesty Make Her A Poor Fit For Her Constituents.” “The 45th Congressional District is due for change. Overdue. Rep. Michelle Steel (R-Seal Beach)

may officially represent the district in northern Orange County, but her extreme-right values and occasional dishonesty make her a poor fit for her constituents. Fortunately, voters have an excellent alternative in Democrat Derek Tran, a consumer- and employee-rights attorney who also owns an independent pharmacy with his pharmacist wife. It's not surprising, then, that he has aligned himself with other Democrats who are strongly pro-small business. In contrast to Steel, he is a believer in helping Americans gain quality, affordable education and healthcare — and respecting their freedom to make their own medical and family decisions." [LA Times, [9/9/24](#)]

L.A. Times: “Honesty — Or Lack Of It — Has Been Another Issue For Steel.” “Honesty — or lack of it — has been another issue for Steel. In 2022, she sent a mailer to Vietnamese Americans in the district that painted her opponent, Jay Chen, as a communist sympathizer. Chen is in fact a Navy reservist whose mother fled Communist China. The message was sure to resonate with those voters who had fled from the communist takeover of Vietnam and who detest anything that remotely smacks of communism. It's not a trick she's likely to get away with in competition with the son of Vietnamese refugees who served in the Army reserves for eight years.” [LA Times, [9/9/24](#)]

Derek Tran has stood up for women. He has advocated for victims of harassment and abuse and will protect women's reproductive rights.

Former Tran Client: When I Was Facing Pregnancy Discrimination At Work, Derek Tran Fought For Me When I Felt Powerless. "When I was facing pregnancy discrimination at work, Derek Tran fought for me when I felt powerless. He stood by my side and made sure my rights were protected, refusing to let my voice be ignored. Derek didn't just take on my case—he fought for all working mothers who deserve fair treatment. Derek's dedication gave me the strength to stand up for myself and helped me achieve the justice I deserved." [Derek Tran for Congress, Ashley S, accessed [10/11/24](#)]

Former Tran Client: “When I Faced Gender Discrimination And Sexual Harassment At Work, Derek Tran Stood Up For Me And Fought For Justice” "When I faced gender discrimination and sexual harassment at work, Derek Tran stood up for me and fought for justice. He wasn't afraid to take a stand for women's rights and made sure my voice was heard when others tried to silence me. Derek is a true defender of women, and I'm grateful for his unwavering support." [Derek Tran for Congress, Soledad A., accessed [10/11/24](#)]

Former Tran Client: “Derek Tran Stood By Me When I Needed Help The Most. His Dedication And Compassion Made All The Difference, And I'm Proud To Support Him In His Run For Congress” "Derek Tran stood by me when I needed help the most. His dedication and compassion made all the difference, and I'm proud to support him in his run for Congress because I know he will keep fighting for others just like he did for me." [Derek Tran for Congress, Anita C., accessed [10/11/24](#)]

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That’s why Planned Parenthood and law enforcement trust Derek Tran to keep women and families safe.

President Of Planned Parenthood Action Fund: “Derek Tran Has Always Fought For Women—Whether In The Courtroom Or In His Community.” “Derek Tran has always fought for women—whether in the courtroom or in his community. He’s been a fierce advocate for survivors of harassment and discrimination, and his commitment to reproductive health care and rights is unwavering. Unlike his opponent Michelle Steel, who has consistently attacked these rights, Derek has made it clear he will fight to protect access to abortion, birth control, and the essential health care that women deserve. Planned Parenthood Action Fund trusts Derek Tran in California’s 45th congressional district.’ ‘Michelle Steel’s actions make it clear: she wants to turn back the clock on reproductive rights. Her votes against birth control access and her support for criminalizing abortion prove her loyalty lies with anti-abortion extremists, not with women. She can’t be trusted to protect our rights and freedoms.’” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [10/11/24](#)]

Message #2

Steel's close political ally Andrew Do is under investigation by the FBI for corruption after he allegedly diverted millions of dollars of COVID funds meant to feed the elderly for his personal benefit. Both Andrew Do and Michelle Steel have been accused of using taxpayer money to help their campaigns.

Steel's Close Political Ally Andrew Do...

