

Democratic Party of Sacramento County - Central Committee: Candidate Questionnaire

Note: The answers to the questionnaire will be shared with the members of the Democratic Party of Sacramento County and local Democratic clubs and may become public.

The DPSC Candidate Questionnaire contains questions from many subject areas that you may feel are not pertinent to the office you seek. We ask these questions because: candidates may go on to other offices, we use one questionnaire for all candidates, and we share the questionnaire with our many clubs which have broad interests. Please answer to the best of your ability. Thank you!

Section 1

Full Name: Rick Jennings, II

Email address: rick@jenningsforcitycouncil.com

Office Sought: City Council

FPPC ID (enter N/A if you do not yet have one): 1367862

Occupation: Member of the City Council and CEO for the Center For Fathers and Families

Employer: City of Sacramento and the Center for Fathers and Families

Campaign Phone: (916) 620-6302

Campaign Website: <http://www.jenningsforcitycouncil.com/>

Campaign Manager: John Rasure

Campaign Consultants (list all): Phil Giarrizzo

What is your anticipated budget and how much have you raised to date?: \$150,000 & \$50,000

What are your primary sources for fundraising? Please list your top three campaign contributors.

Individuals and organizations that are in the region.

ATT

CA Apartment Assoc PAC

Sacramento Building Trades Council PAC

Will all your campaign materials be printed by a union printer?

Yes

Do you voluntarily decline contributions from any particular contributor or class of contributors (e.g., Big Oil, Walmart, developers, lobbyists, charter schools, etc.)? If so, list who they are and why.

I evaluate each contribution individually.

Please list your top five elected or appointed offices currently/previoursly held and any key affiliations, clubs, or community organizations. Please include your role and a contact name and phone number for reference.

Sacramento City Unified School District, Member of the Board of Trustees
City of Sacramento, City Councilmember, District 7
Current Member of the St. Paul Audio Visual Ministry 26 yrs.
Current Member of the St. Paul Winter Homeless Sanctuary
Current Wells Fargo Advisory Board
Current Member of the NFL Alumni Players Association
Current Member of the Calvin Coolidge Alumni Association
Current Board Member of First Tee of Sacramento
Current Officer & Member Sacramento Area Black Golf Club
Past Board Member of Junior Achievement
Past Board Member Sacramento City Unified School District
Past Board chair SCUSD Facilities 12 years
Past Coach Land Park Little League 10 years
Past Coach Greenhaven Soccer League 10 years
Former Assistant Football Coach Christian Brothers J V
Former Supervisory Board Member Church Coop Credit Union
Camellia Festival Grand Marshall
Former Board Member Sacramento City Foundation Board
Former PTA President at CM Geothe Middle School
Former Board Member Oak Park PAC (Project Area Committee)
Former Member Sacramento Downtown Rotary

Please attach your biography, a list of current endorsements, and any campaign literature or social media information as a single file. Please name your file: lastname/office sought.

Have you ever been registered to vote as a member of a political party other than the Democratic Party, or No Party Preference? If so, please state when, why, and for how long.

No, lifelong Democrat.

Have you ever endorsed, contributed to, campaigned for, or otherwise supported a candidate for election or appointment to a partisan or nonpartisan office that was not a member of the Democratic Party? If so, who, for which office, and why? Please be specific.

I have endorsed Anne Marie Schubert for District Attorney.

Are you a dues-paying member of the Democratic Party of Sacramento County?

No, but I should be.

Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement? Yes

What will your ballot designation be?

Nonprofit Director/Councilmember

Have you read the Platform of the California Democratic Party? It can be downloaded at <https://www.cadem.org/our-california/platform>

Yes

Have you read, and will you adhere to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices distributed by the Sacramento County Elections Department? It can be downloaded at <http://www.elections.saccounty.net>

Yes

Have you ever been the subject of sexual harassment/abuse/assault allegations investigated by law enforcement, governmental institutions, businesses or any other organizations? What was the result of any such investigation?

No

Is there anything in your history on the subject of sexual harassment/abuse/assault which, if revealed, would bring you, your proposed office, or the Democratic Party into disrepute?

