New Research on CA-52 Candidates

Denise Gitsham

### Said She Worked For A Renewable Energy Company Because She Did Not Want To “Fund The Coffers Of Those Who Hate Us By Buying Their Oil;” Wanted The US To Be Energy Independent

**Said She Worked For A Renewable Energy Company Because She Did Not Want To “Fund The Fund The Coffers Of Those Who Hate Us By Buying Their Oil;” Wanted The US To Be Energy Independent.** “I came here to work on … a startup in Torrey Pines Mesa that was actually helping us become energy independent. And we were actually making algae based crude oil. So basically we would have become the Saudi Arabia of, you know, green renewable algae based crude oil, completely refineable into gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel. And the reason I was so enamored with that idea is because I worked in the White House on 9/11 and the last thing I ever wanted us to do was to fund the coffers of those who hate us by buying their oil.” [760 AM KFMB, 5:50, [5/25/16](http://760kfmb.com/mike-slater/local-election-spotlight/)]

### Said She Learned From The “Master” Karl Rove

**Said She Learned From The “Master” Karl Rove.** “Well when I worked for Karl, I was fortunate to start for him when I was an intern and I was twenty two years old. And so I really was sitting at the feet of the master as far as a strategist is concerned.” [760 AM KFMB, 8:39, [5/25/16](http://760kfmb.com/mike-slater/local-election-spotlight/)]

### Darrell Issa Endorsed Her

**Darrell Issa Endorsed Her.** “Former White House aide Denise Gitsham has won the coveted backing of Rep. Darrell Issa in her primary battle with four other Republicans in the 52nd Congressional District … Gitsham won Issa’s backing over GOP rivals Terry Reagan Allvord, Jacquie Atkinson, Kenneth Canada and John Horst in the top-two primary June 7.” [Times of San Diego, [5/05/16](http://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2016/05/05/issa-endorses-gitsham-over-4-other-republicans-in-race-against-rep-peters/)]

Jacquie Atkinson

### Atkinson Said She Would Support Trump If He Won The Nomination, Liked That He Was Not A Career Politician

**Atkinson Said She Would Support If He Won The Nomination.** “Jacquie Atkinson, running for the congressional seat held by Democrat Scott Peters, also is undecided on a candidate for the presidential primary but said she will support Trump if he wins the nomination. ‘Hillary is not an option,’ she said, referring to Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/24/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/24/trump-survey-1/)]

**Said She Would “Put All [Her] Support Behind Donald Trump” And Liked That He Was Not A Career Politician.** “I put all my support behind Donald Trump. Now, as far as why I think Trump would be a good candidate is because the fact that he is not a career politician and we’re seeing that the people are speaking, the people are angry about career politicians that are not getting anything done in Washington.” [KOGO, [5/03/16](http://kogo.iheart.com/onair/the-demaio-report-56776/listen-who-should-represent-san-diego-14674110/)]

### Opposed Expanding Background Checks After San Bernardino Terrorist Attacks; Supported Police Officers Or Professional Guards In Schools To Deter Shootings

**Opposed Expanding Background Checks After San Bernardino Terrorist Attacks.** “And another GOP contender, Jacquie Atkinson, said that expanded background checks won’t stop people who are determined from committing a gun crime from getting a firearm. ‘None of the recent mass shootings that have occurred in this country would have been prevented with these gun laws,’ said Atkinson, a former Marine captain… Atkinson said she thinks Peter’s approach won’t help curb gun crime because criminals will illegally dodge background checks to get guns. Some of the weapons used by the San Bernardino terrorists were bought by someone else. Background checks would create more work for people who lawfully want to buy a firearm, she said. ‘I believe that law-abiding U.S. citizens have a fundamental constitutional right to bear arms,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [12/19/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/19/peters-horst-atkinson-gitsham-gun-control-second/)]

**Supported Police Officers Or Professional Guards In Schools To Deter Shootings.** “Atkinson said she wants either a police officer or professional guard in schools to deter mass shootings. ‘I know that law enforcement officials that are out there, and veterans who are out there, would love to step up and protect our children,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)]

### Said She Disagrees With Late-Term Abortions But Supports First Term Abortion Rights

**Said She Disagrees With Late-Term Abortions But Supports First Term Abortion Rights.** “Atkinson said she supports abortion in some cases. ‘I disagree with late-term abortions,’ she said. From her research, she found that over 90 percent of abortions occur in the first trimester, and she is OK with that. ‘I think this reflects the will of the district.’” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)]

