

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	Nate Pelczar
Email address	njpelczar@gmail.com
Office Sought	Sacramento County Office of Education – Area 2
FPPC ID (enter N/A if you do not yet have one)	N/A
Occupation	Director
Employer	Avalara
Campaign Phone	916.572.7135
Campaign Website	https://www.facebook.com/NatePelczarforSCOE/
Campaign Manager	Corin Choppin
Campaign Consultants (list all)	N/A

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

\$40,000/\$7,000

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

Labor, Democratic Clubs, and Leaders in the LGBTQ Community.

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

All materials will be printed on union printers.

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'm not approaching particular contributors for donations due to my belief in a grassroots campaign, focused on individual donations.

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

Sacramento Stonewall Democrats – member (contact for Stonewall: Pres. Jann Dorothy; 415.488.7247)

Sacramento Stonewall Democrats – PAC member

Sacramento Stonewall Democrats – board member (2011/2012 & 2016/2017)

Natomas Democratic Club – member (contact for NDC: Comm. Chair Curtis Paulins; cpaulins@gmail.com)

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.

Factsheet for Nate Pelczar

Candidate for Sacramento County Office of Education Area 2

General Bio

- Worked as an adult education teacher (computer skills, resume development, communication skills)
 - Local Natomas community member active in the School District, various Democratic Clubs and Homeowners Association for nearly a decade
 - Member of Natomas Unified School District Bond Oversight Committee (4 years)
 - Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University with an emphasis in public policy analysis
 - City of Sacramento Citizen's Planning Academy (2014)
 - Sacramento Housing Alliance's Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute (2012)
 - Chaired Sacramento 4 Freedoms Gala (2017)
 - Compliance and regulations expert, business manager, management consultant, and project manager with over 12 years of experience serving government and private sectors
 - Currently working as director of compliance at Avalara, a software company (2 years)
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Supporter of Labor

- Supporter of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs)
 - Supporter of prevailing wages
 - Proponent of advancing the right to organize
 - Opponent of union busting
 - Opponent of national anti-worker attacks, including right-to-work laws
 - Proponent of worker safety, benefits, pensions, and general protections
 - Leader and activist within local democratic clubs
-

Additional Experience

Strong interest and experience in the areas of: educational policy, government relations, budget and financial analysis, project management, policy development, business analyst, domestic & international regulatory compliance, process re-engineering, anti-money laundering, anti-fraud, client management, enterprise resource planning system implementation, transfer pricing, and enterprise resource planning.

Candidate Contact Information

Name: Nate Pelczar

Office: SCOE Area 2

Email: njpelczar@gmail.com

Cell: 916.572.7135

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/NatePelczarforSCOE/>

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, I've always been a proud Democrat, and registered as such.

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?

Yes, join some years ago. Renewed February 2018.

Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

Yes.

What will your ballot designation be?

Bond Oversight Committeemember

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?

9 years.

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

All, unless I was traveling for work.

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

- 1) Commitment to the underserved, minorities, and disadvantaged in our community; 2) My eagerness and ability to add value to the board through my past and current experience, training, and education; 3) commitment to the success and growth of my community: Natomas, Sacramento, and Sacramento County.

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

Not applicable.

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. The adopted budget summary (county school service fund; largest component of the SCOE total budget) for 2018 includes \$89.7MM in revenue and \$83.4MM in expenditures. Primary revenue sources are local, state, and federal revenues (in order of importance), although other revenue sources exist (LCFF, etc.). The top three expenditures include classified salaries, certificated salaries, and employee benefits (in order of importance).

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

Yes – by-district elections are, by nature, more democratic.

What sets you apart from other candidates for this office?

I'm the best qualified candidate for the following reasons: I've spent time in the classroom as an adult education teacher (real world experience), I've been a volunteer in the district for years (NUSD Bond Oversight Committee for 4 years), I have a strong background in public policy (Master of Public Affairs, Public Policy major), and I have a strong background in government and financial consulting (Big 4 management consultant, currently a Director at a software company that specializes in regulatory compliance solutions). I've also lived in the district for nearly a decade and am active in local democratic clubs and homeowners association.

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

Communication is key: meeting with community advocates is critical to understanding the district's current issues. I'm committed to holding office hours in-district so as to provide a platform to meet with interested community members, learn from them, and represent their ideas as their elected representative.

What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?

Transparency is key to a successful democracy, especially at the local level. I support open meetings and will do everything I can to ensure open and transparent communications as an elected official. I support strong ethics regulations and will work to ensure that current ethics regulations that impact my elected position may be enforced and have a material impact.

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

Current whistle-blower protections are not enough. I support protections currently being promoted by local and statewide union organizations, including the Central Labor Council and SEIU 1000.

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

Yes. Current campaign finance rules allow for too much opacity. It is often not clear who is making the contributions, in which amounts, and for what purposes. This needs to change and I support the unions' efforts to implement greater campaign finance transparency.

Section 3 – Civil Rights

What will you do to advance LGBTQ rights?

As an openly gay man, happily married, and working with my husband towards becoming foster parents, I understand wholly the current limits on LGBTQ rights. I'm a strong local LGBTQ rights activist, I constantly push for greater rights, education, and equality – not just for LGBTQ community members, but all minorities.

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?

As someone who's suffered from anti-gay bullying, I understand the pain and torture experienced by students (and adults) based on perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. I've learned that education is key: once folks understand that we are all brothers and sisters, that we all deserve the same respect that we demand from others, and that we have more in common than we do differences, we'll improve from the current state of affairs. I feel strongly, passionately, and deeply about this topic and it is a primary motivating factor for my candidacy.

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

I will do everything I can to organize, fight, and win protections for anyone that suffers from discrimination. This is a main tenet of my candidacy.

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?

Women must have control over their own bodies, be able to make decisions that impact their healthcare, bodies, and well-being. This includes their right to obtain any medical treatment that they deem as necessary, including, but not limited to, abortion.

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

I support and will fight for equal pay regulations and statutes.

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?

My husband and his immediate family are immigrants, as are my great grandparents. I support open and safe immigration. I support amnesty programs for immigrants living in the US. I support a clean DREAM Act without any enforcement funding attached to it. All immigrants, regardless of how they arrived in the US, should have a clear, transparent, and inexpensive path towards citizenship because it is the humane, moral, and ethically right action to take.

What will you do to protect immigrant communities?

I will organize, fight, and win regulatory and statutory protections for immigrant communities.

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

There should not be limits to free speech or assembly in public places. Free speech is a hallmark of our democracy and must be preserved.

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

I support strong gun regulations, including background checks and restrictions against the sale of firearms to those with proven mental impairments.

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

The criminal justice system is not just and fair; it is ripe for improvement. Needed reforms include judicial elections that are more free and fair, prison reform, and an increased emphasis on rehabilitation and counseling rather than time spent in jails.

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

I absolutely do not support capital punishment.

Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement.

I am a proud supporter of the BLM movement.

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

Greater public accountability comes from greater transparency in process, procedures, and communications. I'll fight for greater accountability on all three fronts and welcome others to join me.

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

I support the universal use of police body cameras as it forces accountability and provides us with more information when making decisions regarding the futures of those accused of crimes. I'm open to discussion on the topic of when it is appropriate to release footage.

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

Regulations and statutes force government institutions to build the infrastructure needed to meet the needs of those with disabilities. I support greater, stronger regulations and statutes related to this issue.

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

Government institutions must provide more resources to ensure that those with different backgrounds, from different cultures, and those that speak different languages are able to participate in public meetings and access public services. I support more resources being allocated to provide greater services for non-English speakers.

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?

I strongly believe that healthcare is a basic human right. The best way to provide quality healthcare is through a centralized system that provides coverage for all citizens.

