

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

Note: The answers to the questionnaire will be shared with the members of the Democratic Party of Sacramento County and local Democratic clubs and may become public.

The DPSC Candidate Questionnaire contains questions from many subject areas that you may feel are not pertinent to the office you seek. We ask these questions because: candidates may go on to other offices, we use one questionnaire for all candidates, and we share the questionnaire with our many clubs which have broad interests. Please answer to the best of your ability. Thank you!

### **Section 1**

Full Name

- Matthew Huntington Ceccato

Email address

- matt@ceccatoforsupervisor.com

Office Sought

- Sacramento County Board of Supervisors District 3

FPPC ID

- 14188766

Occupation

- District Director

Employer

- Congressman Ami Bera, M.D.

Campaign Phone

- (916) 348-9100

Campaign Website

- Ceccatoforsupervisor.com

Campaign Manager

- n/a

Campaign Consultants (list all)

- Chris Chaffee

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

- My anticipated budget is \$300,000 for the primary and I raised over \$12,000 in my first month.

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

- My campaign is a grassroots movement fueled by small dollar contributors.

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

- Yes, I have already printed materials with a union printer and will only continue to do so.

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 voluntarily decline all contributions from fossil fuels, tobacco, pharmaceutical companies, and others. These would violate my personal values and are detrimental to our community.

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.

- Past Vice president and Interim President of Dem Vets (Derrick Matthews 916-813-4702)
- Co-Chair of Greater Sacramento Community Veterans Engagement Board (Melissa Washington 916-253-7357)
- Elk Grove Food Bank committee for Veterans (Marie Jones 916-685-8453)
- California Capitol Air Show, Co-Chair of Community Engagement (Darcy Brewer 916-876-7658)

Please attach your biography, a list of current endorsements, and any campaign literature or social media information as a single file. Please name your file: lastname/office sought.

Have you ever been registered to vote as a member of a political party other than the Democratic Party, or No Party Preference? If so, please state when, why, and for how long.

- No, I have been a registered Democrat since I have been eligible to vote.

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?

- I am a dues paying member of Dem Vets, and previously with various other local Dem clubs

Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

-Yes

What will your ballot designation be?

- Congressional Aide, Father

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?

- I purchased a home in the district with my VA home loan six years ago and I was born and raised in Sacramento.

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

- I have voted in every election since I was 18, including absentee voting while deployed to Iraq.

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 seen a lot of changes as someone who was born and raised in Sacramento. I am running as a combat wounded Veteran, father, and community advocate with six years of congressional service.

- 1) My first priority is to expand mental health access in the county to ensure that people can access treatment.
- 2) Homelessness must be addressed with creative and collaborative ideas that will help transfer people from the streets.
- 3) Transparency and oversight must be instilled as a core value with elected officials. I will open the process and ensure that our tax dollars are spent on vital services, rather than paid out due to County mismanagement and egregious county behavior.

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

- n/a

## **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.

- The Sacramento County budget was recently approved at \$4.2 billion, which is an increase over the previous year. Principal revenue sources are derived from taxes on property, vehicle, and sales transactions. The budget increase is due to a class action settlement surrounding the County Jail and the years of massive mismanagement by the Sheriff and the County.

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

- n/a

What sets you apart from other candidates for this office?

- I was born and raised in Sacramento, attending local public schools, riding RT, and utilizing our natural resources. I have seen the boom of certain neighborhoods, while others struggle. I am running as a combat Veteran, father, and senior congressional aide. I have spent years developing relationships with stakeholders and others to foster an open conversation.

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

- My office will host office hours and strive to continue to make ourselves available for the public. I will continue to develop relationships with the community.

What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?

- All county business should be conducted with transparency to develop buy-in from the community.

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

- Legal protections should be extended to whistleblowers to prevent unlawful repercussions and suppression of government oversight by the public. These employees need to know they are protected and have anonymity in the beginning stages of their testimony.

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

- The contribution limits are too low for a supervisorial race in Sacramento County. These low rates create a barrier to entry for new candidates attempting to overcome large fundraising totals of entrenched incumbents. I believe that the limits should be re-evaluated to ensure that all candidates have equal footing to collect contributions. The low contribution rates make it nearly impossible to mount a successful challenge to an incumbent – allowing the incumbents to act without worry of a challenge.

### **Section 3 – Civil Rights**

What will you do to advance LGBTQ rights?

- I will continue to be an ally, speak out against injustice, and support LGBTQ rights and people.

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 an ally and supporter of a close family member who revealed their sexual orientation at a young age, I have spent my entire life protecting LGBTQ rights. It is necessary to protect all youth, especially LGBTQ students. I will ensure that all youth are provided a safe and supportive environment.

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

- The same holds true for all citizens, as it does for students. As a Supervisor, I would enforce and strengthen laws to protect everyone's rights.

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 am 100% pro-choice. Government should only ensure that ALL residents have access to affordable health care.

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

- There is no excuse for a gender pay gap in Sacramento County. All government employees will be evaluated for pay and adjustments should be made. Women and men should be paid based on their abilities and not gender.

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 comprehensive immigration reform to bring federal law in step with what we know in California: immigrants are a strong fabric of our society. I support a clean DREAM act, a path toward citizenship, and other reforms.

What will you do to protect immigrant communities?

- ICE should not be arbitrarily raiding our communities. I would stop them from arresting our neighbors and educate others on their rights.

