



## **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 - Background**

- 1.1 Full Name:** Barbara Leary  
**1.2 Email address:** barbaraleary@comcast.net  
**1.3 Office Sought:** Folsom City Council  
**1.4 FPPC ID:** 1402376  
**1.5 Occupation:** Retired Nurse Practitioner  
**1.6 Employer:** Retired - UC Davis Medical Center  
**1.7 Campaign Phone:** 916 985-7948  
**1.8 Campaign Website:** barbaralearyca.org  
**1.9 Campaign Manager:** self  
**1.10 Campaign Consultants:** Andres Ramos, Dee Emmert, Christ Yatooma  
**1.11 What is your anticipated budget and how much have you raised to date?** Est. \$15,000, raised to date \$5000

**1.12 What are your primary sources for fundraising? Please list your top three campaign contributors.** The City of Folsom has a \$150 per person campaign contribution limit, I have been using FB, my campaign website and hosted a fundraiser to date. Contributions are primarily coming from Folsom residents.

**1.13 Will all your campaign materials be printed by a union printer? Yes, though my initial fliers were printed in house/reviewed with CLC.**

**1.14 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 won't accept campaign contributions from Big Oil or Charter Schools at all, the ethical and legal standing of other contributors will be researched and considered prior to acceptance of contributions.**

**1.15 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.**

- 1) Chair of the Sacramento Sierra Club Group (elected by members) - contact Dyane Osorio, SC Mother Lode Chapter Director, 916 801-0483**
- 2) Member Folsom Arts & Cultural Commission, appointed, past Chair, past Vice-Chair, contact Cindy Abraham 916 351-3506**
- 3) Elected representative to the DPSC**
- 4) Co-founder and past President of the Natoma Station Community Organization, contact Dave**

Stanley 916 215-0626

- 5) Co-Founder and immediate Past President American River Democrats, contact Betty DiRegolo, 916 224-1251

1.16 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: last name/office sought.

This information is available on my webpage, [barbaralearyca.org](http://barbaralearyca.org) and my FB page Barbara Leary for Folsom City Council.

1.17 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

1.18 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.

No

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

1.20 Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement? Yes

1.21 What will your ballot designation be? Retired Nurse Practitioner

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

1.23 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

1.24 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

1.25 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

1.26 How long have you lived in the district you seek to represent? 26 years

1.27 Out of the last five elections, how many have you voted in? 5/5

1.28 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 have been involved in my community in many capacities during the 26 years I've lived here, often fighting to maintain quality of life and environmental standards in light of fast paced development. As the City continues to grow I want to make sure that standards for a healthy and safe community that is open to all is maintained. My top three issues are smart growth, environmental protection, fair housing practices/inclusionary housing.

1.29 If you are an incumbent, what have you accomplished during your tenure? N/A

## **Section 2 - District & Governance**

**2.1 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 FY18-19 General Fund budget is \$90,219,196. This is \$4.5 million, or 5.3% over the projected FY17-18 budget. The major revenue sources are property taxes (28.7%), sales tax (27.6%) and transient occupancy tax (TOT - 8%), charges for service, intergovernmental, and transfers in from other funds.**

**2.2 Will you support moving to by-district elections (rather than at-large) where they are not held now? Please explain. I have mixed feelings about bi-district elections given the smaller size of Folsom, currently 78,000 as it's been my experience that various Council members have been helpful on neighborhood issues throughout the City. The pressure required to gain support for a district project would require a strong Council member and I worry that one district's CM may overpower the others. As the City grows with the addition of 11,000 homes South of Highway 50 with an additional 20-25,000 people it may make more sense.**

**2.3 What sets you apart from other candidates for this office? I have 25 years of grass-roots organizing in Folsom, addressing a variety of issues. I have worked with various special interest groups including environmental, historical, transportation and housing both in town and regionally. I have served on Folsom commissions and developed working relationships with staff. I am the only candidate with this range of experience.**

**2.4 How will you work with community advocates? What will you do to be accessible to community members and other stakeholders? I have made an effort for many years to meet with various groups and stakeholders and plan to continue an open door policy. Many issues are polarizing and I hope to be able to bring people together in working out creative and mutually agreeable solutions to issues.**