Steel Served Alongside Andrew Do On The Orange County Board Of Supervisors For Several Years And Do Endorsed Her Repeatedly. “Two Orange County congressional candidates recently scrubbed their campaign websites of endorsements from Supervisor Andrew Do, who is facing mounting calls to step down amid allegations the nonprofit he directed millions of dollars in COVID relief funds to instead embezzled the funds meant for feeding the elderly. Do’s name was listed on the campaign website for Rep. Michelle Steel, R-Seal Beach, as recently as mid-July as one of several local leaders who had endorsed her campaign, but as of Tuesday, Aug. 27, his name is no longer on that list. [...] Steel served alongside Do on the Board of Supervisors for several years until she was elected to Congress in 2020 to represent what was then California’s 48th congressional district. Do also endorsed her then.” [Orange County Register, [8/28/24](#)]

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HEADLINE: “California County Official Stripped Of Committee Assignments Amid COVID Fraud Allegations.” [ABC, [9/11/24](#)]

Do Was Stripped Of His Committee Assignments After Being Accused Of Directing Millions Of District Discretionary Funds To The Viet American Society That Employed His Daughter. “A California county official was removed from his committee assignments Tuesday amid allegations he helped embezzle millions in pandemic relief funds. The Orange County, California Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to remove Supervisor Andrew Do, R-1st District, from his assignments. The board said it couldn’t dismiss Do altogether, but the council agreed with an agenda item to strip him of his appointments to multiple panels. [...] Do is accused of directing millions of dollars through his district discretionary fund to the Viet American Society, an organization that employed his daughter, according to The Orange County Register. The Viet American Society was reportedly designed to help distribute meals to seniors and residents with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.” [ABC, [9/11/24](#)]

- **Do Was Being Investigated By Federal Agencies And Had His Home Raided To Find Evidence Of The Alleged Misuse Of Funds.** “Do is scheduled to be termed out of office at the end of the year. He has faced calls for his resignation as authorities investigate allegations of fraudulent spending of COVID-19 relief funds by VAS. The county sued VAS last month, alleging its President Peter Pham, misappropriated millions of dollars of pandemic relief earmarked for delivery of meals to needy residents. The Hand to Hand Relief organization, which subcontracted with VAS, was also sued. VAS officials countered that they spent the money on the food program but had trouble during the pandemic collecting all of the paperwork to prove all of the deliveries. Federal investigators in August raided the homes of Pham and Rhiannon Do, along with other locations with ties to the probe into alleged misuse of funds, including Andrew Do's home.” [ABC, [9/24/24](#)]
- **Do’s Daughter Was Accused Of Using The Money To Purchase Multiple Homes.** “In early August, the county demanded that Viet America Society return \$2.2 million after the organization failed to prove to auditors and the county how it spent the money, or that it had done the work it was hired to do. The lawsuit alleges some of those funds were instead used to purchase multiple homes. Rhiannon Do, 23, is alleged to have used county dollars to buy a home in Tustin in July 2023. The sale price was \$1.035 million, according to the real estate site Redfin.” [LA Times, [7/26/24](#)]

The Viet American Society Allegedly Used The Funds To Buy Personal Property Instead Of Its Intended Use Of Distributing Meals To Seniors And Individuals With Disabilities During The COVID Pandemic. “Do is accused of directing millions of dollars through his district discretionary fund to the Viet American Society, an

organization that employed his daughter, according to The Orange County Register. The Viet American Society was reportedly designed to help distribute meals to seniors and residents with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the organization allegedly instead used much of the funds to buy personal property. Sarmiento suggested the board approach the subject of Do's involvement with the council 'deliberately' since it understands what he and his office are facing." [ABC, [9/11/24](#)]

Do Was Censured By The Board Of Supervisors “For His Failure To Abide By The Code Of Ethics And Commitment To Public Service, And For The Reckless Judgment And Favoritism He Has Demonstrated.” “The Orange County Board of Supervisors censured Andrew Do on Tuesday — marking another significant, if ceremonial, rebuke of the embattled politician. In a three-page resolution, the board ‘strongly and publicly’ condemned Do ‘for his failure to abide by the code of ethics and commitment to public service, and for the reckless judgment and favoritism he has demonstrated.’ The censure was approved 4-0, with Do absent. The supervisor, who is in the last year of his final term, has not attended a board meeting since Aug. 13, having been marked as an ‘excused’ absence three times.” [LA Times, [7/26/24](#)]

Both Andrew Do and Michelle Steel have been accused of using taxpayer money to help their campaigns.

