

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

Karina Talamantes

Email address

Karina4scoe@gmail.com

Office Sought

Sacramento County Office of Education - Area #2

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

1402306

Occupation

Accounting & Finance Recruiter

Employer

Kelly Financial Resources

Campaign Phone

530-514-1279

Campaign Website

In progress

Campaign Manager

TBD

Campaign Consultants (list all)

TBD

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

I am expecting to fundraise 35k for this race. No transactions have been made yet. I just created a Bank Account and am in the process of creating a DonorBox account to collect funds.

I have commitments from supporters that is well over \$2,000 to date.

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

I am planning on asking local unions, clubs, and small business owners in the Sacramento area. I plan on having many small contributions from family and friends.

I have commitments from local Hispanic small business owners to assist with fundraisers with in-kind donations of goods.

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

Yes, I attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Labor 101 Academy where they emphasized the importance of union supported companies.

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.

This is my first-time running for office, as such I haven't been approached by these contributors.

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.

Vice President - Green Democrats of Sacramento --- Rick Guerrero (916) 317-2497

Community Affairs - Sacramento County Young Dems-- Matt Canty (916) 595-2981

Secretary - Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel (WESTOP) Sergio Galvan (805) 493-3292

Board Member- Young Latinas Aspire - Lucero Serrano (916) 719-1180

Member - Hispanic Round Table- Bill Fishburn (360) 480-6762.

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.

I have been a registered Democrat since I was 18 years old.

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.

No, I have not.

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

I am a dues paying member of Latinx, OWL, SCYD, Green Dems, Natomas Dems but need to pay my dues of the Central Committee.

Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

Yes, I do.

What will your ballot designation be?

College Access Advocate

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.sacounty.net>

Yes and 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?

I have lived in Natomas for six years.

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

I have been a registered voter since the age of 18 and have voted consistently in elections.

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 believe that my first-hand experience working with socio-economically disadvantaged students will be helpful in putting a fresh perspective on policies that are fundamental to the success of the students in the Greater Sacramento area. As a Trustee my goal is to:

1. College & Career Readiness
2. Educational Equity

3. Educator Support

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.

The SCOE budget was allocated \$89,680,998.00 in total revenues. The principal revenue sources are LCFF sources, federal, state, and local revenue sources. The largest expenditures include staff salaries and benefits.

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

Yes, I support by-district elections. I think it is important that our communities have accurate, effective, granular representation. At-large districts do not provide for this more fine-tuned representation which I believe is key to voter support and satisfaction.

What sets you apart from other candidates for this office?

I can relate to community members on a personal level on many issues such as being first-generation, minority, working class, and having a single-parent household. As someone who has worked in the education sector since 2007, I understand the importance of having diversity in leadership positions. I have strong communication skills and have a friendly personality that I think would encourage students, staff, and parents to approach me.

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

Sacramento is rich with active volunteer groups, non-profits, programs, and services that want to improve the lifestyle on a local level. We need to work on building stronger partnerships amongst each other. I will personally reach out to these resources to see what I can do as a Trustee to improve relationships.

What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?

I will follow all campaign procedures and protocols during board members. I will keep an open line of communication with all stakeholders in the community. Additionally, I will always adhere to the Brown Act and all matters related to the position of how all public officials conduct business. For example, the Brown Act stipulates that all meetings of the board should be open to the public and meeting notes should be posted in advance so the public has a chance to review.

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

I stand with Assembly Bill No. 403 that protects legislative staff. I believe it is a bill that should be implemented statewide. Any public employee should be imposed with criminal and civil liability if he/she engages in unethical activity. Employees who report legal and unethical violations should feel comfortable to do so without fear of retribution. I believe that people should be held accountable for their actions.

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

As someone who is running for an election for the first time I am still learning the policies involved with running a campaign. I believe there should be a contribution limit on how much candidates can spend on a race. I believe that is important to take elections back to the grassroots level where one engages with the community on a face to face basis to build a stronger community.

Section 3 – Civil Rights

What will you do to advance LGBTQ rights?

As a Trustee I would ensure that all schools in Sacramento County have LGBTQ+ policies that protect our students against discrimination and bullying. We will review the County level policies related to LGBTQ+ students annually. I will support professional development of teachers.