**2.5 What will you do to promote transparency and ethics? I will work with City Staff to increase the visibility of upcoming projects and changes within the City so that the public may be better informed. All discussions should be held at open meetings and I will adhere to discussing all aspects of City business at sanctioned public meetings. Opening up the meetings for more discussion in a public forum also needs to occur.**

**2.6 What whistle-blower protections should there be for public employees who expose corruption, sexual harassment, or other illegal/unethical activity? Whistle-blowers should receive full protection from job loss, reduction in hours worked or other retribution such as demotion, change in responsibilities.**

**2.7 Do you believe that current campaign finance rules should be changed? If so, how would you change them? I believe that at a minimum PACs should have to follow the same rules as candidates in terms of finance contributions - that is to obtain individual contributions from members that are no greater than individual contributions to a candidate. A more perfect solution would be to eliminate PACs altogether and have campaigns funded through public programs.**

### **Section 3 – Civil Rights**

**3.1 What will you do to advance the rights of:**

- A. The LGBTQ community?**
- B. Racial and ethnic minorities?**
- C. Gender and gender identities?**

**I want to see Folsom develop open and public policies or forums to engage community members in discussing any concerns of these communities. I'd like to see more grassroots groups involved in**

developing the policies and forums.

**3.2 What will you do to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, employment, and housing? Assure that anti-discrimination policies are put in place and that any complaints of discrimination are addressed and dealt with appropriately.**

**3.3 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 women have a right to choose and should have full access to health care regardless of their choice in contraception or abortion.**

**3.4 If elected, what will you do to close the gender pay gap? I will review all employee compensation packages and assure that pay is equal for equal work, this may include adding a resolution or City Charter amendment to assure that there is no gender pay gap in the future.**

**3.5 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 an amnesty program, a DREAM act that actually fulfills the promise of citizenship for DREAMers and a path towards citizenship for anyone who wants to become a citizen. I support this as a fundamental promise of our Constitution and as a supporter of human rights.**

**3.6 What will you do to protect immigrant communities? Ensure equal protection for their rights.**

**3.7 Should there be limits on free speech or assembly in public places, such as protesting or picketing? Please explain. I think it's fair to ask for advanced notice re: large gatherings or picketing and municipalities must notify groups that incendiary speech encouraging violent behavior will result in an end to the event.**

**3.8 Do you support background checks for all gun and ammunition sales? What other restrictions on firearms do you think are appropriate? Yes and I think that assault weapons should be banned. I am supportive of an increase in gun buy-back programs as well.**

**3.9 Do you feel the criminal justice system is just and fair to everyone? If not, what reforms would you like to see? No I don't think it's fair for everyone, reforms should come in the form of increased education for law enforcement, DA's and review/revision of any laws pertinent to the treatment of accused offenders which are unjust.**

**3.10 Do you support capital punishment? If so, please explain when you think it's appropriate. No, I don't think it's appropriate ever.**

**3.11 Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement. I'm glad to see the Black Community organize, I hope they will continue to pursue education, legal means and political/public forum pressure for change.**

**3.12 How will you work toward greater police accountability? What role would the community play in that? The body cams seem to be working when used as prescribed, immediate and public review of police actions should be taken up by the administration and DA in an immediate manner.**

**3.13 Do you support the universal use of police body cameras? When is it appropriate to release police body camera footage? Yes, it's appropriate to address any concerns and evaluate an inappropriate violent or fatal encounter.**

**3.14 What will you do to make your community more accessible to people with disabilities? Assure that businesses and public places are accessible for all and are supported with guidance/grants etc. provided in accomplishing that.**

**3.15 What will you do to ensure that non-English speakers can fully participate in public meetings and access public services? Allow for additional time for speakers at general meetings to use a translator (to avoid being penalized with the 3 minute time limit). Adding informational other language links or add an on-line translator link to the City website**

#### **Section 4 – Healthcare**

**4.1 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 think a move to medicare for all is most likely the path that will work though this will take time. In the meantime services provided for everyone, regardless of pre-existing conditions, should be facilitated.**

