



## **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: Jaya Badiga**

**1.2 Email address: Jayabforfcusd@gmail.com**

**1.3 Office Sought: Folsom Cordova Unified – School Board**

**1.4 FPPC ID: 1406588**

**1.5 Occupation: Attorney**

**1.6 Employer: Currently in between jobs**

**1.7 Campaign Phone: (916) 932-6221**

**1.8 Campaign Website: www.jayabforfcusd.com**

**1.9 Campaign Manager: None**

**1.10 Campaign Consultants: None**

**1.11 What is your anticipated budget and how much have you raised to date? \$5K-\$10K; I've raised approx. \$1500.**

**1.12 What are your primary sources for fundraising? Please list your top three campaign contributors. Family and friends – Top three campaign contributors are family and friends. I haven't received any money from PACs or other groups as yet.**

**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 haven't taken a firm position pro or opposing charter schools as yet. I haven't needed to decline contributions from any particular contributor as yet. I will not take any contributions from the NRA.**

**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.**

**Family Law Executive Committee – Sacramento County**

**South Asian Bar Association Sacramento – 2016 – 2018 term**

**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.**

My website has all this information and recently went live. It is [www.jayabforfcusd.com](http://www.jayabforfcusd.com), my Facebook page

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is JayaBforFCUSDSchoolBoard.

**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?**

No, not as yet.

**1.20 Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?**

Yes.

**1.21 What will your ballot designation be?**

Businesswoman/Parent.

**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?**

Fifteen plus years.

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

I am a first generation immigrant naturalized in 2007. I've voted in every election since then.

**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.**

- 1) Develop and implement a socio-emotional learning platform
- 2) Support teachers with increased funding
- 3) Find ways to reduce class sizes

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

N/A

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## 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.**

**Yes. Primarily through state and local bond measures.**

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

**Yes. Currently, the School Board is at large. It does need equal representation as it is split between two cities.**

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

**My passion for my community and desire to set policies that will benefit our kids.**

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

**Community advocates have personal knowledge and experiences. I will listen to their input in order to incorporate it into decisions and policies.**

**2.5 What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?**

**Improved access to documents and notices to the public about important decisions with enough time for them to impact change or communicate their positions.**

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

**Job protection and stability.**

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

**I think the public has a right to know who funds PACS and Super-PACS.**

## 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?**

**From my work at WEAVE, I believe in an inclusive, welcoming and equitable environment for all minorities, sub-cultures and races. I will promote policies that expand the rights of these groups and also review disciplinary action to set the tone for the district in reacting to wrong-doing towards these communities.**

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**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 hold the District accountable to our laws and policies in ensuring that proper disciplinary measures are taken with regard to discriminatory acts.

**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 in a woman's right to choose.

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

I will promote transparency and policies that ensure that the gender pay gap is lessened or at least identified as an issue with steps to reduce this disparity.

**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 DACA, and an amnesty program for those immigrants that haven't committed felonies. Yes, undocumented immigrants should have a pathway to citizenship because they contribute to our economy and also are a part of our communities.

**3.6 What will you do to protect immigrant communities?**

I will support policies that advocate for nondisclosure and also integration of services and resources.

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

The Constitution and key legal cases have already established these limits with regard to time, place, manner, restrictions, hate speech, etc., and I support these forms of assembly and legal restrictions in Supreme Court cases.

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

Yes. In addition to banning bump stocks, we need to ban assault rifles and automatic weapons and ammunition that is designed to discharge fast. Background checks for private party sales, internet sales and also increased training requirements for CCW permits.

**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 would like to see supportive services for language barriers, competent pro bono and appellate panels.

**3.10 Do you support capital punishment? If so, please explain when you think it's appropriate.**  
No.

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

BLM is an important civil rights movement and their key statements/priorities are rooted in discrimination and appalling conditions, policies, that have resulted in unjust/unfair death in their communities.

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

The community needs to know about policies and enforcement priorities. Transparency and accountability need to be incorporated at every level of the law enforcement institutions.

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

Yes. There needs to be standard policies that automatically release footage around serious injuries or deaths, and regular access by community groups.

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

Support policies that allow for transparency, access to records, trainings and related mechanisms.

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

Promote availability of interpreters, language-line access and other methods to allow for full participation.