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?

Studies show that students who are bullied experience negative physical, school, and mental health issues. LGBTQ+ students are three times more likely to miss school than other students, and are at greater risk for lower educational outcomes. We can not allow our students to fail in our school system because of their identity. I will support schools in their efforts against bullying. Schools can create a safe space by keeping the lines of communication open, creating school policies that protect all students, creating clubs and alliances, and protecting student privacy.

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

I will support any laws that promote equality. I will raise concerns and put forward recommendations to our local districts. This includes public advocacy of measures necessary to strengthen human rights protections for LGBT communities. I believe that talking about issues and continuing the conversation is fundamental for us to move forward.

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 that we need healthcare for all which includes access to contraception. The cost of healthcare is a financial burden on people across the country and we need to ensure everyone can see a doctor without having to worry about the excessive medical bills they will incur.

A woman's body is a woman's body. I believe that every woman has the right to make her own decisions including a medically safe, legal abortion.

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

I would work with the Human Resources department to make sure all employees within the Sacramento County are paid equally regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or orientation.

In my current role I work as an Accounting & Finance Recruiter I hire employees in Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. I always pay employees equally regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or orientation so I feel that I am doing my part on closing the gender pay gap. I am confident to say that I am a Equal Opportunity Employer.

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?

I support the amnesty programs, a clean DREAM act without any enforcement funding, and a path towards citizenship. In addition we need to ensure the protections for immigrants that are refugees and seeking shelter from countries experiencing political unrest. Our schools follow the policy of not requesting citizenship information of parents when they enroll their children and I will continue to support these policies. I am proud that the County Board of Education and local school districts passed the safe haven resolutions. As a board member my focus on this issue would be to support efforts by the county to train school staff on the procedures associated with the resolutions.

What will you do to protect immigrant communities?

Through my involvement in the Democrat party I have discovered many resources that are available to our immigrant communities and I will work with the county to disseminate this information. In addition, I will support school districts and county level efforts to support our immigrant communications including professional development.

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

I support free speech as long as it doesn't place individuals in harms way. Free speech is important as long as it doesn't create an unwelcoming environment for all our students and families.

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

Yes, I believe that we need to conduct extensive background checks for all sales. I believe that we need to do reference checks, behavioral exams, and simply put more regulations on guns so that we can stop the trend of school shootings.

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

No, the criminal justice system is not fair at all. I believe that we need to put an end to the prison industrial complex system. People of color and persons with lower socioeconomic status are more likely to be incarcerated. One of the solutions would be more schools, less prisons. I will advocate for less prisons and more funds going towards our schools.

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

No, I do not believe in capital punishment.

Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement.

I stand with Black Lives Matter. I am against violence and systemic racism towards the African American population. In my previous role as a counselor many students shared their stories of unjust treatment by authorities. Their stories broaden my understanding of the challenges people of color face on a daily basis.

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

Our school districts have partnerships with local law enforcement. As a county board member, I will want the board to periodically receive updates and review information about the activities of the school resource officers. I will also want to make sure that our school resource officers are appropriately trained to work with students.

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

Yes, I support universal use of police cameras. I support full-transparency to the extent that it does not interfere with an ongoing investigation.

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

I will adhere to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). 13% of kids in Sacramento County have been identified as students with disabilities. Therefore it is important that our public schools provide adequate supports and services so that all students can meet their potential. Our schools are also facing a shortage of special education teachers. As a county board member, I will support efforts to recruit more teachers with disabilities.

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

I will offer translators and interpreters. I will also ensure all documents are printed in different languages.

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 healthcare is a human right. In Sacramento County, 59% of students come from low-income families so they depend on community clinics and schools for support. As a board member I would connect clinics to schools to provide resources to parents of where to go.

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

I support a woman's right to choose and women's reproductive rights. Although I understand the importance of parent engagement, I do not support parental notification due to the need to protect our young women that might be in an abusive home environment. This also raises the need to have robust sex education in our public schools so that our students know how to practice safe sex and have safe and responsible relationships.

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

I would support measures that allocate additional funding to mental health.

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

It is imperative that we give women access to quality prenatal care, healthcare, and postnatal care.