Steel Used Taxpayer Funds To Send 16,000 Campaign-Style Mailers For An Event Held At A Private Home

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[Voice of Orange County, [2/20/18](#)]

Steel Sent The Invitation To 16,000 Voters Even Though The Event Was Being Held At A Private Home That Only “Had Room For A Few Dozen Participants”

Steel Sent The Invitation To 16,000 Voters Even Though The Event Was Being Held At A Private Home That Only “Had Room For A Few Dozen Participants.” “The mailings to 16,000 people – for an event held at the home of Costa Mesa City Council candidate Lee Ramos, which had room for a few dozen participants – included Rackauckas’ name but no public purpose for the gathering.” [Orange County Register, [2/7/18](#)]

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The Event Also Benefitted Tony Rackauckas, A Close Political Ally Of Steel

The Event Also Benefitted Tony Rackauckas. “Orange County supervisors expressed concern Tuesday that their colleague, Supervisor Michelle Steel, improperly spent taxpayer funds to send out 16,000 public mailers for campaigning purposes that also benefitted incumbent District Attorney Tony Rackauckas. [...] Steel and Rackauckas are both seeking re-election this year.” [Orange County Register, [2/7/18](#)]

Steel Was Endorsed By Both Hutchens And Rackauckas. “Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens and Dist. Atty. Tony Rackauckas have endorsed Michelle Steel in her campaign for the District 2 seat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors, according to a news release.” [Los Angeles Times, [3/31/14](#)]

Steel Supported Rackauckas Amidst Criticism Of His Handling Of The Scott Dekraai Mass Murder Case. “Todd Spitzer, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, stood before TV cameras last week and vowed the board would hold accountable the District Attorney’s Office for the misconduct that has stalled the Scott Dekraai mass murder case. [...] Spitzer went on the attack after a judge removed the District Attorney’s Office from the penalty phase for Scott Dekraai, who pleaded guilty to killing eight people in October 2011 at a Seal Beach salon. Superior Court Judge Thomas Goethals handed the case over to the state Attorney General’s Office, which doesn’t want it and has appealed. [...] Supervisor Michelle Steel, who lives in Seal Beach, offered unqualified support for Rackauckas. ‘I think he is an excellent district attorney, and I am confident that he takes responsibility for his department and will act to correct errors when they occur.’” [Orange County Register, [3/26/15](#)]

- **Steel Endorsed Rackauckas’ Campaign.** “Do, Nelson and Steel all have endorsed Rackauckas.” [Orange County Register, [6/12/18](#)]

After The Orange County Auditor-Controller Questioned The Legality Of Her Campaign-Style Mailers, Steel Supported Dismantling The County’s Ability To Independently Audit The Board
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The Orange County Auditor-Controller Questioned The Legality Of Steel’s Taxpayer Funded Mailers

Voice Of OC: County Supervisors Clashed With The Auditor-Controller For “Questioning Of The Legality Of Supervisors’ Taxpayer Funded Mailers To Voters That Prominently Feature The Supervisors.” “The auditor-controller is independently elected by county voters, and Woolery won re-election last week with about 75 percent of the vote. But he has repeatedly drawn the ire of Nelson and other county supervisors since he took office in early 2015, including his questioning of the legality of supervisors’ taxpayer funded mailers to voters that prominently feature the supervisors.” [Voice of OC, [6/13/18](#)]

Steel Voted To Give The Board Of Supervisors Control Of The County’s Internal Auditors

Headline: “Supervisors Start Taking Control Of County’s Financial Checks And Balances.” [Voice of OC, [6/28/18](#)]

Steel Voted To Give The Board Of Supervisors Of The County’s Internal Auditors, Removing Them From The Jurisdiction Of The County Auditor-Controller. “Orange County supervisors acted Tuesday to grant themselves control over the county’s financial checks and balances – a move encouraged by two former employees who allege wrongdoing and opposed by people concerned the supervisors were dismantling independent oversight.

The supervisors' most immediate action was to take control of the county's internal auditors, who are supposed to function as watchdogs against fraud in county departments and currently report to the county's independently-elected auditor-controller, Eric Woolery. The 14 budgeted staff of the Internal Audit Division will be transferred from Woolery's office and will start reporting to the supervisors this Sunday, July 1, according to the supervisors' action. The move was approved on a 4-1 vote, with Supervisor Todd Spitzer opposing." [Voice of OC, [6/28/18](#)]

