

## **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: Tristan Brown

Email address: Tbrown@brownforsacramento.com

Office Sought: Sacramento City Council District 7

FPPC ID (enter N/A if you do not yet have one): 1398051

Occupation: Legislative Representative

Employer: California Federation of Teachers, AFT, AFL-CIO

Campaign Phone: 916-605-0788

Campaign Website: www.brownforsacramento.com

Campaign Manager: Shawna McKnight

Campaign Consultants (list all): HSG Campaigns

What is your anticipated budget and how much have you raised to date?

We aim to raise \$75k and have raised approximately \$25k so far.

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

Our primary sources have been a rolodex of friends and family that I have created. My top contributors have been my parents, and several young democrats.

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

Definitely.

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 would decline contributions from anti union corporations like Walmart and charter schools, and entities that profiteer off of pollution, incarceration, or any other activity that harms humanity.

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

This is my first run for public office, however I have been honored to have the following experiences:

1. New Leaders Council, Sacramento (Chair for two years, entering my 4<sup>th</sup> year on the board). Contact: Claire Van Zuiden 916-266-4575
2. Democratic Party Assembly District Delegate and Executive Board Member (co-lead chair of the party's Legislation Committee). Contact: Jenny Bach 916-384-5710
3. Vice Chair of the Board at the Center for Workers Rights. Contact: Daniela Urban 916-905-5857
4. Delegate and Trustee of the Sacramento Central Labor Council. Contact: Fabrizio Sasso 916-712-1238
5. Organize Win Legislate Democratic Club of Sacramento (Founder and inaugural chair). Contact: Spencer Glasgow 916-342-2637

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.

Attached.

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.

Never. I have been a democrat since first registering at age 18.

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.

The only candidate who I've supported that wasn't a traditional member of the democratic party was Bernie Sanders.

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

I serve as a club rep and I pay \$5 a month to the DPSC via ActBlue.

Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

Yes.

What will your ballot designation be?

Education Advocate, pending approval from the Sacramento City Clerk.

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

Yes, and I have submitted edits for the new platform regarding charter schools.

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, and I have retained the services of River City Business Services to fulfill my campaign disclosure requirements. I also have vowed to run a clean, positive campaign.

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, never.

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. It is a core belief of mine to treat people respectfully and with compassion.

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

Since spring of 2016.

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

All. I've never missed the opportunity to vote in an election.

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 decided to run when members of the community explained their dissatisfaction with their current representation. I hope to be the most accessible and collaborative representative that city has ever seen. I hope to bring more housing options such as tiny homes, land trusts, inclusionary policies and rent control so that we can keep our community members housed and make a genuine impact in the struggle to help people suffering from homelessness. I also want to modernize our mass transit system to incorporate smaller electric busses that can go further into working class communities and lower fares so that ridership becomes a viable alternative to cars and a mode of transportation within reach of workers. Finally, I want to attract sustainable living wage jobs to have Sacramento's tide raise all ships, not just wealth land developers.

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

N/A

## **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 comfortable with public budgets and learned a great deal about our own through the city management academy and several budget forums, as well as reading through our budget for various projects. Currently the city operates with approximately a \$1 billion budget, based mostly on taxes and fees, which are mostly spent on services, especially fire and police services.

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

Yes, as long as they help and not hurt the ability for minority populations to elect representatives. District elections usually help that cause, but if there is not one area with the density to elect a minority to a governing board or council, it could harm minority populations more than help.

What sets you apart from other candidates for this office?

I believe I have the greatest desire to truly serve the residents of Sacramento. I do not have anything to prove with this run. I am not running with the backing of special interests or as an implant from a powerful political machine. I am running with the help of volunteers, the endorsement of working class residents, and am focused on meeting and listening to every voting household in my district. I have a record of working for working class people, protecting public education and not voting to privatize our schools, and seeking out ways to help people with my free time. I am a true believer in a democratic republic, and think serving in this capacity is an honor built on the struggle of generations before me. I do not take this job lightly or for any type of celebrity. I hope to perform it with respect for elected office as an institution, and compassion for everyone living in our city.