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I was a member of two unions. I benefited from union protections when I worked at Yuba College. I see unions as critical partners to support our teachers and staff to ensure they feel supported.

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

Yes, I support. I also would support the option of teachers in a charter school to unionize if that is their choice.

Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

Yes, I have

Do you support project labor agreements?

Yes, I do.

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

My goal is to interact with all the local labor unions such as CTA, CSEA, carpenters, electricians, etc. I plan on attending unions events and telling them about my role to see how I can best assist. I want to make sure they are heard at county education meetings.

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

We must prepare our students for college and career. We have a mismatch of jobs available in our economy compared to the skill set people have. Building partnerships with carpenters, HVAC unions, and local community colleges will ensure that our students are prepared. Our kids need to have the skills to be competitive in the 21st century.

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

At the county and district level it is important to communicate effectively with community, teachers, and staff about the allocation of money for school related programs and activities. The county board reviews the annual budget reports to ensure that the allocation funds are appropriate. Schools are underfunded and as a result our districts have to make many difficult decisions every year. In situations where cuts are necessary I would want the districts to look at the effectiveness of programs. Budget cuts should always be the farthest away from the classroom meaning that we support school staff and students over administration.

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

Income inequality is a big issue. 59% of students in Sacramento county are socioeconomically disadvantaged. Within Area 2, the need for supports in some of our districts is even more striking. For example, 84% of students in Twin Rivers are socioeconomically disadvantaged, 92% of students in Robla Elementary School district are socioeconomically disadvantaged, 76% of students in Elverta Elementary School district are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

I would ensure that students have access to nutritional meals, support the \$15/hr minimum wage, and would like to work with local Labor Unions to make sure PLAs are utilized.

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?

When the revenues are guaranteed to expand key public services.

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

Under no circumstance.

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

I believe that partnerships are only beneficial when they serve the needs of the community.

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

It is never okay.

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

I support Mayor Steinberg's creative economy grant that supports small business development.

Section 7 – Environment

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

I am not an expert on this topic but I am willing to listen and learn about this in order to make a decision that is aligned to our progressive values.

When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary?

We want to focus on city limits because it would be a greater strain on city resources when you begin to expand beyond the boundaries.

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

We want to ensure we have more green spaces for underserved communities. I support environmental education for our students.

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

I will support composting, recycling, and educating the next generation of scientists. Within our schools I will support any partnerships that promote environmental education.

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

Planning is a blueprint for a city so I want to make sure that I am taking into account what will happen in the next 5, 10, 15 years to make sure we maintaining infrastructure and mixed used development. As an equity focused board member I will get involved with city planning decisions so that they understand their impact on our schools and communities.

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

The general plan for 2035 is 300+ pages long so unfortunately I haven't had the opportunity to review it all but I do understand that it is the document that will guide development for Sacramento for the next 17 years. It is important that as we follow the blueprint guide and involve community members to make it an inclusionary process.

Section 8 – Education

Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

Yes.

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

I am a strong advocate for public education and think that the ideal school for students is their neighborhood school. As a board member I want to make sure I am holding our existing Charter Schools accountable to meeting the needs of our students and ensure they are inclusionary in their practices and do not discriminate. I would work to ensure that charter applications void of a sound educational and economic plan are not approved.

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

I support teacher tenure, due process protections, and teacher salary and benefits. I will want to hear from teachers about how the current teacher tenure practice affects the profession.

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

There should be policies in place for children to feel they can go to an adult they trust and that they'll be heard

Teach tolerance

Include diversity in the curriculum

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

Yes, there is an achievement gap and we need to tackle this with urgency. It is not okay that one third or less of Latino or African American students in Sacramento County meet grade level standards in Math or English Language Arts.

In collaboration with fellow board members I would examine the achievement gap data and would look to identify programs that are successfully addressing the gap. For example, I would want to expand dual language programs and programs that promote the transition of students from high school to college.

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

The Local Control Funding Formula distributes the money to districts based on the number and characteristics of students. This replaced the previous system of funding schools based on categorical grants. The Local Control and Accountability Plan is the plan that the district submits every year to the county outline how their funds will address the needs of the students

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

Equity in education means to make education available to all, including those who cannot afford it. Therefore, tuition fees should be calculated based on the family's income.