#### 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. Universal healthcare has to be the standard.

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

I think it depends on the age of the minor. If a minor is between 12-14, or, if the minor is 16-17. It also depends on who the legal custodian of the minor is.

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

Policies that educate our communities about the need for mental health services. I'll also support positions and budgetary line items with regard to program implementation and design.

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

Training and education are vital. Also, ensuring that our institutions that respond to crises leading to these mortality rates have an understanding of the factors: political, cultural and socio-economic factors, as well as an understanding of implicit bias.

#### Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

**5.1 Describe your relationship with organized labor.**

I support unions.

**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?**

I will attend on 8/11.

**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?**

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**FCEA (a part of the California Teacher's Association) and the AFL-CIO/Sac Labor. Collective bargaining leads to power to both union and nonunion employees. With efforts underway to undermine the power of labor unions, it is important to convey the benefits that unions provide to all employees.**

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

**To provide a good academic and socio-emotional foundation for our kids.**

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

**We have to keep administrative overhead at a minimum and transfer those savings to our teachers and students.**

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

**Yes. It is not enough to have the same opportunities. We have to provide the same foundation to all kids.**

## **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 see infrastructure needs in our state to be a possibility of this scenario, also the rising costs of fighting wildfires is another example.**

**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?**

**It depends on the impact of such taxation measures on the community, the state of the economy, etc.**

**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)?**

**Never.**

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

**It depends on the issue that this partnership is looking to solve.**

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

**The bailout is an example, but I'm not sure it was an appropriate use of public money.**

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

**I'd like to encourage internships and community involvement as a way to support our small businesses.**

## **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?**

**We're losing our rural boundaries with the constant expansion of the urban growth boundary. We have to think of global solutions to the issue of jobs, transportation, housing, etc.**

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

**It is important to incorporate environmental sustainability into our everyday and long term plans.**

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

I will ensure that our science teachers are not prevented from teaching about climate change and that students learn about the perils of climate change and its effects in their lifetime.

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

N/A

**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 haven't absorbed it fully. I'm not in agreement with the proposed development South of 50, in Folsom Ranch.

## Section 8 – Education

**8.1 Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?**

Yes. Our prison population is out of control and rehabilitation through existing programs is not working.

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

It depends. Sometimes there is no one size fits all solution. Charter schools could assist public schools with specialized focus/academic programs or different methodologies. Where I don't see them working is if they are mimicking public schools by trying to overtake them or receive more funding.

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

I think performance should be a factor considered in teacher tenure, however, we have to be careful about current issues and perceptions in our community and parent reactions with regard to teachers. It shouldn't be a personality conflict or for the wrong motivation. Where the teacher commits a crime or engages in such behavior, we have to find ways to ensure the teacher is properly disciplined.

**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?**

I will increase the priority to socio-emotional learning and find ways to integrate "play" more into students' lives.

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

LCFF and LCAP allow districts to set funding options and accountability based on their student population and student needs. It gives districts greater flexibility in funding and allows them to set core objectives related to increasing student performance.

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

Yes! Education is a path to economic stability, growth and upward mobility.

## Section 9 - Housing

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

Increase resources and coordination of resources.

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

We have to help increase wages so that everyone has the ability to afford housing and save money. Based on an analysis of the city's workforce, we have to designate and provide for adequate levels of

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affordable housing.

**9.3 Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?**

Yes.

**9.4 Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?**

Yes.

**9.5 What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?**

To implement priorities and streamline permit processes that will accelerate the completion of allocated affordable housing units and construction.

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

**Please explain.**

Yes. Landlords cannot hold our housing markets and vouchers hostage.

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

The American economy and dream are built on the concept of home ownership. We have to provide policies and plans in place to help working class people afford homes and benefit from it.

#### 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, we cannot continue the multiple cars per household equation. We have to promote mass transit, offer schedules that will work for the community and promote leaving your car behind.

**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?**

I would prioritize affordability and access.

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

Safe, affordable and accessible alternate transportation options.

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

If we have better routes and more frequent options, it will help people leave their car behind and take public transportation. In Folsom, a complaint cited often is that people don't take the bus. However, it is because the routes are not well-planned and the frequency of the transportation is too infrequent. Improvement of the experience and communication with the community is key.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate.