



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:

PORSCHE MIDDLETON

1.2 Email address:

ELECTPORSCH@GMAIL.COM

1.3 Office Sought:

CITY COUNCIL

1.4 FPPC ID:

1399258

1.5 Occupation:

N/A

1.6 Employer:

N/A

1.7 Campaign Phone:

480-390-6403

1.8 Campaign Website:

ELECTPORSCH.COM

1.9 Campaign Manager:

GIGI RAYFORD

1.10 Campaign Consultants:

N/A

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

\$40,000 budget; approximately raised \$7,000 to date.

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

Individual donations and Political Action Committees.

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

Yes

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 evaluate each contribution individually and will decline contributions from businesses, organizations or individuals based on practices that conflict with my values

1.15 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.

CDP Veterans Caucus Secretary
CDP Voter Services Committee Member
Assembly District Delegate (AD8)
Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps Board Member
Citrus Heights Rotary Board Secretary
Citrus Heights Water District Community Advisory Committee Member
JFK Democratic Club – Immediate Past President
Town & Country Democratic Club – Immediate Past Vice President

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.

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.

Yes, in 2015 when I moved to Citrus Heights and updated my drivers license with the DMV my registration was incorrectly recorded as NPP. I immediately corrected my registration, otherwise I have been a lifelong Democrat.

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?

No.

1.20 Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

Yes.

1.21 What will your ballot designation be?

To be determined.

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.saccounty.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?

3 years

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

All of them; 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.

It is important that city governments understand that working families are the backbone and the economic engine of local communities. My top three issues are; quality of life, economic development, and public safety. I am running for city council because I bring a unique perspective

and a dynamic background that will help to move the City of Citrus Heights in the right direction.

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.

I am familiar with the City budget; the annual budget for Citrus Heights is approximately \$50 million dollars. The revenue neutrality agreement with Sacramento County will expire in 2023 which will increase our revenue by approximately \$4-5 million dollars. Citrus Heights' largest expenditures include public safety and employee compensation.

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

I support by-district elections as long as they do not inhibit the ability of minority populations to elect representatives.

2.3 What sets you apart from other candidates for this office?

I have true desire to represent the community of Citrus Heights and I am involved in every possible manner; I serve as a planning commissioner, I sit on the board of several organizations whose focus is improving local communities and offering pathways for our youth to be successful. I am not involved for the recognition or accolades, as a woman of color with two young boys, I understand better than most the opportunities that minority children and families that are economically repressed face. I am vigilant in working for solutions, opportunities, and resources that can be utilized to benefit our working-class families in Citrus Heights; enabling them to have the best quality of life possible.

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

I believe that the most important job of an elected official to listen to their constituents. Being a City leader involves gathering all available information to make informed decisions on what would most benefit the community and residents throughout Citrus Heights. When elected, I plan to hold routine community office hours, continue my attendance of local civic and volunteer events, and I will also make myself accessible through social media and other forms of convenient communication.

2.5 What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?

Trust between an elected official and their constituents is the true marker of leadership. Having the faith of my constituents is of the utmost importance, this relationship is the basis of developing good policies that support and enhance transparency within the City government.

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

I believe that all public employees should have whistle-blower protection and should not be subject to retaliatory efforts for reporting wrongdoing or illegal acts. When elected, I will follow the whistle-blower protection laws and support policies that extend these provisions to public employees in Citrus Heights.

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

Campaign finance reform is important and there is room for discussion and improvement. One of my primary concerns is leveling the playing field for women and minorities to run for office. I know that a great way to accomplish this goal is through campaign finance reform and bringing publicly financed campaigns to the local level.