Steel Voted To Cut \$1 Million From The Budget Of The County Auditor-Controller

June 2018: The Orange County Board Of Supervisors Cut \$1 Million From The Budget Of The Auditor-Controller. "Earlier at Monday's meeting, supervisors voted to cut \$1 million from recently re-elected county Auditor-Controller Eric Woolery's budget and strip some of his auditing powers. A more substantial plan to break up Woolery's office fell one vote shy of passing after some supervisors worried that taking away his control of issuing county payments could be too disruptive in the short-term." [Orange County Register, [6/27/18](#)]

- **Steel Voted To Decrease Funding For The Auditor-Controller By \$656,570.** "On the motion of Vice Chairman Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Steel, and Supervisor Spitzer voting no, the board reduced funding for the auditor-controller, budget 003 baseline appropriations by \$656,570." [Orange County Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, [6/26/18](#) (Afternoon Meeting)]
- **Steel Voted To Eliminate \$385,639 In Funding Requests By The Auditor-Controller.** "On the motion of Vice Chairman Nelson, seconded by Chairman Do, and Supervisor Spitzer voting no, the board eliminated all restore augmentation requests for the auditor-controller of \$385,639." [Orange County Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, [6/26/18](#) (Afternoon Meeting)]

Steel Dodged State Law By Sending Taxpayer-Funded Mailers To Constituents Before The Start Of A Blackout Period On Spending

California State Law Prohibits Elected Officials Statewide From Sending Publicly Funded Mailers During The 60 Days Leading Up To An Election

California State Law Prohibits Elected Officials Statewide From Sending Publicly Funded Mailers During The 60 Days Leading Up To An Election. "California law prohibits elected officials statewide from sending publicly funded mailers during the 60 days leading up to an election. The state Legislature passed the regulation last year, after another Orange County supervisor, board Chairman Andrew Do, spent \$277,000 of taxpayer funds to send 1.2 million pieces of mail during the 2016 election, which he later won by fewer than 700 votes. This year, the 60-day blackout started April 6." [Orange County Register, [5/1/18](#)]

Steel Dodged State Law By Sending Hundreds Of Thousands Of Taxpayer-Funded Mailers To Constituents Before The Start Of A Blackout Period On Spending

Steel Dodged State Law By Sending Taxpayer-Funded Mailers To Constituents Before The Start Of A Blackout Period On Spending. "A state law intended to stop elected officials from campaigning with public funds in the weeks just before elections might have prompted Orange County officials to step up such spending earlier this year. During a six-week window starting in late February, four county supervisors running for public office — Michelle Steel, Todd Spitzer, Shawn Nelson and Lisa Bartlett — cumulatively sent out \$241,000 worth of tax-financed mass mailers to constituents, before the start of a blackout period on such spending in advance of the June 5 primary, county records show. [...] Steel, who is running for re-election in a competitive race in the county's 2nd District, sent at least 115,000 mailers in the weeks before the blackout, using about \$33,000 in tax money. One mailer advertised a hiring fair, and another simply highlighted services offered by CalOptima, the county's longtime health care service for poor and disabled residents. Both featured Steel's name prominently. Before this election cycle, Steel had sent only one mailer in her three years in office, at a cost of \$2,600. 'The big tell (that it's campaigning) is that they're not sending out mailers in nonelection years,' Stern said" [Orange County Register, [5/1/18](#)]

- **Steel Sent Out At Least 115,000 Mailers, Using About \$33,000 In Taxpayer Dollars.** “Steel, who is running for re-election in a competitive race in the county’s 2nd District, sent at least 115,000 mailers in the weeks before the blackout, using about \$33,000 in tax money.” [Orange County Register, [5/1/18](#)]

Message #3

- *The son of Vietnamese refugees who fled Communism, Derek grew up working to help his parents run the family-owned corner market. At 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was activated after 9/11. Derek earned his law degree and opened his own firm in Orange County where he takes on greedy corporations on behalf of survivors of sexual harassment and victims of workplace discrimination. Derek stepped up to serve as a City Commissioner and a mentor to underprivileged youth. Together with his wife, Michelle, they are proud parents of three.*
- *Derek will defend a woman’s right to make her own healthcare decisions, and he’ll protect access to birth control, IVF, and other critical health services*
- *Derek and his wife run a local pharmacy, which helps provide affordable medications to people in the community. Derek will take on big insurance and pharmaceutical companies to lower the high cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, including capping the cost of lifesaving drugs like insulin, so everyone has access to quality, affordable care.*
- *As a father of three young children and a youth mentor for kids in need, Derek will work to ensure every child gets a quality education by raising wages for teachers, supporting early childhood programs, and providing more vocational education and job training.*

The son of Vietnamese refugees who fled Communism, Derek grew up working to help his parents run the family-owned corner market. At 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was activated after 9/11.