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

My cell phone information will be readily accessible, and I will focus my efforts on meeting with all parties involved with any given issue. I do not think it is the job of an elected official to know answers to every policy question, but rather the job is to seek out as much information as possible and then make decisions based on that information and a value system. My values put real people first, and limiting any suffering that may be occurring to the fullest extent possible.

What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?

I believe in a strong independent commission that monitors financial interests, votes, and activity of city officials. I would like to advocate for a city campaign finance resource portal that requires candidates to provide committee banking information so that transactions can be seen in real time and allow the press and public to see how candidates fund their campaigns. I will also share information willingly, without the need for public records requests, so long as it as the information is not under any attorney-client privilege.

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

I believe all public employees should have protections for whistleblowing under the strongest defense possible—a union contract. If for some reason there were public employees without a contract, I believe they should be free from retaliation and any worker who blows the whistle on wrongdoing should keep their job or be relocated to another area if the old one was too traumatic or hostile.

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

Yes. I believe we should evolve away from form-based rules and enter a new era of data-based rules. If we were to abandon the old forms and instead require campaign finance transactions to be digitized through online banking systems and donor IDs, the information would be readily available in real time. This gives the public better access to the flow of campaign contributions, and frees campaigns up from the costly and daunting task of compliance with the complicated rules in place now. We already do this for major donors and most banks are able to share this data already with entities like Mint.com.

### **Section 3 – Civil Rights**

What will you do to advance LGBTQ rights?

I am a solid LGBTQ advocate and supporter. I think discrimination against someone's sexual preferences or gender identities is inherently wrong and civil rights must be protected. I think the council should be required to assess and answer an impact on minorities, women, and LGBTQ residents with every major decision that comes before the council. If we don't ask the question, then how will we know the impact and how can we say that we've thought about these historically oppressed groups before taking action?

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 support restorative justice models that would educate bullies on the impact their actions have. I would encourage schools, and help try to find funder for, programs to give impacted students relief emotionally so we can avoid suicide by children that are human beings like anyone else, yet exhibit characteristics outside of the current social norms.

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

I believe there are many legal remedies that exist, but they do not do any good if they are outside of someone's financial reach our people just haven't been educated about them. So I would look to Stonewall Dems, ACLU, Lambda Legal, the Sacramento LGBT Center, and others to find best ways to fight any existing discrimination. If I can be of service as a public advocate through public shaming of an employer or housing company that has discriminated, I'm happy to organize and join picket lines to fight back.

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?

My position is that a woman's body belongs to her; decisions about her body are hers, and hers alone. The government has no place to interfere there. I would do all that I can to make sure our residents have access to doctors and safe abortions.

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

Again, support the unionizations of worksites to ensure no pay gap exist would be my first preference. Second to that would be to again call out bad employers and use the bully pulpit to engage public awareness campaigns to pressure employers to abolish any pay gaps and reach out to legal authorities to help enforce anti-discrimination laws. If there is a place for a city ordinance on the matter I would also help author that.

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 to all parts of this section. Our economy as a nation has always relied on exploited labor, and immigrants are no different. We would not be able to feed ourselves without immigrant labor, and we would be missing out on the amazing contributions that so many immigrants have provided our community. Immigrants have given so much up and put their lives and livelihoods at risk to come here and be productive members of our community. We cannot succumb to racist policies that target certain immigrants just because of the way they look. One issue with immigration is the impact on the supply of labor and it's impact on wages, which is why I support raising minimum wages so t hat we don't have a race to the bottom.

What will you do to protect immigrant communities?

I will join the fight to keep Sacramento a “sanctuary city” and also try to find ways to give those ordinances more teeth. I also support hiring and housing policies that help integrate communities together so that the next generation of our community grows up together and learns that diversity is not something to be afraid of. At minimum I would like to serve as a role model by interacting with immigrant communities, patronizing their businesses, learning and sharing their customs and showing those who fear differences that there is nothing to be afraid of.