### Supported Pathway To Citizenship, Keeping Families Together

**Supported Pathway To Citizenship, Keeping Families Together.** “Both candidates said the government needs to do a better job finding people who overstay visas, but disagreed on what should happen when immigrants who are in the country illegally start families in the United States… Atkinson, however, said there needs to be a way to let them stay in the country. ‘We have to make sure these families don’t cross the borders here and have children here. If that does happen, we have to consider immigration reform to consider a pathway to citizenship,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)]

### Said She Would Not Vote For Unbalanced Budget

**Said She Would Not Vote For Unbalanced Budget.** “Atkinson said she wouldn’t vote for an unbalanced budget and would eliminate duplicitous programs and evaluate if some expenses are still necessary. ‘They should come to the table and justify continued support,’ said Atkinson, a former Marine who works at a defense contractor.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)]

### Said She Would Not Support Any Tax Increases

**Said She Would Not Support Any Tax Increases.** At her April 2015 campaign kick-off event, Atkinson said, “I’m not going to support any tax increases while in office. I will not support tax increases. I agree. I’m also a businesswoman, taxes are ridiculous, I talked to a lot of business, small-business owners here, they need an advocate.” [Atkinson Campaign Kick-Off Event Tracking Footage, 3:50, 4/16/15]

### Said U.S. Cannot Only Use Airstrikes To Destroy ISIS

**Said U.S. Cannot Only Use Airstrikes To Destroy ISIS.** On a July 2015 radio interview, Atkinson implied she would support boots on the ground to defeat ISIS: “Anybody who’s gone to war understands you cannot have airstrikes without forward observers. So why are we even doing it? You know, and there’s no better way to say it, I hope I can say this—we’re half-assing this. [Steve Sexton AM 1170, Radio Interview, 33:30, [7/16/15](https://soundcloud.com/stevesexton)]

### Encouraged Peters To Reject Iran Deal; Called It A “Bad Deal”

**Encouraged Peters To Reject Iran Deal.** In a July 2015 press release, Atkinson wrote, “‘Mr. Peters, the time for partisan politics is done, the reality is this is a bad deal that needs to be stopped and I call on you to do the right thing and vote against this deal’ Atkinson noted. ‘Iran has proven time and again they cannot be trusted and the idea of giving Iran 24 days to clear out any facility before inspection is not oversight, it’s ridiculous.’” [Atkinson Press Release, [7/29/15](http://www.jacquieatkinson.com/article/marine-corps-combat-veteran-jacquie-atkinson-calls-congressman-scott-peters-vote-against)]

**Criticized Peters Vote For Iran Deal, Said It Is A “Bad Deal.”** In an interview with Good Morning San Diego, Atkinson said, “I’m extremely disappointed in Scott Peters that he’s going to vote for this deal. It’s a bad deal.” [Good Morning San Diego, 9/12/15]

### Said Peters Would Allow Terrorists To Come To San Diego

**Said Peters Would Allow Terrorists To Come To San Diego.** In a September 2015 interview on Carl DeMaio’s radio show, Atkinson discussed Peters’s vote to close Guantanamo Bay and San Diego subsequently being named one of six possible transfer locations. She said, “That San Diego is now being considered as a housing location for these terrorists, and after supporting the Iran Deal I wouldn't be surprised if [Scott Peters] started advocating for these terrorists to come here to our own city… We are getting out there and speaking to everyone to ensure they understand the state that Mr. Peters is [playing?] and the state of this district that he is putting it in and how dangerous he is, we saw it with the Iran deal, and now we’re seeing it with Gitmo. He does not understand foreign policy.” [KOGO Radio, 29:43, [9/11/15](http://www.kogo.com/media/podcast-podcasts-DeMaioReport/91115-demaio-report-1pm-26345349/)]

### Was Ranked 3rd Most Conservative Politician In San Diego By Crowdpac

**Was Ranked 3rd Most Conservative Politician In San Diego By Crowdpac.** Atkinson was ranked at 6.3 C, the third most conservative, by Crowdpac, “a Palo Alto startup that uses political contributions, voting records and words uttered in political speeches to power its ranking system.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/30/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/30/san-diego-crowdpac-conservative/); [12/14/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/14/political-spectrum-scores/); Atkinson Twitter, [12/06/15](https://twitter.com/voteatkinson/status/673567800317706240/photo/1)]