Tran Was The Son Of Vietnamese Refugees Who Fled Communism. “Derek is the son of refugees. His parents fled the Communist regime in Vietnam so that their children could realize the American Dream in Southern California. Through hard work and sacrifice, Derek’s family opened a corner market where Derek worked every day after school.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Derek Helped His Parents Run A Family-Owned Corner Market. “Derek is the son of refugees. His parents fled the Communist regime in Vietnam so that their children could realize the American Dream in Southern California. Through hard work and sacrifice, Derek’s family opened a corner market where Derek worked every day after school.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Tran Enlisted in the U.S. At Age 18. At the age of 18, Derek enlisted in the Army to give back to the country that had given him and his family so much. In the military, it didn’t matter if you were a Democrat or a Republican - you worked together to get the job done, and Derek will bring that same mindset to Congress. [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Derek earned his law degree and opened his own firm in Orange County...

Tran Owned A Law Firm In Orange County. “After his time in the military, Derek went to law school to uphold the liberties, individual rights, and rule of law that his parents immigrated to America for. Turning down high paying jobs in corporate law, Derek chose to open up his small business in Orange County and fight for immigrants, workers, survivors of sexual harassment, and consumers.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

...where he takes on greedy corporations on behalf of survivors of sexual harassment and victims of workplace discrimination.

Tran's Owned The Tran Firm In Orange County. "Tran, an attorney at the Tran Firm and owner of True Care Pharmacy in Anaheim with his wife, Michelle, is now one of five hopefuls running against incumbent Rep. Michelle Steel, a Republican who won her second term in last year's midterm elections over Democrat Jay Chen with 52.4% of the votes." [Daily Pilot, [10/2/23](#)]

The Tran Firm Was A Law Firm Focused On Consumer Rights Personal Injury, Employment Law and Wrongful Death. "Consumer Rights Law Firm. Personal Injury, Employment Law and Wrongful Deaths. Let us focus on your case, so you can take the time you need to heal." [The Tran Firm, Instagram, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Derek stepped up to serve as a City Commissioner...

Tran Was A Traffic Commissioner For Orange, California. [City of Orange, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

...and a mentor to underprivileged youth.

Tran Mentored At-Risk Youth At Sunburst Academy. "Derek sits on the board of Consumers of Attorneys of California and mentors at-risk youth at Sunburst Academy, which is located at Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos where Derek served." [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Together with his wife, Michelle, they are proud parents of three.

Tran Was Married To His Wife, Michelle, And Had Three Children. "Derek is married to his amazing wife Michelle, a pharmacist who grew up in Garden Grove. [...] Derek and Michelle are proud parents of three. Their children attend public schools and every day Derek works to instill the values of hard work, patriotism, and service that his parents taught him." [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Derek will defend a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions, and he'll protect access to birth control, IVF, and other critical health services

Tran Said He Is "100% Pro-Choice." "Following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, Derek will defend women's health and rights in Congress. As the father of a young daughter, Derek is 100% pro-choice and will stand strong to protect funding for Planned Parenthood and access to critical women's health services like birth control and cancer screenings." [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Tran Said He Will Defend Women's Health And Rights In Congress. "Following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, Derek will defend women's health and rights in Congress. As the father of a young daughter, Derek is 100% pro-choice and will stand strong to protect funding for Planned Parenthood and access to critical women's health services like birth control and cancer screenings." [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Derek and his wife run a local pharmacy, which helps provide affordable medications to people in the community.

Tran And His Wife Ran A Pharmacy In Orange County, California. "Derek is married to his amazing wife Michelle, a pharmacist who grew up in Garden Grove. Together they run a brick and mortar pharmacy right here in Orange County. During the pandemic they helped local businesses and restaurants keep their doors open and their employees safe through vaccinations and Covid-19 testing." [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Derek will take on big insurance and pharmaceutical companies to lower the high cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, including capping the cost of lifesaving drugs like insulin, so everyone has access to quality, affordable care

Tran Said He Will Take On Insurance And Pharmaceutical Companies To Rein In Healthcare And Prescription Drug Costs. “Derek believes healthcare should be a right, not a privilege. As the owner of a local pharmacy, Derek, with his wife, has helped his community access lifesaving medicine and understands the challenges families face in affording care. He’ll take on the big insurance and pharmaceutical companies to rein in the high cost of healthcare and prescription drugs and expand Medicare so that everyone has access to quality, affordable health care.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Tran Criticized Steel For Voting Against Capping Monthly Insulin Payments, And Said Steel Was Not Supporting The Common Man. “Michelle Steel voted against the Respect for Marriage Act, against codifying abortion rights, and against capping monthly insulin payments. If you want to know who Steel supports, it’s certainly not you.” [Derek Tran, Twitter, [11/20/23](#)]



[Derek Tran, Twitter, [11/20/23](#)]

As a father of three young children and a youth mentor for kids in need,...