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

I am comfortable with time restrictions on assemblies in some public spaces where there might be innocent workers and children who need their rest. I support making the area between old and new city hall, or the stage at Cesar Chavez Park a 24 hour free-speech zone, akin to Speaker’s Corner in Hyde Park, London. I think the public’s ability to come picket their elected officials is a great leverage guaranteed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and shouldn’t be restricted beyond a late-night noise cap. I should reiterate that’s just for noise. If residents were driven to sit on the sidewalk with candles or signs outside of my house all night long without making noise, I would respect that, and more importantly, want to invite them inside to discuss their grievances.

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

I’m a gun owning democrat. I have fun at a range with a shotgun and a pistol. If there were a national move to adopt gun restrictions like Australia, I’d be the first in line to give them up. I think the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment is meant for state militias, not personal arsenals, and we need to make sure weapons don’t end up in the wrong hands. I support background checks for all gun and ammo sales, a cap on the number of bullets one person can own at any given time, and support restricting gun ownership to two types: A shotgun for home defense, and a six-shot pistol for sport and self defense as well. I believe rifles should be rented and returned for sport and hunting.

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

No. The system has shown us time and time again that people of color do not have the same access to justice. I support ending money-bail, increasing public defender budgets, abolishing stop and frisk policies, and sending criminals to education and job training programs to have access to a better life rather than just sitting in prison to become better career criminals.

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

No. It is a drain on the state, immoral, and doesn't deter crime. For those who commit violent felonies, I would rather see life sentences instead of death sentences. I often hear the question, "well what if the crime victim were your mother or wife or daughter?" I would mourn my family but also savor every waking moment of freedom knowing the criminal will grow old in a cell and not get to "check out" early.

Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement.

I support the Black Lives Matter movement and the awareness it raised for the plight of black Americans. I will listen to the grievances of the movement and attempt to help change the course of our community to better respect one another regardless of ethnicity.

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

I think to truly have police accountability, we will have to remove oversight of the police from locally elected offices. Elected District Attorneys have political pressure that may interfere with finding justice for victims who have been harmed in a manner that doesn't line up with what most of society would think is reasonable. I support having a more independent review when police shoot an unarmed individual or act in a manner that was unnecessarily aggressive. I plan to work with my colleagues like Basim Elkarra or Mariana Sabeniano or Erandi Zamora to increase police accountability and transparency.

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

Yes. I think it is appropriate to release footage after the family of a victim has been notified. I have heard from some people that the footage represents a chronic trauma inflicted on the black community, and can even lead to the normalization of shootings. I respect that viewpoint, and would like to discuss it further to see how the lines between transparency and trauma can be respected.

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

I spent five and a half years representing in-home supportive service workers, and by extension their clients who rely on protections afforded by the ADA. I strongly oppose any effort to weaken the ADA, especially under the guise of small business exemptions like we have seen lately, and am committed to helping those living with disabilities have equal access to the community.

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

I fully support translation services at public meetings and the translation of materials online or printed into languages that are spoken in Sacramento. If there is a group that is trying to be



heard before a vote of the council, I would ask that the vote be postponed until those residents can be heard.

#### **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, and I believe a publicly financed single payer system is the only real and inevitable solution. Health insurance doesn't make sense. Everyone gets sick and dies. Insurance works well for homes and cars, since I might never have a fire, flood, or accident. Insurance companies *must* make profit, and when health insurance companies do that, it is off of the suffering and sickness of people. I have been walked through SB 562 by the CA Nurses Association several times, and believe it is a sound bill, and the sponsors are ready to answer questions regarding its financing, and I strongly support the bill.

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

I think it would lead to more teenage pregnancies. Parents have a role to be involved in their child's life. The government has a role to make sure everyone gets equal access to services, not tattle on teenagers in dire need. The decision to have an abortion is an extremely heavy one that brings in elements of religious belief, financial ability, and health of a person. As a future parent, I know I would want to know if my child made a decision that lead to pregnancy so that I could be a source of education and support. However, I believe it is my own responsibility to be that person for my child and not rely on the government to tell me if my daughter was requesting an abortion.