**4.2 What is your position on parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy? Please explain. I think that parents should be involved when it is feasible, that is, if they can be supportive; young people at risk for severe reprisal from abusive parents should be protected and provided with counseling/support/care. There is no one answer for all.**

**4.3 What measures would you support to ensure adequate mental health services for all? I would support an increase in County, State funding for programs to increase the mental health services throughout the County and State.**

**4.4 What will you do to help address high child mortality rates in the black community in Sacramento County? Making sure that the community is educated and using health care services is important for everyone, as well as having the availability of social workers and health care workers to assist in providing food stamps, counseling and medical services. The County Clinic has been severely undercut and is not available to many residents. Satellite clinics need to be restored.**

#### **Section 5 – Good Jobs for All**

**5.1 Describe your relationship with organized labor. I am a retired RN/FNP and a former CNA member**

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

**5.3 Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy? Scheduled for Aug 11**

**5.4 Do you support project labor agreements? Yes**

**5.5 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 plan to work locally with the firefighters and police unions on fair contracts. I am also interested in finding out what trade unions are most involved in local building, development efforts and learning more about how to support fair wages.**

**5.6 What is the role of the office that you seek in promoting good jobs for our region? The City of Folsom is in a position to attract more industry and jobs in several sectors of our town. I hope to encourage growth in those sectors as relying on home building for future income is not sound policy.**

**5.7 What solutions would you propose to solve budget shortfalls and how would you prioritize the needs**

of your constituents? Budget shortfalls must be addressed by planning for proper balance between business, industry and housing sector income. Public safety, health care are key to supporting the public though providing other services such as recreation, arts and culture also support the public well being. Balancing the budget with anticipated future shortfalls and a healthy reserve in good times is critical.

5.8 Do you believe income inequality is an issue in your community? If so, what steps would you take to address it? It is less of an issue in my community though we have a shortfall of affordable housing in certain areas of town.

### Section 6 - Local Economy & Public Resources

6.1 Under what circumstances would you support raising revenues by means of taxes or fees to support public services and why? I would support raising taxes or fees only in light of budget shortfalls that affect basic needs, such as public safety, without the approval of our residents. Citizens should be able to vote on taxes which would support non-essential City services.

6.2 How do you balance more progressive vs more regressive forms of taxation or other revenues and their specific impacts on the community, and what means of such revenues would you have at your disposal and support? I support progressive tax plans. Regressive tax plans must be supported by the majority of residents, not imposed.

6.3 Under what conditions would you support the privatization of public or natural resources (i.e. water, publicly-owned buildings, schools, parklands, parking facilities)? I don't support the privatization of any public or natural resources. Allowing public use for public facilities is appropriate, fees should reflect a resident and business use of facilities, local businesses should be treated as residents.

6.4 What is your position on "public/private partnerships"? They are of some limited use and must be carefully considered, the benefit must be substantial and long lasting.

6.5 When is it appropriate to use public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business? Only in the case of great and long-lasting benefit to the community, such as in using incentives to provide well paying jobs.

6.6 What is your plan to support and encourage local small business development? I plan to work with the local small business leaders in developing plans that will help small businesses survive. Planning for future growth must allow for development of business districts that are easily accessible.

### Section 7 – Environment

7.1 Do you support the construction of the Delta tunnels and the Southeast Connector? Please explain. I absolutely oppose the Delta Tunnels project. There are numerous other methods for supplying adequate water to California by utilizing reclaimed water, reducing discharge of grey water and managing crop irrigation and landscaping. The SE connector has been approved as a transit corridor and not intended to be a conduit for further growth into the areas outside of the urban services boundary, I oppose changes in that agreement.

7.2 When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary? It is rarely appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary, especially into valuable farmland. Infill is important, another method of increasing housing is to provide better housing models, building up along transit corridors and reinvesting in blighted neighborhoods to encourage use of existing housing and schools.

7.3 Please describe your position on regional habitat and working lands conservation. I am a proponent

of preserving and protecting regional habitat, this has been a focus of my work with the Sacramento Sierra Club over the past few years. I support the Farm Bureaus efforts to maintain our farmlands.

**7.4 What will you do to address climate change in your role? Please be specific. I have been working with the Sierra Club and local leaders on improving regional transit, encouraging the use of electric buses and private vehicles. Reducing heat islands, large parking lots and enhancing the environment by protecting tree and grassland removal is also key in this effort.**

**7.5 Please describe your education and/or experience with land use planning. I am a Nurse Practitioner and have spent much time studying and submitting commentary on land use planning as a resident of Folsom and local neighborhood organizer for 25 years. I consider myself well versed, though not an expert, in many of the aspects of planning including many aspects of CEQA.**

**7.6 Have you read the General Plan and do you agree with its vision of future development? If not, what changes would you propose? I have recently submitted a number of comments on the Folsom General Plan 2015 update, many of which were accepted as a part of the plan. I frequently attend Planning and City Council meetings and have a good relationship with our City Planning staff.**

### **Section 8 – Education**

**8.1 Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs? I have no experience with this, in looking at the program it seems like a viable alternative to suspension and other forms of punishment. I'd like to get more input from local schools to see if it is used there and how it is working from the perspective of students and teachers.**

**8.2 What role do you believe charter schools should play in public education? I don't believe they serve to provide a better education for our students.**

**8.3 Do you support reforming teacher tenure, due process protections, or teacher salary and benefits? Please explain. This is a difficult question to answer as I don't know the details apply to tenured teachers with poor work histories. As a nurse, long term employees do not sustain the benefit of tenure and nurses who do a sub-par job can be reassigned or let go. There should be due process protection for teachers and I strongly support increased salaries and benefits consistent with other public and private service employees.**

**8.4 What will you do to minimize bullying and promote tolerance in school? 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? All students should receive information on gender identity at age specific points in their education. Anti-bullying programs should be addressed with education and discouragement across the board for all minorities.**

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

**8.6 Do you believe that public adult education, colleges, and universities should be tuition free? I believe they should be low tuition, perhaps with a progressive scale.**

### **Section 9 - Housing**

**9.1 What is your plan to address homelessness in your community? I hope that Folsom will support more efforts at helping the homeless, right now the work is being done by a local church organization with**

limited capacity. Cooperation with Sacramento County programs would be appropriate to address the cross-city and county line aspects of this very difficult situation.

9.2 What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis? Folsom needs to include more diverse housing options, include more affordable housing in new rental housing, as well as diversifying the areas of Folsom in which low income housing is available.

9.3 Do you support rent control and just cause eviction? Yes I support rent control and just cause eviction.

9.4 Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances? Yes.

9.5 What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction? Grants, public and private funding, and the development of less expensive housing models.

9.6 Would you support a local ordinance to end Housing Choice Voucher discrimination (Section 8)? Please explain. I would support a local ordinance that disallowed discrimination of any kind, a clause that disallowed evictions based on local market trends but allowed for modest increases only.

9.7 What is your plan to ensure that working class people have opportunities for home ownership? I'm encouraging local builders to look at constructing a broader variety of housing types which would allow for more affordable units. Wages also need to keep pace with an economy that has been overburdened with high paying jobs for a relatively small minority and I support continued raises in that. Reducing living costs for homeowners by improving housing along transit corridors is also key.

#### Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

10.1 Would you support a local sales tax measure to fund transportation and public transit? Please explain. Yes, I think we need to make public transit more accessible and affordable for all, improving connectivity to light rail and other large carriers is extremely important in changing the "car culture" that we live in.

10.2 If you are seated on the board of SACOG, STA, or Regional Transit, how would you use your role and what would you prioritize? My role would be to address the issues of growth, housing and transit in creative ways to stop the trend of poorly designed greenfield development, and I support improved transit as noted above. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, area warming and improving the health for all of us is critical.

10.3 What is your plan to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled in the region? Improved local and regional transit, electric buses, shared rides and increasing employment in dense housing areas are all part of a plan that will work.

10.4 What is your plan to improve local and regional public transit? Please describe a priority project. My priority project is continuing to work with Regional Transit on better interconnectivity throughout our region with smaller, electric buses and shared ride options.