No

How long have you lived in the district you seek to represent?

31 Years

Out of the last five elections, how many have you voted in?

All 5

Why did you decide to run for your position and what do you hope to accomplish during your tenure?
List your top three issues.

I am seeking reelection to continue my efforts begun three years ago. My top three issues are:

Keeping District 7 the safest in the City of Sacramento
Finishing the Sacramento River Bike Trail in Pocket/Greenhaven
Working with the County to address homelessness

If you are an incumbent, what have you accomplished during your tenure?

District Focus

- Public Safety of the District. It is the safest in the City and I will keep it the safest.
- Finishing the Sacramento River Parkway Bike Trail in Pocket/Greenhaven. Secured the first general fund funding to expand the bike trail in over 40 years
- Working with the commercial property owners to make sure that the retail spaces are filled with neighborhood serving businesses. I have helped to bring in new locally owned businesses to the Promenade shopping center.
- Expanding art and cultural offerings in District 7.
- Continuing improvements to the parks in Pocket/Greenhaven, Detroit, and Valley Hi.
- Improved the Pocket Canal through an integrated management plan.

City Wide

- Continue investing in services for the homeless in partnership with the County and community organizations.
- Supported the Creation of the City's Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment Department
- Increased the economic development capacity of the City and working in partnership with business and labor to attract career jobs to our city and region.
- Increasing the diversity of arts and cultural offerings.
- Investing in and supporting our workforce to provide the services to our residents
- Continuing to address climate change and environmental issues through city policy for city operations and in development approvals.
- Implemented policy reforms in the Police department in use of force, department wide body cameras and increased transparency.
- Implemented an ethics commission, sunshine ordinance and increase funding to the City auditor for the whistle blower hotline.

Section 2 - District & Governance

Are you familiar with the budget(s) for which you will be responsible, if elected? If so, state how large it is, what its principal revenue sources are, and what its largest expenditure categories are.

Yes I am familiar with the City of Sacramento's Budget. The 2017/18 City of Sacramento Budget is approximately 1 billion for operations and capital improvements projects.

Revenue

Property Taxes
Sales Taxes (Including Measure U)
Utility User Tax
Enterprise Fund Revenues
 Utilities, Community Center, Parking

Expenditures

Police
Fire
Parks
Utilities
Public Works
Libraries
Debt Service

Will you support moving to by-district elections (rather than at-large) where they are not held now? Please explain.

The City of Sacramento has already implemented by-district elections.

What sets you apart from other candidates for this office?

At this point, I have one challenger, however others could join the race

What sets me apart from any challenger is my 15 years of corporate service, rising through the ranks at a Fortune 500 company to become a regional manager. I knew that the corporate life did not allow me to impact lives in the way that I needed, so I left the corporate world to enter the nonprofit field. For the past 25 years I have dedicated my life to helping children succeed, the past 20 years as the CEO of the Center for Fathers and Families (CFF). I took a virtually bankrupt non-profit (CFF) and turned it into a multi-million-dollar program that serves over 2,300 children in afterschool programs. Not day care, but learning and leadership enrichment driven programs that give them the skills to succeed.

I have been elected three times to the school board and once to the City Council. I have served on numerous community boards throughout my professional life. I have succeeded in what I have set out to do. My experience and results set me apart.

How will you work with community advocates? What will you do to be accessible to community members and other stakeholders?

I hold regular office hours in both Valley Hi and Pocket/Greenhaven so that residents do not need to travel to City Hall. I host community meetings on topics of interest including annual budget meetings prior to the budget to hear directly from residents.

I will always meet with - and look to support - members of the community when they are advocating for their interests.

What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?

While on the Council I supported and passed an ethics commission and a sunshine ordinance. All council meetings and council committees meet in public. In addition, we have increased funding to the City Auditor for the Whistle Blower hotline.

What whistle-blower protections should there be for public employees who expose corruption, sexual harassment, or other illegal/unethical activity?