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

I believe that parental notification should not be required. Teenagers need to be able to make decisions over their body when they believe it is appropriate without fear of retribution from their parent(s).

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

My uncle suffered from severe mental disabilities before passing away at a young age. I understand the difficulties and stress that it places on a family, along with the special needs that it places on a family. I support, as part of my support for full healthcare coverage for all individuals, inclusion of mental healthcare.

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

Services are not being provided to the black (and other minority communities) in Sacramento County. SCOE has initiatives designed to help alleviate/resolve this issue; I'll push to expand and grow these services to meet the special needs of this and other minority communities.

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I come from a labor family – my father was a laborer and carpenter; my godfather was a union organizer. I lived and breathed union life as a child; I support unions and all that they do for my union brothers and sisters.

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

Yes.

Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

Yes.

Do you support project labor agreements?

Yes - completely.

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

I'm still drafting my list, although I'll be most interested in the construction trades as I believe that I can assist them the most.

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

My role, in part, is to ensure that SCOE offers good, safe, and secure jobs for the citizens of Sacramento County.

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

- 1) Avoid budget shortfalls by planning prudently
- 2) Preparing for budget shortfalls with rainy day funds

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 all Sacramento communities. We must enact and enforce statutes that require income equality.

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?

To support education, healthcare, or other basic human services. Provision of basic human services for those that are not able to provide for themselves is the moral, ethical, and right thing to do.

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 do not support the privatization of public or natural resources.

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

These must be pursued only if the governmental organization is not able to provide the service on its own.

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

When the benefit to the community as a whole outweighs the cost of the incentive or subsidy.

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

The government is sitting on a data goldmine; this data should be used to provide the community with the information it needs to start businesses and industries that serve needs that are currently not being met.

Section 7 – Environment

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

I do not. I support the construction of desalinization plants in their local communities.

When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary?

This must be done sparingly, and only in situations where it can be done in a way that guarantees smart growth.

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

I'm a strong supporter of preserving regional wildlife habitat and land conservation.

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

Regulatory and statutory changes must be made to encourage human behaviors that lessen our impact on the environment, thereby limiting further negative climate change.

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

City of Sacramento Citizen's Planning Academy (2014) Have you read the General Plan and do you agree with its vision of future development? If not, what changes would you propose?

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 believe that unions should play a strong role in all schools, including charter schools.

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

Please explain.

I support teacher tenure, due process protections, and significantly higher teacher salaries and benefits. Strong schools equal strong communities.

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

Education and awareness are the keys to minimizing bullying in schools.

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

There are achievement gaps in nearly all school districts, including mine. The achievement gap can be improved by implementing more support services and providing more financial resources to those in need.

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

Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is a way for schools to focus on student success. The LCFF requires school districts to involve parents in planning and decision-making as well as in developing Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs).

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

Wholeheartedly. I worked as an adult education teacher and believe that education is a basic human right.

Section 9 - Housing

What is your plan to address homelessness in your community?

I plan to support district, city, and county initiatives to provide housing to those that are not able to provide housing for themselves.

What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?

The rental housing crisis is a serious issue that requires more data and thoughtful reflection. I'm open to learning more on the topic and interested identifying solutions in the near term.

Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?

I support rent control for those communities that are impacted the most, specifically, those that are at risk of losing their homes.

Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?

Yes.

What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

Our government institutions must step-up and provide housing solutions using public dollars. Private entities are not building the quantities or types of homes needed to meet the needs of the community.

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

I oppose discriminating against low income renters who are utilizing section 8 and would be supportive of an ordinance to end this discrimination.

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

The government must greatly expand programs that facilitate home ownership.

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

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

Yes.

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

N/A

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

I would consider increasing taxes to limit consumption of gas, essentially limiting the quantity of vehicle miles traveled.

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

We must invest in infrastructure: housing, education, transportation. The success and future of our community depends on the provision of these basic services.