Section 3 – Civil Rights

3.1 What will you do to advance the rights of:

A. The LGBTQ community?

I strongly support LGBTQ rights including marriage equality, anti-bullying efforts, and equal employment protections. I believe that discrimination against a person based on sexual preference or gender identity is wrong. I will continue to advocate for equal rights, treatment and status for LGBTQ individuals in our community. I firmly believe that education and anti-discrimination efforts are key in addressing this issue and ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

B. Racial and ethnic minorities?

I believe that discrimination against a person based on race or ethnicity is wrong. I will advocate for equal rights, treatment and status for individuals in our community. I firmly believe that education and anti-discrimination efforts are key in addressing this issue and ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

C. Gender and gender identities?

I believe that discrimination against a person because of gender identity is wrong. I will advocate for equal rights, treatment and status for individuals in our community. I firmly believe that education and anti-discrimination efforts are key in addressing this issue and ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

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

I will work with the City Manager to ensure that the established policies prohibiting discrimination against individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity are enforced, that training for employees and supervisors is current regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, and that the reporting procedure is sufficient so that complaints of discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity can be made without fear of retaliation.

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 that women should have equal access to comprehensive healthcare including contraceptives, and the right to obtain a medically safe and legal abortion. It is a woman's choice to take contraceptives and determine the choice of seeking an abortion, this truly personal choice should never be forced upon them by the government.

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

Women should be paid equally for equal work. I am in support of closing the gender pay gap and will support sensible policies that promote reducing this inequality.

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 strongly support creating smart and sustainable pathways to citizenship particularly for Dreamers. Our current immigration policies make it difficult for otherwise law abiding people to access legal status both financially and administratively. I support having more discussions on how we can create a sensible and equitable immigration system.

3.6 What will you do to protect immigrant communities?

I believe that everyone deserves to feel safe in this country, regardless of legal status. I will fight for fair treatment and status for individuals in our community that positively contribute and are seeking official status. I firmly believe that education and anti-discrimination regarding immigration is key in ensuring the safety of all individuals.

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

Our first amendment rights are the foundation that our country was built upon. Public expression that does not risk public safety is critical to sustaining our democracy.

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

I support background checks for guns and ammunition sales to individuals as a reasonable safeguard to protect individuals and uphold the second amendment rights of gun owners.

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

I do not believe that the administration of justice is applied equally and fairly to everyone. It is known that poverty plays an instrumental role in an individual being predisposed to incarceration. We must develop strong community programs for our youth that develop healthy relationships with local law enforcement, community events to engage our youth, and volunteer programs within the community that will help them to develop strong healthy community ties.

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

Capital punishment is currently allowed under state law and it should be upheld. Personally, I do not approve of capital punishment and feel that as the law is currently written it should only be used for the most heinous and extreme circumstances.

3.11 Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement.

I believe in equality for all people. As a woman of color, I understand the concerns of BLM. I support movements that work towards creating a more inclusive environment. I think there is more that can be done to make all groups feel secure in our cities and neighborhoods.

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

I am appreciative of the hard work, effort, and bravery that is consistently displayed by the men and women of our law enforcement departments. I would like to be part of creating a closer relationship between our local departments and the communities they serve to strengthen community policing in Citrus Heights. I believe that when constituents experience more frequent positive interactions with their department, they are more likely to have a positive relationship. Many cities have found that community policing strategies help to build trust between police officers and communities they serve, strengthening communications, building strong relationships between leaders, and creating safer more inclusive neighborhoods.

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

I support the use of body cameras, and believe that several factors should be taken into account before the release of body camera footage, such as, including the completion of a thorough investigation, adequate evidence collection, and proper notification to family members. When footage from the body cameras are released I do not believe such footage should be released if the edits cause a biased perception of the incident or any of the parties involved.

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

I will work with residents, city staff and accessibility advocates to ensure we are compliant with ADA accessibility laws and to ensure we are providing inclusive opportunities for all community members.

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

According to www.statisticalstlas.com, Citrus Heights has 14,872 individuals living in households where English is not the primary language. To ensure accessibility in public meetings, I would call on local faith leaders and education systems to determine the best solutions for decreasing language barriers. I would encourage our city to offer written materials in particular languages to increase inclusivity and also in the approaches utilized to facilitate participation in local government affairs.