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

I support any measure that expands mental health services, combines them with housing programs, and provides long-term care to anyone suffering from chronic mental health issues. I have two uncles with mental health disabilities. One must remain under constant watch and be held in a facility for his own protection. The other is able to live on his own with moderate supervision. I am grateful for the limited services the second one gets from the state, and thank my grandmother for putting her life permanently on hold to provide for the first. I support measures to expand these programs with progressive taxes or fees.

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

I would first become as educated as possible on the issue to better know how to help. I would work hard to resolve environmental justice issues and have anti-slum lord ordinances so that infants were not exposed to mold, fungi, or lead, and lead efforts to bring markets with real food options so that mothers have the opportunity to have good nutrition for their breast feeding and other baby foods.

## Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I've worked for labor in various capacities for 11 years. I am a trustee of the Sacramento Central Labor Council. I believe organized labor is the true way to democratize our community and provide living wages for honest work.

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

Yes.

Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

Yes, and presented on the topic of Charter Schools.

Do you support project labor agreements?

Yes, and even think PLAs are a good model to expand onto other industries such as healthcare facilities (something like having a PLA for a hospital that requires better patient ratios and safety features).

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

In a contracting capacity, I would be interacting with building trade unions and the city public employee unions. I also feel responsibilities to the constituents of the district, many of who are state employees, not in a contractual manner, but in a supportive manner to help champion their causes. I plan to build relationships with all labor groups in the area, helping to solidify organizing efforts, doing whatever I can to remove barriers to organizing, and standing with workers on picket lines.

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

A council member can do a lot in terms of recruitment for good jobs. It takes many extra hours and relationship building with good employers to entice them to come to our area. I think that it is too difficult to deal with some parts of the licensing or permitting requirements of the city, and we can streamline that process to help good employers come to our city. I prefer to build relationships and training programs to help businesses thrive here with our well-paid labor supply, not just tax breaks that cheat our city out of valuable revenue for essential services.

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

First and foremost I would work hard to extend Measure U, so that the city's parks, police, and fire are provided the revenue they need. Secondly, I think its prudent to continue investing in the city's rainy day fund, but also balance those deposits with spending that can yield economic

multipliers. I think a public bank for Sacramento can also dramatically help with budget shortfalls, first by providing more savings, and second by assisting with investments in the city at lower rates to realize more savings in the work we already have planned.

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

Yes. It is very dramatic in this city, and even within the 7<sup>th</sup> district. For example, the Valley-Hi side of the district has ½ of the median income levels and home values as the Pocket area. Addressing income inequality at the city level is a difficult matter, but I support progressive taxes, expenditures such as cannabis revenue being spent on redeveloping areas that have been historically negatively impacted by cannabis laws (redevelopment not in terms of bulldozing homes and gentrification, but more of beautification projects and infrastructure upgrades for those areas), raising the minimum wage, bringing K-12, Community College, and Apprenticeship programs together in a targeted manner for lower-income areas, and upgrading our mass transit to increase ridership and lower fares.

## **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 would support those policies to cover shortfalls, and keep essential services running. I'm no libertarian, and I believe a strong government and efficient public services require revenue to function properly. I support raising revenue before cutting wages and benefits.

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

I don't. I believe public operation is cheaper and safer in the long run. It requires real transparency to ensure that governments are making the right decisions. Often times what is best for the public is not what is best for quarterly profits. This is why I think privatization of services is inherently a flawed idea, because public services are not meant to bring profits, but to provide benefits to the public.

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

It all depends on the details. I pay special attention to the governance of a public/private partnership and prefer that the public have the ultimate say on how a project is handled. I am opposed to these partnerships when the private entities have control of the project and are just allowed public benefits (infrastructure, easements, or permits, etc.) but able to profit off of the public. Toll roads are a good examples of this, limiting commutes for those who can afford it while everyone has chipped in to paying for the project.

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

I am not a fan of public money subsidizing private businesses. I would listen to a proposal that shows that the long term economic benefit is greater than the subsidy, requires the business to pay back all of it if it breaches the incentive agreement, included labor neutrality, and the city was aggressively working on providing housing for those sleeping on our streets. Even then, I would be a “no” that needed to be convinced to a “yes.”