Complete protections. The City has a robust whistle blower program that is staffed by the City's Independent Auditor. The Auditor investigates every whistle blower accusation and publicly reports the disposition of every issue. The auditor protects the anonymity of those leaving tips. The Auditor is a direct report to the City Council so the 4 Charter officers (City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney and City Treasurer) that are responsible for day-to-day operations do not control the investigative operations of the auditor. The results are given to City Council at a City Council meeting once per quarter.

Do you believe that current campaign finance rules should be changed? If so, how would you change them?

Although we are all concerned with campaign finances, our current system seems to be working. I am interested in public financing options, and want to look more into issues that encourage minorities and women to run.

Section 3 – Civil Rights

What will you do to advance LGBTQ rights?

In the non-profit that I run I have implemented mandatory diversity training that includes LGBTQ issues. The City has implemented mandatory diversity training that includes LGBTQ issues. While SPD has training on LGBTQ issues in the Academy, this year they are adding LGBTQ training to their mandatory ongoing diversity training. I will advocate for equal treatment and status for LGBTQ members of our community, region, state and Country.

Discuss your feelings about the bullying and harassment of LGBTQ students because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. How will you help promote a safer environment in schools for all students?

I have spent the past 30 years in non-profits directed at improving the lives of children. No child, without exception, should be bullied or harassed for any reason. I support age appropriate discussions in schools on LGBTQ issues. Education, and accountability, are key to making sure all of our children are treated with respect.

What will you do to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, employment, and housing?

For the two organizations that I have authority to implement policies within, the Center for Fathers and Families and the City of Sacramento, I will continue to require training and policies that support inclusion and reject exclusion. They include highlighting LGBTQ issues. I will publicly support and advocate for any policies, ordinances or laws at the local, county, state and national level that supports LGBTQ issues.

What is your position on a woman's right to comprehensive healthcare, including the right to choose and access contraception, and the right to obtain a medically safe, legal abortion?

I believe in a woman's right to choose and her right to comprehensive health care including contraception.

If elected, what will you do to close the gender pay gap?

The City Auditor has completed a gender and ethnicity audit of the City workforce. It shows a clear gender pay gap and lack of diversity that matches our City's demographics. I will include addressing those two issues as a key performance evaluation metric for the review of the City Manager and the

other charter officers. The Audit will be performed every year so we will have annual data to access progress.

What is your position on immigration? Do you support an amnesty program for those immigrants already living in the United States? Do you support a clean DREAM Act, without any enforcement funding attached to it? Should undocumented immigrants have a path towards citizenship? Why?

Yes I support an amnesty program, a clean Dream Act and a path towards citizenship. I was proud to support and vote for the City of Sacramento's allocation of \$300,000 to support our immigrant residents through education and legal representation to keep them here in their home, Sacramento.

What will you do to protect immigrant communities?

I voted to strengthening of the City' Sanctuary policy and support our city staff in working with our immigrant communities, not against them.

Should there be limits on free speech or assembly in public places, such as protesting or picketing? Please explain.

In EXTREMELY RARE cases that involve safety. Nothing is more important than being able to interact with your government or your fellow residents. I did not support the recent proposal restricting free speech and assembly.

Do you support background checks for all gun and ammunition sales? What other restrictions on firearms do you think are appropriate?

Yes I do support background checks in both cases.

Do you feel the criminal justice system is just and fair to everyone? If not, what reforms would you like to see?

No I do not. In the City of Sacramento, we have instituted reforms of our police department to address these issues. We have an independent Office of Public Safety Accountability and a Police Commission. While state law limits what we can do, I believe that we have moved forcefully to address needed reforms including body cameras for all officers and the release of video within 30 days of any incidents involving use of force. We have also increased our post academy training to address this issue.

Do you support capital punishment? If so, please explain when you think it's appropriate.

No

Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement.

As an African American I understand the frustration that embodies the Black Lives Matter movement. I have worked with community groups to address the grave inequalities and institutional bias that exists against people of color. I fully support a community's ability to protest and highlight what is wrong and needs to be addressed. I believe that the City of Sacramento's reforms have begun to address these issues.