Tran Was Married To His Wife, Michelle, And Had Three Children. “Derek is married to his amazing wife Michelle, a pharmacist who grew up in Garden Grove. [...] Derek and Michelle are proud parents of three. Their children attend public schools and every day Derek works to instill the values of hard work, patriotism, and service that his parents taught him.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Tran Mentored At-Risk Youth At Sunburst Academy. “Derek sits on the board of Consumers of Attorneys of California and mentors at-risk youth at Sunburst Academy, which is located at Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos where Derek served.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

...Derek will work to ensure every child gets a quality education by raising wages for teachers, supporting early childhood programs, and providing more vocational education and job training.

Tran Said He Will Work To Raise Wages For Teachers. “Derek believes education is the key to unlocking opportunity and a brighter future. The father of three young children in public schools and a youth mentor for kids in need, Derek will fight to ensure every child has a quality education by working to raise wages for teachers, investing in community public schools, supporting programs like early childhood education that give students more opportunities to succeed, and providing more vocational education and job training.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Tran Said He Will Support Early Childhood Education Programs. “Derek believes education is the key to unlocking opportunity and a brighter future. The father of three young children in public schools and a youth

mentor for kids in need, Derek will fight to ensure every child has a quality education by working to raise wages for teachers, investing in community public schools, supporting programs like early childhood education that give students more opportunities to succeed, and providing more vocational education and job training.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Tran Said He Will Work To Provide More Vocational Education And Job Training. “Derek believes education is the key to unlocking opportunity and a brighter future. The father of three young children in public schools and a youth mentor for kids in need, Derek will fight to ensure every child has a quality education by working to raise wages for teachers, investing in community public schools, supporting programs like early childhood education that give students more opportunities to succeed, and providing more vocational education and job training.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Message #4

- *Derek is the son of Vietnamese refugees who fled Communism. At 18, Derek enlisted in the U.S. Army and was activated after 9/11*
- *Derek will defend a woman’s right to make her own healthcare decisions, and he’ll protect abortion rights and access to birth control.*
- *MAGA Michelle Steel has been called out by the LA times for her dishonesty, and now she is lying about Derek Tran. Derek Tran has stood up for women. He has advocated for victims of harassment and abuse and will protect women’s reproductive rights. MAGA Michelle Steel has led the effort to ban abortion nationwide with no exceptions for rape, incest or to save the life of the woman. That’s why Planned Parenthood and law enforcement trust Derek Tran to keep women and families safe.*

Derek is the son of Vietnamese refugees who fled Communism. At 18, Derek enlisted in the U.S. Army and was activated after 9/11

Tran Was The Son Of Vietnamese Refugees Who Fled Communism. “Derek is the son of refugees. His parents fled the Communist regime in Vietnam so that their children could realize the American Dream in Southern California. Through hard work and sacrifice, Derek’s family opened a corner market where Derek worked every day after school.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Derek Helped His Parents Run A Family-Owned Corner Market. “Derek is the son of refugees. His parents fled the Communist regime in Vietnam so that their children could realize the American Dream in Southern California. Through hard work and sacrifice, Derek’s family opened a corner market where Derek worked every day after school.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Tran Enlisted in the U.S. At Age 18. At the age of 18, Derek enlisted in the Army to give back to the country that had given him and his family so much. In the military, it didn’t matter if you were a Democrat or a Republican - you worked together to get the job done, and Derek will bring that same mindset to Congress. [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Derek will defend a woman’s right to make her own healthcare decisions, and he’ll protect abortion rights and access to birth control.

Tran Said He Is “100% Pro-Choice.” “Following the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, Derek will defend women’s health and rights in Congress. As the father of a young daughter, Derek is 100% pro-choice and will stand strong to protect funding for Planned Parenthood and access to critical women’s health services like birth control and cancer screenings.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

Tran Said He Will Defend Women’s Health And Rights In Congress. “Following the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, Derek will defend women’s health and rights in Congress. As the father of a young daughter, Derek is 100% pro-choice and will stand strong to protect funding for Planned Parenthood and access to critical women’s health services like birth control and cancer screenings.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

MAGA Michelle Steel has been called out by the LA Times for her dishonesty, and now she is lying about Derek Tran.