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

The number one complaint I hear from small business owners is the costs paid to the city and time spent obtaining permissions to do business. I am a strong believer in environmental and labor protections, so I would not propose anything that cuts against those beliefs. I do think we can have a more efficient business start up center, which helps walk entrepreneurs through our system with a one-stop-shop model and being linked to a consistent assisting employee. I would also use the station as a council member to host events and drive support to local small businesses that are good employers. I believe having a strong relationship with owners of businesses based on trust would allow me to help a struggling business rather than waiting until it was too late because I didn't know or communicate with the owner often. Many neighbors I've spoken with have a strong desire to support local small business, they just need a small nudge in the right direction to be aware of new businesses or old ones hurting for business.

## **Section 7 – Environment**

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

While in law school, I spend quite a bit of time in a policy class on the state water system. I learned that the delta is in dire need of restoration and protection. One moderate earthquake in the right spot could lead to a catastrophic failure of the entire system, crippling our farm industry and depriving millions of people from their main water source. It would be prudent to create a new system that won't be susceptible to that danger, and reverses the damage that the current state water project has already done that reversed some water flow and increased salinity in some areas. The current project would accomplish this and build 30,000 acres of defended wetlands and habitats for endangered species and use gravity to capture water rather than pumping stations. The rub is the opposition from environmental groups and farmers who fear they'll lose water rights. I don't think the tunnels are perfect, and would ask that the issues raised by these groups be addressed before moving forward with the project. I do think something has to be done however.

When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary?

I grew up with a great appreciation for nature and undeveloped lands. I think we have more to go in terms of building sustainable density in our community that is walkable and has access to mass transit to lower our need for cars and parking lots before we allow for more urban sprawl.

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

I believe we have one earth, and we need to use it in the most sustainable manner possible. Part of that is protection of our food chain, done by many ways including protection for regional habitats that preserve the nature around us. I also think we need to be mindful of our working lands to be able to sustain our growth and help other areas that are unable to feed themselves. I heed the words of Joni Mitchell and hope we never pave paradise.

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

I would like to push Sacramento to transition to smaller electrified busses that are able to cut down on first/last mile issues for riders. This would cut down on emissions and help working class folks get around easier. I would also like to work with local environmental groups to look into clean co-generation opportunities with our rivers, wind and solar capabilities. I would like to have a feasibility study on the impact of requiring commercial development to include solar panels as a mandatory part of construction (being weary of impacts on residential development and increasing housing costs).

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

I do not have formal education with land use planning, but I do plan on being an advocate for residents, cyclists, and walkable communities and favor plans that encourage Sacramento to move in a direction that is not dependent on individual driving and market forces to bring results.

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

Yes, and in general I agree with the plan. It is hopeful for the future, and has a good statement of values. I think the real issue is in the details of how the large ideas come into fruition. I favor development that is environmentally friendly, based on unionized labor, and avoids gentrification of our current residents.

## **Section 8 – Education**

Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

Yes. I believe restorative justice policies are key to breaking the school to prison pipeline. The public pays one way or another—either through restorative justice programs that help educate students and allow them to grow, or through criminal “corrections” system that often times breeds career criminals rather than reformed individuals.

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

I believe they should play an extremely limited role, where charters operate dependently under school district oversight to test educational delivery models. They should not be operated by or as private corporations.

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

I support increasing teacher salaries and benefits to attract the best applicants possible. I think teachers need due process protections in various instances, such as when a parent may irrationally disagree with a part of the curriculum or an administrator retaliates against a teacher for standing up for kids. I would not harm tenure or due process protections.

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

I believe a government official can make a big difference in young student's lives as a role model or by recruiting over people to serve as role models. I would like to work with the schools in my area to recruit role models from various backgrounds (people on TV, athletes, etc.) who can award good behavior, speak out against bullying, and show how a diverse team brings better results. I think bullying is often a by-product of another emotional issue, and if it were appropriate I would be open to working with a student's parents to help their household with available services or even just finding other positive influences like a big brother/sister program to help that child.