The recent audit completed by the City Auditor highlights that the City still has a long way to go to reflect the ethnic, gender and sexual orientation diversity of our community in our workforce. The City of Sacramento is currently hiring a gender and diversity manager that will be housed in the City Manager's office to lead the effort to directly address the issues. By having that person in the City Manager's office we have elevated the importance of the issue within the organization.

How will you work toward greater police accountability? What role would the community play in that?

We have implemented new accountability measures including strengthening information release from the SPD, increased training and education, greater independence for the Office of Public Safety Accountability and the reconstitution of the Police Commission. The Police Commission is made up of community members and is staffed by the Office of Public Safety Accountability.

Do you support the universal use of police body cameras? When is it appropriate to release police body camera footage?

The City of Sacramento has already implemented universal body cameras and I supported their implementation.

I voted in favor of the current City Council policy on release of video:

Release all video associated with an officer involved shooting, in-custody death, or complaint reported to OPSA within 30 days, where said video does not hamper, impede, or taint an ongoing investigation or endanger involved parties. The family of the decedent shall be offered the opportunity to review the

video prior to public release. All faces will be blurred to protect the identity of those present and a warning will also be included to advise of the graphic content of the video. If the video cannot be made public by the 30th day, the Police Chief will provide the reasons and obtain a waiver from the Council.

What will you do to make your community more accessible to people with disabilities?

Continue to require that new development and rehabilitation projects incorporate their needs within the approval process. Continue to focus on increasing additional modalities in transportation to make it safer for all within our transportation system. We must continue to support and expand public transit and the integration of public transit into the built environment.

What will you do to ensure that non-English speakers can fully participate in public meetings and access public services?

The City's 311 service provides translation services in over 150 languages and dialects. We need to increase our translation services for public meetings.

Section 4 – Healthcare

Do you believe that healthcare is a human right? If so, what do you believe is the most effective way to provide quality healthcare for all?

Yes. I believe that it is. I am encouraged by the ACA and believe that a blend of private and public insurance that covers ALL residents without exception is achievable and needed.

What is your position on parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy? Please explain.

I believe that parents have the right to know what is happening with their minor children. But their needs to be a process that a minor child can use to ensure access in the event of parental or guardian opposition.

What measures would you support to ensure adequate mental health services for all?

Additional spending at the state and federal level to provide the services necessary to address the mental health crisis. In California, Prop 63 is a good start, but much more is needed. Spending on mental health needs to be included in school spending as well.

The root of the vast majority of the homeless population is directly tied to mental health issues. As a society, we need to invest in mental health services.

What will you do to help address high child mortality rates in the black community in Sacramento County?

The City of Sacramento has invested in the Black Child Legacy which has shown improvement in their early implementation. I support continuing that investment and that program.

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I am a firm supporter of the right to organize. Labor organizing is a fundamental right that can never be impinged. I have received the endorsement of the Sacramento Sierra's Building and Construction Trades Council and well as the Sacramento Police Officers Association.

Do you support the right of workers to unionize by card check?

Yes, although I also understand why some people want a secret ballot election.

Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

I am registered for 2/10/18

Do you support project labor agreements?

Yes. I support and have voted to implement them.

Which labor unions will you be interacting with in your role? What is your plan for building collaborative relationships with union and nonunion employees?

All of the unions that represent City employees as well as the construction trades. I will always listen and welcome input from the individual unions as well as the Central Labor Council. We cannot succeed

as a City or region without active participation from Labor. Of particular importance to me are job training and apprenticeship programs. Both of these need labor's leadership and our support.

What is the role of the office that you seek in promoting good jobs for our region?

We can lead through our economic development polices and through the policies that we use to governor our expenditures.

Do we use PLA's, support workers right to organize and purchase locally from union employers. Do we use our policies to support creating sustainable jobs with good benefits? Are we supporting employers that value our entire community? We can lead with our community's policies and with our community's purchasing power.

What solutions would you propose to solve budget shortfalls and how would you prioritize the needs of your constituents?

Solving budget shortfalls begins with spending within your revenues, limiting long term commitments and saving money for economic uncertainty. While the City is investing in its workforce, we have also been saving money into our economic uncertainty reserve to be used if needed.