I would also look into providing, as part of the City's 311 program, an ability for residents to call and receive translation services. I know of a few cities that have found this type of on-demand translation service to be very helpful.

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?

Quality healthcare should be guaranteed to all residents. I support legislation and leadership advocating for healthcare reform that protects patients, improves care and reduces the influence of special interests, like drug companies and other for-profit providers, dictating patient care.

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

It is up to a woman to make the choice of whether to keep or terminate a pregnancy. Pregnant minors should continue to have the right to choose whether they wish to notify their parents or guardians, as too many minors are sexually molested by their parents or relatives. I also understand that it is particularly difficult for young women in foster care who face this huge life decision, that's why the education and counseling provided by Planned Parenthood and other family planning organizations are so important to healthy decision-making.

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

Mental health services are controlled by the county, my role as a councilmember will be to advocate for residents to have access to mental health services and supportive systems.

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

I will continue working with community stakeholders such as Arden-Arcade-Carmichael Faith Communities, attending trainings, seminars, and meetings with the Black Child Legacy Campaign, and advocating for continued funding from Sacramento County BOS to ensure that the target metric

of reducing African American child mortality by 20% by 2020 is met.

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

5.1 Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I have good relationship with organized labor.

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?

Yes.

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 will be interacting with unions whose contracts are determined by the City of Citrus Heights and will work to ensure that there are fair policies and consistent practices in place to encourage, protect, and increase the quality of life for union and non-union employees.

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

As a councilmember, I will work to ensure that there is a fair bidding process as well as promote the importance of increasing community training and education opportunities.

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

Quality of life for residents is of the utmost importance to me. Budget shortfalls can be particularly difficult; community involvement is vital in determining the best course of action. I would utilize surveys and community meetings over a period of time to gather input from residents to aid in the decision making processes leading to any budget reforms.

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

No.

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?

Before any decision is made to raise taxes or fees in relation to funding public services, there needs to be a critical review and evaluation that allows for open community engagement and input. In most cases funding can be derived without raising taxes or fees, but if it becomes evident that additional taxes or fees are necessary then there will be ample opportunity for public input.

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?

As a councilmember, I will be vigilant in safeguarding tax dollars and ensuring they are spent on programs that keep our neighborhoods safe, create economic opportunities for our small businesses, and increase the quality of life for residents. I will always look for alternative funding methods before ever considering implementing taxes.

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

In general, I do not support the privatization of municipal services. However, Citrus Heights has proven to be an exception; all non-core governmental functions with contracting entities are thoroughly evaluated and aided by employment policies that include worker representation.

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

We have experienced success with public/private partnerships and it is an option that should be considered on an individual basis. However, if current city employees can provide the work they should.

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

Such an option is appropriate if the investment has been thoroughly reviewed, ample public input has been provided, and the rate of return is more substantial than the investment of Citrus Heights' residents.

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

As a small business owner for over a decade, I have a strong understanding of what small and emerging businesses need to be successful. I have worked with other business owners and chambers of commerce to determine how we can address fees and utilize city partnerships to create opportunities for small businesses to succeed; this includes the development of incubator spaces and small grant programs.

Section 7 – Environment

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

No.

7.2 When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary?

Citrus Heights is mostly an infill city with limited green space, the urban growth boundary supports urban services such as roads, water and sewer systems, parks, schools, and fire and police protection; in essence it promotes the efficient use of land, public facilities, and services inside the boundary. Careful consideration must be taken before the boundary is expanded.

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

I support regional habitat and working lands conservation.

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

Climate change can be addressed using several different mechanisms such as; strengthening and expanding our bicycle and public transit infrastructure, making infill projects a priority so that people can live closer to where they work, and by following the environmental development guidelines that have been established for our region.

