



## General election 2A candidate interview

# «We think that housing, health and justice are the country's three priorities»

**CARINE MONTANER** Carine Montaner has a degree in Economic Sciences and has developed her professional career as a teacher at the University of Andorra. She is a fan of the musical group U2. We would find it in New York or the Incles Valley.



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The leader of Andorra Endavant has extensive experience as general counsel.

**–What is your position regarding**

**the association agreement with the European Union?**

– We think that the association agreement will not bring anything to Andorra, we have many doubts, we think that there are more risks than benefits. The free movement of people is an issue that worries us a lot. Because in the last legislature I asked the Government advisor to see if we could keep our filters such as criminal records, immigration quotas relative to the labor market and he did not answer me. After the conference I went to see him to get an answer, I asked him if this is in line with the European Union and he said no. We at Andorra Endavant want a controlled, chosen and wanted immigration with criminal record filters that allow us to have the security we have in the country.

**–What do you think about abortion and its current situation in Andorra?**

– We are in favor of abortion in all cases. Now you have to be aware that the co-principality model gives us many advantages such as the free French school. It must be very clear that the episcopal co-prince would pray. I tried to figure out how we could fit the issue of abortion into the co-principality model. It turns out that the Vatican would not allow a member of the church to be head of state of a country that has regulated abortion. The head of state are indivisible figures, if the episcopal co-prince leaves, what would happen to the French co-prince? I made the inquiry and the response of the representative of the French co-prince: «If the episcopal co-prince leaves, so do we because they are indivisible figures».

**–How do you see the vertical growth of some of the country's infrastruc-**



ANDORRA ENDAVANT

**tures?**

– We defend controlled growth. We are not in favor because we think it breaks the harmony of the parishes, specifically Escaldes-Engordany. With regard to new constructions, we believe that we should move towards a passive, ecological and low-energy construction.

**–What do you think about house prices in Andorra (both rent and purchase), and how would you solve it?**

– There has been an exponential evolution. We have had the problem on the table for five years now. What the Government has done is to somehow encourage foreign investment for the purchase of real estate. In 2016 a tax information exchange law was passed, they had predicted that this law would block many flats. In 2017, it was calculated that there were around 4,000 blocked flats, because people from outside who had to invest in Andorra and who had made a fiscal invasion, decided to block the flat, they neither sell nor rent it, for fear of the tax office. We have many shell companies, many that have set up in Andorra, but how many have no economic activity or how many have bought a flat and have it closed to carry out their activity? Here you have to hunt down the shell companies because they don't contribute anything to the country and cause problems. We must diversify our country in the economic field, but we must attract powerful investors who generate millions of euros and jobs.

**–How could the lack of professionals in the health sector be solved?**

– The lack of professionals is related to the issue of housing, which is a fish that bites its tail. A very serious problem is the leadership of the SAAS, there has been a decline in working conditions, health transport and the organization of the SAAS. All this must be put on the table. Another very important issue in the field of health is that of the generalized third-party payer. Because many families cannot advance the money for tests or expensive medicines. What must be done is to have the third payer implemented so that families do not have to advance money, they will have to pay 25% and CASS will pay directly to the laboratory, the doctor and the pharmacy.

**– How do you see that the oncology center has not been built next to the**

**hospital?**

- This is a topic that I worked on a lot because there is a problem with the topic. Machines are very expensive and the problem is that there is an evolution of science and machines. This implies a constant change of machines to have a quality service. On the other hand, there is the issue of radiation in which a very well protected building should be made to avoid having consequences in the field of people's health. We are in favor of paying for the trip to the sick person and the companion to have the best possible care with the best machines.

**-What do you think that everything related to mental health is not covered by Social Security and that, in addition, prices have increased?**

- The topic of mental health, addictions, disorders and especially with Covid have brought many problems with young people. There was a project for a comprehensive mental health center that a private individual wanted to take forward. This center was essential for Andorra because it would improve the quality of life for patients and their families. In addition, it would have brought money and jobs to the country (purchase and construction of the land, hiring of psychiatrists, nurses, secretaries). Outside, we spend 800,000 euros a year on hospitalizations.