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

As long as there are gaps in access to broadband and households where parents are required to work so many hours to make ends meet that they don't have time to read with their child, there will be an achievement gap. I believe the work I'd like to do to bring better jobs, cheaper transit, and lower housing costs can indirectly help the gap. I also support public broadband that helps kids have access to the plethora of information online for their studies and not have to go to a McDonalds with free wifi to do their homework.

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

Not a school board candidate, but LCFF is a local allotment of state funding for k-12 public schools based on the number of students and bonuses for various types of students that take more resources to teach. The LCAP is the plan developed by the local community, which decides how the allotment is spent locally.

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

Yes. Education is an investment in ourselves. It's embarrassing that as a nation we don't invest in ourselves and sit back and watch other nations like Germany or Cuba have higher education and literacy rates.

## **Section 9 - Housing**

What is your plan to address homelessness in your community?

House them. Tiny homes, land trusts, rent control, supportive housing and even campground-style areas for the minority of homeless that simply do not want a roof over their head. There is no silver bullet that solves all of homelessness, but I support the effort going into mental health services that will help the most chronically homeless, and I will push for housing options for those who aren't suffering from mental illness—they are suffering from income inequality. I helped the Sacramento Community Land Trust to get started, and plan to push the city to donate lands to that trust rather than selling them to private developers. I will also start the process for a public bank of Sacramento to invest savings and long term financing for public housing.

What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?

I support the repeal of Costa-Hawkins, and wish to bring the inclusionary housing policies of the past back to Sacramento. I also support anti-rent gouging ordinances, just cause evictions, and a model like Berkeley where a board sets rent ceilings. I think a public board can take into account economic factors to set rents in a manner that protects residents and also allows for market rate development.

Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?

Yes.

Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?

Yes.

What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

A public bank, donations to the land trust, and requiring new construction to have inclusionary affordable housing units, or doubling the current fees to fund affordable housing.

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

I support an ordinance that would allow for a private right of action for a renter if they were discriminated against because of the use of a voucher.

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

I think the land trust works best in this case. The land belongs to the trust, and the home belongs to the worker. It cuts the cost of home ownership in half, where a working class individual could obtain a loan to buy the house, grow their equity, sell it, and then have enough for a down payment on a traditional home purchase.

## **Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit**

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

Yes. I believe a robust mass transit system pays large economic multipliers. Cities like London and New York who have mass transit systems make it easier for people to get around, and since it is cheaper than car ownership it strengthens the buying power of the working class. I would rather find a more progressive tax for transit, but I wouldn't be opposed to anything that helps lower fares and boost routes.

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

As I said before, I believe we should electrify RT, end our relationship with rail (and street car ideas) and focus on smaller busses that are cheaper in the long run, able to penetrate further into neighborhoods and run more consistently than what we have now. Sacramento was awarded \$44 million from the Volkswagen settlement. I hear the plan is to expand EV charging stations and electric vehicles for rideshare programs. That's all well and good for a certain income level, but I would rather put that money towards helping to sustain the lower income levels and boost their opportunity to be in a stronger middle class position. That takes investment in mass transit over zip cars and tesla charging stations.

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

Right now, living in the pocket means it is next to impossible to take mass transit to various parts of our community. If I were to try to take a bus to work, it would take almost an hour to get to my part of midtown, plus if I missed the bus I would have to wait an entire hour before the next one came. That forces me to log 20 miles a day alone in a car. It's nothing compared to what I logged when I lived in Southern California, but it is an avoidable problem here in Sacramento. We can reduce VMT by expanding our RT routes, again with smaller vehicles, providing protected lanes to create mass transit arteries, and build in a modern way that keeps residential and commercial areas in a more integrated form, rather than the post-war suburban plan that increases most people's VMT.

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

I would first listen to the Transit Riders Union and collaborate with the organization based on the research they have been conducting. I hope to advocate to appropriate the VW money (or find alternative revenue sources) and invest it in public transit by buying electric shuttle busses, have them run more often and deeper into the community, engage in a large public education program to entice people to ride, and spur increased ridership to get Sacramento off its spiraling issue of decreased ridership with increased fares.