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

The majority of my experience in land use planning was derived from my time serving on the Citrus Heights Planning Commission. As planning commissioners, we review proposals for development and planning changes. We meet with developers, residents, and hold public meetings to review the possible effects of development proposals.

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 read the general plan and understand the visions and goals at work. That being said, I do not agree with all aspects in their entirety. The General Plan is robust and contains a broad range of policies and implementations. Surely over time there are advancements and changes that can affect the nature of the General Plan. In these instances, I feel it is paramount to refer to the spirit of the plan in making decisions.

Section 8 – Education

8.1 Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

Yes.

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

I am the product of a public education and firmly support public schools, however there are instances where parents feel the need to utilize charter schools as an option to get the best education

for their children. In these cases, I believe that these schools should be held to the same standards as our public schools, not-for-profit charters and their teachers and staff should be afforded the same protections and benefits as public school employees.

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

I believe in supporting teachers and putting the education of our children first always.

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?

As a parent of two young boys, I passionately believe and advocate without exception that no child should be subjected to bullying or harassment for any reason. Age appropriate discussions in schools on LGBTQ issues education, and accountability, are the foundation to making sure all of our children are treated with respect.

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

N/A

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

N/A

Section 9 - Housing

9.1 What is your plan to address homelessness in your community?

Homelessness is a challenge for Citrus Heights. I will continue the efforts of working with the County to increase services which includes additional funding for mental health issues. Citrus Heights must be an active partner with the County on investing in homeless services. Thus far, we have successfully established a Navigator program that works with the CHPD and local community organizations such as HART. We should also look into applying for more state and federal funding.

9.2 What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?

In order for Citrus Heights to avoid a rental housing crisis we have continued to build housing at every level. We have focused on affordability, remaining cognizant of locations where transportation and employment create opportunity.

9.3 Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?

I am open to a discussion on the stabilization of rent for low income families and protection improvements.

9.4 Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?

Inclusionary housing ordinances are tools that can be used for developing affordable housing, but their unintended consequences can be to limit the development of affordable housing to new growth areas, something that Citrus Heights lacks. I believe that continuing to develop infill areas, establishing a fee structure for commercial and residential building in conjunction with having a percentage of affordable units will yield greater inclusion of affordable housing and economic growth in our community.

9.5 What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

I would like to see an approach to affordable housing construction that involves the Sacramento region and not simply Citrus Heights. Unfortunately, affordable housing is a problem that is rooted outside of Citrus Heights as well as within it.

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

I need specific details about this particular issue to provide a more detailed response. In general, I do not support practices that discriminate in regards to the allocation of resources to those in need.

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

The Citrus Heights has lower priced housing in comparison to the rest of the Sacramento region. We also have several housing developments that will increase available inventory soon. Our First-Time Homebuyer Program is key in providing down payment assistance in the form of a low-interest loan. This program directly benefits working class families as the income limit to qualify for a family of four is \$64,100 annually.

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

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

For me to consider supporting a measure to increase our local sales tax to fund transportation and public transit, it would need to be thoroughly vetted by community leaders and the new tax revenue would have to flow to projects helping Citrus Heights residents. Unfortunately, Citrus Heights has been left out of past discussions regarding how countywide tax revenues are spent and invested, leaving us out of new revenues and opportunities to develop important transit for residents. There needs to be a critical review and evaluation, as well as an open opportunity for community engagement and input on the issue.

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?

If I were seated on any of these boards, my priorities would be environmental mitigation, increasing the accessibility of Regional Transit, and ensuring that we are meeting the requirements of the

Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RNHA).

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

To reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled, I would support developing a comprehensive plan that makes infill projects a priority to strengthen and expand our bicycle and public transit infrastructure. Also, with the convenience of ride sharing applications and convenient living spaces that are close to work and activities, residents will naturally reduce their own Vehicle Miles Traveled.

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

Accessibility to local and regional public transit is key for many residents. As a priority project for me, I will continue to support the efforts and expansion of the SmaRT ride program in Citrus Heights.