

**Democratic Party of Sacramento County - Central Committee: Candidate Questionnaire**

**Section 1**

Full Name: Richard Launey

Office Sought: Sacramento County Board of Education

FPPC #: 1402032

Occupation: Educator, Adjunct Professor, CSUS, Former School Board Member

Employer: California State University, Sacramento

Campaign Phone: 916 996-8528

Campaign Email: [rlauney@csus.edu](mailto:rlauney@csus.edu)

Campaign Fax: 916 359-0496

Campaign Chairman: Larry Miles, Former San Juan School Board Member

Campaign Consultant: Capitol Campaigns

Media Consultant: Capitol Campaigns

Fundraising Consultant: Capitol Campaigns

Anticipated Budget & Funds Raised to Date: \$40,000 budget & \$3,000 to date

Please list your top 5 elected or appointed offices currently/previously held and any key affiliations, clubs, or community organizations:

San Juan Unified School District Board of Education, 2004 – 2012,

President of the Board, 4 years

San Juan Education Foundation, Board Member

Inside California Education, Executive Producer, Public Television

McClellan Aerospace Museum, Board Member

Member, Women’s Democrats, Sacramento County

Member, Truman Democratic Club



***"I believe passionately in public education."***

**Dear Friends,**

I have decided to run for the Board of Education for the Sacramento County Office of Education ("SCOE"). My reasons are quite simple: I believe passionately in public education, and that I can help improve public education for the kids of Sacramento on the SCOE Board.

Many of you know me from my eight years as a Trustee of the San Juan School District, including my four years as Board President. I will bring the same passion, leadership, and commitment for public education to SCOE that I exhibited during my two terms with San Juan.

I look forward to talking with you in the weeks to come regarding my candidacy, the future of public education, the role of the Sacramento County Office of Education, and other important issues. Meanwhile, I ask for your moral support, your wisdom, your help, your financial contributions, your encouragement, and more. In return, I pledge to be the best public servant in the service of public education that I can be.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Launey



**Please join us in supporting Rick for SCOE Board: *(partial list)***

Jack O'Connell, Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Delaine Eastin, Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Jeff Harris, Sacramento City Council  
Roger Dickinson, Former, California State Assembly  
Larry Miles, Former Member, Board of Education, San Juan Unified School District Board  
Mike McKibbin, Board Member, San Juan Unified School District  
Dr. General Davie, Former Superintendent, San Juan Unified School District  
Patrick Kennedy, Member, Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education  
Nancy Bui, Director, Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD)  
Kevin Gordon, President, Capitol Advisors  
*\*(titles for identification only)*

Please send your contribution to:  
Launey for SCOE Board 2014, FPNC #1-403032,  
1912 Richmond St., Sacramento, CA 95825

Tel: 916-996-8528  
Email: rlauney@csus.edu

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

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

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

No

Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

Yes

What will your ballot designation be?

Former San Juan School Board Member/ Teacher/Professor

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?

35 years

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

5

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

Public service is a responsibility of all citizens. Those of us who have unique and important experience and qualifications to serve must feel compelled to run and hold office, especially in trying times. In my mind, public education and respect for equal educational opportunity is the mainstay of our democracy, and it is suffering under the strain of concerted efforts to privatize education and further segregate our society. If elected, I will work to increase accountability and oversight of private education institutions and work to insure that the States provide adequate funding for public education institutions.

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

When elected to the San Juan School Board the District we replaced a majority Republican board with a majority Democrat Board. During my time on the board the district finances improved and we balanced the budget which my republican predecessors could not all while maintaining San Juan's amazing reputation for academic excellence.

## **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.

San Juan Unified School District, the 13<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the state, operates with a \$350,000,000 dollar annual budget.

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

This district is already at by-district elections. I support that.

What sets you apart from other candidates for this office?

I served as a trustee in the San Juan District for 8 years, 4 as President of the Board, providing oversight and policy governance, dealing with all educational issues within the district. The Sacramento County Office of Education, Area 3, is an overlay of the San Juan District.

In addition, I continue to teach government at California State University after having spent my professional life as a K12 teacher, college professor, and public education administrator.

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

As an elected official, I will be proactive in outreach to community advocates and all community members and stakeholders in Sacramento County.

What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?

Today, transparency and adherence to the highest standards of ethics for an elected official is paramount.

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

Whistle-blower protections are exceptionally important in today's public workplace environment.

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

A modified system of public financing of elections would ultimately move campaign finance in a better direction. Citizens United, unfortunately, was based upon an inappropriate reading of the Constitution. Money is not speech, and corporations are not "people".

### **Section 3 – Civil Rights**

Are you supportive of LGBT rights including, but not limited to, marriage equality?  
Yes. Absolutely.

What have you done in your capacity as a candidate or community leader to demonstrate your position?  
I have donated to and supported the Stonewall Democratic organization in Sacramento for many years.

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 have always been an outspoken advocate for women's rights and choice.

What have you done in your capacity as a candidate or community leader to demonstrate your position?  
I was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual PPAMM Voices for Change Certificate of Appreciation as an Honoree while on the SJUSD Board defending these rights.