By focusing on keeping spending within our projected revenue, saving money for economic downturns, the City will be able to maintain a base line level of services to serve our constituents.

Do you believe income inequality is an issue in your community? If so, what steps would you take to address it?

Income inequality is an issue in every community. The City Council has directed the City Auditor to look at the diversity of our workforce from an ethnicity and gender aspect. This research will be completed on an annual basis. It clearly highlights that there is an income inequality issue within the City's workforce. I will be making addressing this issue as a key performance evaluation metric for the City Manager and the other Charter officers.

Section 6 - Local Economy & Public Resources

Under what circumstances would you support raising revenues by means of taxes or fees to support public services and why?

I supported Measure U, and will work for its renewal. I believe that we must have the tax revenue to invest in programs and services for our residents. I would support increasing taxes and fees for youth programs (including intervention and prevention programs), parks, libraries, transportation & public transportation and public safety.

Under what conditions would you support the privatization of public or natural resources (i.e. water, publicly-owned buildings, schools, park lands, parking facilities)?

In general, I do not support the privatization of municipal services. In limited circumstances like the golf enterprise, I believe non-core governmental functions should be evaluated. The contracting entity would need to abide by employment policies that included worker representation. If there are surplus buildings or lands I am open to selling or leasing if conditions are placed to meet the City's sustainability and social justice goals.

What is your position on "public/private partnerships"?

I am supportive of public/private partnership that bring additional resources to the agreement and include requirements that protect workers. They cannot be structured to supplant the public sector, rather it must be structured to support and enhance the public good.

When is it appropriate to use public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business?

Unfortunately, we are in completion with other Cities, regions, states and countries for companies and jobs. I would prefer that we not use public money to attract or retain businesses. Given that we must compete under the rules that exist I believe that we can provide public incentives to private businesses. But in order to do this, we must tie the incentives to real job creation with real wages and benefits.

Of particular importance would be the structure of the incentive. It would be very important that the incentive be granted over time, not in lump sum. This way the performance of the company on job creation AND retention along with wages, benefits and worker protections would be monitored and evaluated.

What is your plan to support and encourage local small business development?

I believe that local hiring, purchasing local and workforce development coupled with economic inclusion strategies works to increase economic opportunities for local residents and improve quality of life.

Workforce development organizations, incubator and community-based non-profits help businesses. Strengthening existing community institutions (i.e. not just businesses) can also foster business development. Working to increase the capacity of local nonprofits that support small businesses, such as community development corporations, is another way.

What we do need is more access to capital. I have asked the City Treasure to work with locally based community banks and credit unions to address this. The city has hundreds of millions of dollars that we have invested in various financial instruments. My request is that we use some of that money through our community partners to invest in local small businesses. We cannot forget our fiduciary responsibilities, but we can work to create access to capital for local residents. We would take a portion of our investment dollars and invest in our local residents.

Section 7 – Environment

Do you support the construction of the Delta tunnels and the Southeast Connector? Please explain.

I do not support the Delta tunnels.

I do support the Southeast connector as long as it is constructed to not be sprawl inducing and serve the existing development and planned development within the Urban Services Boundary.

When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary?

I do not foresee the need to expand the urban growth boundary. Growth in the City and in our region should be focused within the current growth boundaries.

Please describe your position on regional habitat and working lands conservation.

I support both. The ability to support large scale habitat and working lands for our agricultural uses is important. In order to do this all new development approvals must focus growth into the existing urban growth boundary.

What will you do to address climate change in your role? Please be specific.

I will continue to support increasing the City's use of climate friendly business practices. We must ensure new development is focused internal.

We must move to increase our use of electric vehicles but we must also invest in alternative modes of transportation. We must increase public transit alternatives, biking and pedestrian options. In updating

our policies, we must lead on sustainability requirements that use less land, less energy, less building materials and less water.

I was proud to support the endorsement of the Paris Accords and their implementation at the local level by the City Council in opposition to the current administration's position.

Please describe your education and/or experience with land use planning.

I have been a member of the City Council for the past three years.