Section 9 - Housing

What is your plan to address homelessness in your community?

I plan to work with Mayor Steinberg and County Board of Supervisors to address homelessness in Sacramento. Temporary shelters are a great resource to help people with a place to sleep, especially during these cold winter nights; however, it's only a bandaid to a larger issue. We need to support programs under the "housing first" model which aim to secure an apartment unit for people within a safe and supportive environment. Often times this will include health and counseling services, and a case manager to assist with the overall transition. Additionally, we can seek to work with local administrative services to ensure a positive interaction with homeless people, such as the steps the Sacramento Central Library has taken to educate employees who frequently come in contact with people experiencing homelessness.

What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?

We need to increase the supply of affordable housing for our communities. Many households are struggling to afford basic needs such as housing. The federal government has indicated that households should not pay more than 30% of their annual household income, because once it goes beyond that threshold, it becomes a strain on other household expenses such as food, health, education etc. The development of more affordable housing will allow low to moderate income households to continue to pay for household expenses while being able to support their additional obligations.

Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?

Yes, I am in support of rent control because some of our communities are experiencing substantial increases in rental rates that are forcing long term community members to become displaced. We don't want what's happening in extremely high cost of living areas like San Francisco to happen in Sacramento, where tenants have been evicted without a justified cause. We mustn't put profits in front of people. It will also disrupt the children's education.

Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?

Yes, it impacts schools significantly and the ability for schools to be diverse. As a Trustee I would want to be involved with these discussions on the city level because housing impacts the abilities of families to access resources and their schools. Your zip code should not affect your educational outcome and this is highly impacted w/housing policy. Our communities are still affected by red-lining exclusionary housing practices.

What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

I support the affordable housing and sustainable communities program which funds land-use, housing, transportation, and land preservation projects to support infill and compact development that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Yes, many families and households who qualify for section 8 vouchers have a difficult time securing house because landlords may have a preconceived notion of tenant's using a section 8 housing voucher. However, the use of a housing voucher shouldn't dictate whether or not you have access to a safe and affordable housing option. If we want to be serious about supporting our low income communities, we need to make it easier for families to secure housing especially after sometimes waiting years to obtain a section 8 housing voucher.

It's also a great opportunity for landlords who will have a secure revenue stream from tenants who are looking for stability in their life.

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

We need to do more in educating our communities about the homeownership process. With careful planning and preparation, many working class people can enjoy the opportunity of becoming a homeowner. The issue we saw during the previous housing collapse hit working class families and minority households the hardest because they were sold predatory loans that proved to be catastrophic. Local housing counseling agencies are able to provide this type of homeownership education and even

help prepare budgets so that households will have an idea of what complete cost of homeownership. Also, these agencies are able to connect households to government down payment assistance programs that helps families with the initial large payment required to get into homeownership.

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

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

I believe that we need better transportation methods and I am open to supporting a local sales tax as long as it considers two important factors.

Ensure that the goods and services of what we are taxing does not create a disproportionate burden on low income families.

Ensure that the revenue raised supports projects in an equitable way, ensuring that the needs of residents most in need are addressed.

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

A seat on the board of either of these entities can help address issues that impact many of our community members and the local economy. The issue is how people are easily able to move throughout the city, county and the surrounding region. I would work to prioritize two items: how to connect the surround regions via existing or new transit routes and the second item would be on how to assure we are providing adequate bus routes and stop to the Sacramento area so that people can get to and from work efficiently and effectively. Freeway traffic congestion and pollution are big issues that can be addressed through alternative transportation options

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

I believe we need to invest in projects that encourage urban infill and avoid sprawling communities because the build environment is already connected to value infrastructure and amenities. This will allow us to work with Sacramento's new Active Transportation Commission and seek ways to increase pedestrian and bicycle travel throughout the city. Additionally, this will allow us to work with the existing transit routes for bus, train and light rail systems.

Carpool programs

Bike to work, bike lanes

Collaborate with the Active Transportation Committee

Increase the use of bus, trains and light rail systems.

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

Our local communities are thriving and with the city's help and long term vision, they can continue to thrive. One of the models we need to constantly have in mind is the idea behind Complete Streets.