LA Times: “Her Extreme-Right Values And Occasional Dishonesty Make Her A Poor Fit For Her Constituents.” “The 45th Congressional District is due for change. Overdue. Rep. Michelle Steel (R-Seal Beach) may officially represent the district in northern Orange County, but her extreme-right values and occasional dishonesty make her a poor fit for her constituents. Fortunately, voters have an excellent alternative in Democrat Derek Tran, a consumer- and employee-rights attorney who also owns an independent pharmacy with his pharmacist wife. It’s not surprising, then, that he has aligned himself with other Democrats who are strongly pro-small business. In contrast to Steel, he is a believer in helping Americans gain quality, affordable education and healthcare — and respecting their freedom to make their own medical and family decisions.” [LA Times, [9/9/24](#)]

L.A. Times: “Honesty — Or Lack Of It — Has Been Another Issue For Steel.” “Honesty — or lack of it — has been another issue for Steel. In 2022, she sent a mailer to Vietnamese Americans in the district that painted her opponent, Jay Chen, as a communist sympathizer. Chen is in fact a Navy reservist whose mother fled Communist China. The message was sure to resonate with those voters who had fled from the communist takeover of Vietnam and who detest anything that remotely smacks of communism. It’s not a trick she’s likely to get away with in competition with the son of Vietnamese refugees who served in the Army reserves for eight years.” [LA Times, [9/9/24](#)]

Derek Tran has stood up for women. He has advocated for victims of harassment and abuse and will protect women’s reproductive rights.

Former Tran Client: When I Was Facing Pregnancy Discrimination At Work, Derek Tran Fought For Me When I Felt Powerless. "When I was facing pregnancy discrimination at work, Derek Tran fought for me when I felt powerless. He stood by my side and made sure my rights were protected, refusing to let my voice be ignored. Derek didn't just take on my case—he fought for all working mothers who deserve fair treatment. Derek's dedication gave me the strength to stand up for myself and helped me achieve the justice I deserved." [Derek Tran for Congress, Ashley S, accessed 10/11/24]

Former Tran Client: “When I Faced Gender Discrimination And Sexual Harassment At Work, Derek Tran Stood Up For Me And Fought For Justice” "When I faced gender discrimination and sexual harassment at work, Derek Tran stood up for me and fought for justice. He wasn't afraid to take a stand for women's rights and made sure my voice was heard when others tried to silence me. Derek is a true defender of women, and I'm grateful for his unwavering support." [Derek Tran for Congress, Ashley S, accessed 10/11/24]

MAGA Michelle Steel has led the effort to ban abortion nationwide with no exceptions for rape, incest or to save the life of the woman.

2024: Steel Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act, A National Abortion Ban. “In 2021, Representative Michelle Steel, a California Republican whose district President Biden won in 2020, cosponsored the Life at Conception Act, a bill to recognize a fertilized egg as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment. It was a year before the Supreme Court would overturn Roe v. Wade. Ms. Steel was one of 166 House Republicans — then roughly three-quarters of the conference — who would ultimately sign on to the legislation, which amounted to a nationwide abortion ban. She did so just weeks after it was introduced. [...] Ms. Steel waited nearly a year to sign on — doing so on Friday morning, only after her Democratic challenger criticized

her for flip-flopping on the issue for political gain and The New York Times notified her of a story documenting her change in position. Nearly three dozen other Republican lawmakers who supported it during the last Congress, including several who face tough re-election races in competitive districts, have yet to sign on again.” [New York Times, [1/12/24](#)]

2021: Steel Cosponsored The “Life At Conception Act. Steel co-sponsored the “Life At Conception Act”, which “declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual comes into being. Nothing in this bill shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.” [HR1011, [4/23/21](#)]