Have you read the General Plan and do you agree with its vision of future development? If not, what changes would you propose?

Yes I have. I support the current General Plan.

Section 8 – Education

Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

I support Restorative Justice and funding for the program.

What role do you believe charter schools should play in public education?

I believe in public education. In instances where parents feel the need to utilize a charter school option, I support not-for-profit charters. I also fully support the right of the employees at all charter schools to organize and be represented by unions.

Do you support reforming teacher tenure, due process protections, or teacher salary and benefits? Please explain.

I believe in current worker protections. I also believe that we need additional funds to increase teacher salary and benefits.

What will you do to minimize bullying and promote tolerance in school?

I have spoken on school campuses on this subject and will continue to do so.

Is there an achievement gap in your school district? If so, what will you do to close that gap?

I believe there is an achievement gap. I will support bringing in additional local funding to address this issue.

For school board candidates: Please explain LCFF and LCAP in three sentences or fewer.

Do you believe that public adult education, colleges, and universities should be tuition free?

While I wish that they could be, I do not believe that it is financially feasible. I do believe that their priority should be increased in the state budget process to bring their costs down, including additional grant funding for scholarship to low-income students.

Section 9 - Housing

What is your plan to address homelessness in your community?

I will continue to support working with the County to increase services including additional funding for mental health issues. The City must be an active partner with the County on investing in homeless services. We have shown this by increasing general funding spending and applying for state and federal sources of funding.

What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?

I support that implementation of an anti-gouging ordinance at the City of Sacramento. In addition, I would support reductions in City controlled fees in exchange for regulatory agreements for affordable rents. We must increase the supply of market and subsidized units. This fee waiver would be on top of the new funding from the state and our affordable housing fees on new commercial and residential development.

Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?

I support an anti-gouging ordinance as well as additional notification requirements.

Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?

Inclusionary housing ordinances can be a tool for developing affordable housing. Their shortcoming is that they limit the development of affordable housing to new growth areas. I support a fee structure for commercial and residential building coupled with a requirement to set aside land for affordable housing development in new growth areas. I believe this will yield greater inclusion of affordable housing throughout new growth as well as infill development areas.

What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

I support the fee system of the City for both commercial and residential construction. I believe that the fee level should be reviewed and adjusted annually. I also support the housing package at the state level and would support additional state dedicated revenue to fund affordable housing. I am supportive of a regional approach to a local affordable housing funding source to fund affordable housing throughout the region, in all neighborhoods and communities.

Would you support a local ordinance to end Housing Choice Voucher discrimination (Section 8)? Please explain.

I am open to the discussion.

What is your plan to ensure that working class people have opportunities for home ownership?

We need to ensure that market rate housing development is done in diverse ways. By ensuring that houses of diverse sizes are built, we can create opportunities for affordable ownership by design. Diversity of housing product creates additional opportunities. We must discourage homogenous development that does not allow for neighborhoods to be of diverse incomes through design.

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

Would you support a local sales tax measure to fund transportation and public transit? Please explain.

Yes. We need to create additional capacity by serving more areas, but equally as important is the frequency with which we serve our residents. Our long-term sustainability goals and economic development activity are inextricably tied to a robust public transit service.

If you are seated on the board of SACOG, STA, or Regional Transit, how would you use your role and what would you prioritize?

I am currently on RT. My priority thus far has been on stabilizing the organization. When I first came onto the Board the organization was spending reserves to meet operational needs. Now we are not doing so and have been rebuilding our reserves. The next step is to look at our routes and services to make sure that we are providing the services that all of our community needs. I believe that we need to finish our study and then look to fund the increased services that are identified in the study.

What is your plan to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled in the region?

I support moving from a level of service analysis to a reduction in VMT analysis on land use planning. The City is finalizing VMT for the central city and our Public Works department is working on citywide VMT implementation.

What is your plan to improve local and regional public transit? Please describe a priority project.

Now that RT has been stabilized, My priority project is an evaluation of the routes and services that we provide. I support going to the voters to fund that level of service necessary to have a robust public transit system that serves both riders of need and riders of choice.