What is your position on immigration in this country? Do you support an amnesty program for those immigrants already living in the United States? What is your position on the Federal DREAM Act? Should this group of individuals have a path towards citizenship?  
Congress must pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill. The DREAM Act is one step in the right direction, but much is still left to be done. Any viable federal legislation must afford amnesty for the ~11.5 million immigrants, and all should have a clear and reasonable path to citizenship.

### **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?

Healthcare is a human right. Universal/single payer healthcare is ultimately the only effective way to provide adequate healthcare to all.

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

The law requires that California School Districts release children in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above for confidential medical appointments without parental notification. In 2010 I voted while on the Board in the SJUSD to support this law.

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

Universal Health care should not be limited to physical care but to mental health as well.

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

Provide more access to services.

### **Section 5 – Good Jobs for All**

Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I have enjoyed great relationship with organized labor over my years of public service. My wife was formerly President of the Sacramento City Unified School District Teachers Association. I also received a lot of support in my previous election and have been honored to receive similar support in this race.

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

Yes

Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

No, not yet, but then I only heard about this opening a week ago.

Do you support project labor agreements?

Yes

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 will be interacting with CSEA and SCOETA most often, but I will be focused on open communication with all union and nonunion employees.

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

Oversight and establishing policy for the expenditures of the \$90 mm SCOE budget.

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

I still teach, and I address this issue regularly in my classes at the University. Young people must become passionate about this issue and become activists determined to precipitate change. The Occupy Wall Street movement was a step in the right direction, unfortunately, now out of steam. This is an essential issue of contemporary American political culture. In my mind, we have lost the sense of “community” and collective responsibility that we once revered, perhaps because of our ever more diverse citizenry. As a people, we must agree that “exceptional” income inequality is unacceptable to us as a society.

### **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?

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

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

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

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

### **Section 7 – Environment**

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

No.

What is your position on the privatization of public or natural resources (i.e. water, publicly-owned buildings, schools, parklands, parking facilities)?

Privatization is unacceptable in the management and support of public resources.

What is your position on promoting a “user pay” fee schedule for public resources such as parks and community centers? What are your views on the role of these public resources for our local community and economy? What specific steps might you pursue in this area?

Fees of this type are generally regressive and impact only certain constituencies, therefore, unreasonable.

What actions, if any, do you advocate to preserve the Delta and Delta water supplies (including for habitat protection)?

Habitat protection is a sacred responsibility. Delta water supplies must be protected.

### **Section 8 – Education**

**My wife Marci Launey and I have spent our careers working in education. Marci in addition to being a leader in Women Dems and the Truman Club was also on the Board of the Sacramento Teachers Association for many years. Likewise I was the San Juan Teachers Association endorsed candidate**

**when I ran and got elected to the San Juan School Board and have continued my strong relationship with them.**

Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

Restorative Justice Programs are critical and I fully support funding for these programs.

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

Since 1992 charter schools have been allowed under California law. Greater accountability and oversight is imperative. Authorization and oversight of charter schools must remain the responsibility of the local school district where the charter is located.

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

Protecting teacher tenure and due process protections is imperative. Since the recession, adequate teacher salary and benefits continues to be an ongoing challenge for all school districts and county offices of education.

What policies need to be implemented in our public education system to bring greater equity and access for all students despite their economic, family, or academic status?

The Local Control Funding Formula appears to be a step in the right direction, based upon the realization that socioeconomic status is the greatest challenge in providing equal education opportunity for all children.

What is needed to minimize bullying, teach tolerance, and promote equality in schools?

Most importantly, we must pay more attention as community members and commit resources to these insidious issues. There are a number of state and national programs that are gaining traction and showing positive results in this difficult environment for our children. I prefer the "inside out" approach, the Safe School Ambassador Program being one of the most promising.

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

Public K 12 education thru community college should be tuition free. University tuition and fees should have a full range of mitigating grant and public assistance programs for disadvantaged students.

## **Section 9 - Housing**

What is your plan to address homelessness in your community?

I know our Democratic Electeds in both the city and county have been working hard on this issue yet there is still a lot more that must be done.

What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?



I support SHRA and local housing advocates such as Rachel Iskow and Tamie Dramer in their efforts to combat this crisis.

Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?

I support policies that will help alleviate the housing crisis yet I am not an expert in this area so I differ to those who are.

Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?

I support policies that will help alleviate the housing crisis yet I am not an expert in this area so I differ to those who are.

What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

I support policies that will help alleviate the housing crisis yet I am not an expert in this area so I differ to those who are.

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

I support policies that will help alleviate the housing crisis yet I am not an expert in this area so I differ to those who are.

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

I will help them get a good education. San Juan Schools insure that all students, not just those with means get a great education. Beyond that I will differ to those who are experts in this area.

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

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

Yes, Public Transit is vital, and it is vital for our school leaders to work with Transit to ensure that our youth have access.

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

Unfortunately, SCOE does not have representation on any of those committees.

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

I drive a fully electric car!

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

I will differ to those who know these issues better than I. I have spent my life in public education and that is what I am qualified to speak on.