**-How would you solve the collapse of the country's judicial system?**

- It cannot be that a pillar as important as justice is «politicized». I say it in quotation marks because when we see the appointments of the main

judicial figures they are done politically. For example, the head of government proposes the attorney general. The Constitution must be changed, appointments must not be politicized and many other things. The mandates of the battles are of short duration. There is a risk of politicization of the system and we don't like that. From Andorra Endavant we have a whole mechanism to suggest fixed mandates with external inspections that do not depend on the higher council of justice. Many things must be changed judicially.

**-What do you think Andorra's economic situation is?**

- It can be improved a lot. Because our GDP is not very good compared to Monaco or Liechtenstein. We have passed a project to deal with the manipulation of CBD for cancer treatments. In this case, this company went to invest in Malta because the conditions offered to them were much better than here. We have to be and we can be much more reactive because we are a small country and we need to fix this type of investment.

**-After the war in Ukraine, how do you see the increase in the prices of basic necessities at a global level?**

-When there was the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, I wrote a small book. I am an economist by training and passionate about geopolitics. This is a very complex conflict that started in 2014. At minute one of Russia's invasion of Ukraine I said there would be an energy crisis, inflation and impoverishment of the Eurozone. I have written all this in my book published

in March 2022. It is curious that this war broke out there just when an important gas pipeline was about to be opened to pass natural gas from Russia to Germany.

**-What do you think about the management of the pandemic?**

- I was in favor of the freedom to vaccinate or not because they were new experimental vaccines. The effects of these vaccines arrive between one and two years later. Everyone must be able to choose, because if you have side effects you can go knock on the Government's door later. I said at the time that vaccines didn't stop the contagion because you could vaccinate yourself, but you kept infecting others. It's an issue that concerns me and now I get a lot of complaints from people who have side effects and no one listens to them.

**-If you win the election, do you plan to expand the catalog of bachelors at the University?**

-It is a matter of demand, supply and costs. It must be looked at because opening a bachelor's degree for few people has a cost. There are other ways to help people so that they can study abroad.

**-How do you see the fact that many young people consider not returning to the country after finishing their studies?**

- Young people must also experience the world because it is very positive. But they must also want to return. If they see a rental that is unaffordable for them, they will lose the desire to return. Many young people live at home with their parents because



**«You have to hunt down the shell companies because they don't bring anything to the country, only problems»**

cause the salary they earn does not allow them to be independent. We think that housing, health and justice are the country's three priorities. I would say one thing to young people: «They have to find a job that they like, because they spend more hours at work than at home.» They must be passionate about what they do.»

**-How do you interpret the diaspora of people in the country in recent years? What do you propose about it?**

-If you can't stay, it will be difficult and people will leave. Housing is painful. We must act and create opportunities with economic diversity. There are many things to do.

**-Why do you think Andorrans should vote for him?**

-Because in the Council I have acted as I have been saying for eight years and I have included it in the electoral program.

**-Tell us about one of your future projects. What do you propose to the public?**

-We want frequent referendums and give power to the people. We cannot continue like this, a government that represents only 20% of the voters, cannot govern without asking the opinion of the people. The whole issue of the law of political responsibility, I wanted to make a resolution proposal that was not supported by any political party. This law says that if someone mismanages the country they will be retaliated against. We want to recover the neutrality of Andorra, we preserve our values. Not in the EU, we solve the internal problems we have. ≡

**UP CLOSE**

**A book**

Tom Collins

**A television program**

Art reports

**A social network**

Instagram

**A drink**

Water

**A place in the country**

The valley of Incles

**An animal**

A dog

**A beach**

Pals Beach

**A music group**

U2

**A place you would like to go**

Sri Lanka

**A city of the world**

New York

**A country**

Andorra

**A historical fact**

Landing of the Second World War

**An international politician**

Michaëlle Jean

**An athlete**

Joan Verdú

**A referent**

My grandmother



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