Gazette Fact Check: Legal Experts Argued The Life At Conception Act, Which “Would Outlaw All Abortions With No Exceptions In Cases Of Rape, Incest Or Risk To The Pregnant Person,” Could Result In Criminal Charges Against People Who Help Women Get Abortions, Including Health Care Providers, And It Did Not Explicitly Protect Them From Criminalization. “With the idea that life begins at conception, personhood laws grant fertilized eggs, zygotes, embryos and fetuses the same status as victims in other scenarios. Because of this, some legal experts — as well as Mathis’s campaign — have argued abortion could result in criminal charges, such as homicide. The Life at Conception Act specifically states that nothing within the bill ‘shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.’ But the bill does not explicitly protect anyone else from criminal charges, such as abortion providers or those who help others obtain an abortion. The freshman representative from Iowa has not publicly stated whether she would support criminal charges in this scenario. [...] The Life at Conception Act, co-sponsored by Hinson, would outlaw all abortions with no exceptions in cases of rape, incest or risk to the pregnant person. The bill in question does eliminate the possibility for criminal charges for individuals who receive an abortion, but it does not provide the same guarantees for others. Hinson has never publicly stated she would support legislation that includes criminal penalties for abortions. But the broad scope of the personhood law does have implications for criminalization of abortion.” [Cedar Rapids Gazette, [7/11/22](#)]

Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.” “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

Washington Post: The Life At Conception Act Signaled That Many Members “Would Like To See A Total Ban On Abortion.” “Several abortion bans have already been introduced in Congress. A six-week abortion ban has been introduced in the House, by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), and the Life at Conception Act, which would recognize a fetus as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, has been introduced in both chambers. Nineteen Republican senators and well over 100 Republicans in the House have co-sponsored the measure, signaling that many would like to see a total ban on abortion.” [Washington Post, [5/2/22](#)]

That’s why Planned Parenthood and law enforcement trust Derek Tran to keep women and families safe.

President Of Planned Parenthood Action Fund: “Derek Tran Has Always Fought For Women—Whether In The Courtroom Or In His Community.” “Derek Tran has always fought for women—whether in the courtroom or in his community. He’s been a fierce advocate for survivors of harassment and discrimination, and his commitment to reproductive health care and rights is unwavering. Unlike his opponent Michelle Steel, who has consistently attacked these rights, Derek has made it clear he will fight to protect access to abortion, birth control, and the essential health care that women deserve. Planned Parenthood Action Fund trusts Derek Tran in California’s 45th congressional district.’ ‘Michelle Steel’s actions make it clear: she wants to turn back the clock on reproductive rights. Her votes against birth control access and her support for criminalizing abortion prove her loyalty lies with anti-abortion extremists, not with women. She can’t be trusted to protect our rights and

freedoms.” [Derek Tran for Congress, accessed [10/11/24](#)]

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Voters need to see that the Los Angeles Times accused Steel of “Dishonesty.”

LA Times: ‘Her Extreme-Right Values And Occasional Dishonesty Make Her A Poor Fit For Her Constituents. ‘The 45th Congressional District is due for change. Overdue. Rep. Michelle Steel (R-Seal Beach) may officially represent the district in northern Orange County, but her extreme-right values and occasional dishonesty make her a poor fit for her constituents. Fortunately, voters have an excellent alternative in Democrat Derek Tran, a consumer- and employee-rights attorney who also owns an independent pharmacy with his pharmacist wife. It’s not surprising, then, that he has aligned himself with other Democrats who are strongly pro-small business. In contrast to Steel, he is a believer in helping Americans gain quality, affordable education and healthcare — and respecting their freedom to make their own medical and family decisions.’ [LA Times, [9/9/24](#)]

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Voters would benefit from reading in mail, and seeing and hearing on digital, testimonials from third-party reproductive rights organizations and from former clients he represented as an attorney, that Derek has always stood up for women and will do the same in Congress.

Former Tran Client: When I Was Facing Pregnancy Discrimination At Work, Derek Tran Fought For Me When I Felt Powerless. ‘When I was facing pregnancy discrimination at work, Derek Tran fought for me when I felt powerless. He stood by my side and made sure my rights were protected, refusing to let my voice be ignored. Derek didn’t just take on my case—he fought for all working mothers who deserve fair treatment. Derek’s dedication gave me the strength to stand up for myself and helped me achieve the justice I deserved.’ [Derek Tran for Congress, Ashley S, accessed [10/11/24](#)]

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Former Tran Client: ‘Derek Tran Stood By Me When I Needed Help The Most. His Dedication And Compassion Made All The Difference, And I’m Proud To Support Him In His Run For Congress’ ‘Derek Tran stood by me when I needed help the most. His dedication and compassion made all the difference, and I’m proud to support him in his run for Congress because I know he will keep fighting for others just like he did for me.’ [Derek Tran for Congress, Anita C., accessed [10/11/24](#)]