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

- Free speech is enshrined in the Constitution and valued around the world. As someone who spent years in countries with oppressive regimes, I personally understand our rights and privilege of free speech. At the same time, current regulations that prevent unlawful and chaotic events should continue to be banned and enforced (i.e. yelling "bomb" in public as a hoax).

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

- I support universal background checks for the purchase of all weapons. As a Veteran, I understand that most gun owners are responsible and are willing to submit to checks. Further, I support the 'no fly, no buy' policy.

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

- The current criminal justice system has locked up too many young people and people of color. I do not believe that every community has received a fair chance under the current system. I support bail and sentencing reform, automatic review of past drug convictions, as well as the review of past criminal convictions. We must also educate and provide additional training of law enforcement to change their culture and protect the rights of all our communities.

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

- I do not support the current capital punishment system, but believe it should be an option for specific crimes.

Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement.

- Black lives matter.

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

- Supervisors needs to hold our Sheriff accountable for his actions and reinstate oversight on police shootings. A citizen commission with the power of investigation would reignite buy-in from all neighborhoods. If a local measure is required to provide the Board of Supervisors to fully manage the Sheriff, I would be the first to vote for it and support the campaign to pass it.

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 police body cameras and want to see AB 748 enforced in the county. There is a need for transparency within law enforcement.

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

- As someone who struggles with a disability, I support efforts to make sidewalks and public areas accessible for all residents. At the same time, protections should be enforced to prevent unlawful firings.

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

- Documents should be available in commonly spoken languages in the county.

#### **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 and pre-existing conditions should not prevent or increase the cost of coverage.

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

- As a parent of two girls, I support child independence and am pro-choice. I believe in the protections that California has legislated giving all women, no matter their age, the ability to choose to terminate their pregnancy without parental notification. I also believe that girls under

16 should be required to speak with a qualified advocate to talk about their pregnancy and their medical options, which is proscribed in current law.

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

- The current board has failed to receive or apply for all possible federal and state funding to provide mental health services. It is a breach of public trust that the Board decided to decline even applying for additional state funds for homeless services. As a combat Veteran, every resident should have the opportunity to see a mental health provider. As a human being, every dollar possible should be fought for as there is too great a need to ignore the opportunity to expand vital mental services in Sacramento County

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

- I would continue to support the Black Child Legacy Campaign to provide pregnancy advice and coaches for black communities in Sacramento County.

## **Section 5 – Good Jobs for All**

Describe your relationship with organized labor.

- As a child and sibling of SEIU state workers and a member of UFCW, I support organized labor.

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

- I support the rights of all workers to unionize.

Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

- No, but I will be at the August training.

Do you support project labor agreements?

- I hope to mirror a local project labor agreement similar to Sacramento city for the county.

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 all labor unions.

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

- Continuing on my work in Congressman Bera's office, I will serve as an advocate for good jobs in the region. Companies relocating or growing in our area will have to provide better wages and



benefits for their employees. I would use all available means to protect workers and promote job growth.

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

- All budgetary matters should be conducted with the direct input of the community. I would offer workshops and invite constituents to participate in the process. There is a need to reevaluate current spending to ensure that all dollars are accounted for before cutting.

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

- The income inequality in district 3 has been well documented on a national level. The growing income disparity furthers a broken system. I will conduct specific outreach to the census tracts and provide direct resources. My first step, once elected, would be to bring all constituents into the process and conversation.

## **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?

- All current revenue streams must be evaluated to ensure the county is being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Shortfalls, such as roads and school issues, need creative solutions that are backed and supported by residents.

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

- I do not support the privatization of schools, natural resources, or any other public facility.

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

- PPP has shown to be a productive generator in times of federal and state inaction. However, the public interest must remain protected.

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

- It is appropriate if it positively impacts the local economy and benefits the community and local workers. Regardless, transparency must be paramount in any situation.

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

- I will build upon my relationships with small business leaders, chambers of commerce, and other organizations that are dedicated to protecting the rights of workers and development of small business. The county must streamline its permitting and other processes to encourage affordable housing and the small business development in every community. We must encourage small business owners through open, fair and efficient internal County processes and understand the sacrifices these entrepreneurs make.

## **Section 7 – Environment**

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

- I do not support the construction of the Delta tunnels.

When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary?

- Controlling sprawl is the only way we will address climate change, road congestion, and more. Sacramento county needs to reevaluate the General Plan and stick to it.

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

- I support land conservation and worked to ensure the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan was approved and to protect our regional vernal pools. Our rivers are a natural beauty that must be preserved and protected for resident and wildlife.

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

- Climate change is the biggest challenge facing human existence. It is necessary to take actionable steps today to prevent further damage. The County Climate Action Plan must be strengthened to prevent further greenhouse gases. Besides reducing county emissions, I would encourage and grow public transportation.

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

- I have participated in county land use planning exercise and within several surrounding cities.

Have you read the General Plan and do you agree with its vision of future development? If not, what changes would you propose?

- Yes, I have read the General Plan adopted in 2011. There have been too many changes in the county that require that plan to be updated. The county should revisit the plan to ensure it meets the needs of our growing population and economy.

## **Section 8 – Education**

Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

- I do support restorative justice and believe that the programs work. The county must prioritize these programs (Vet Treatment Court, Drug Court, etc.) to focus on rehabilitation instead of just incarceration.

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

- Charter schools can offer a potential choice in communities with no schools or failing ones. However, oversight and standards must never be relinquished as they are funded by our tax dollars.

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

- As a child of a former school teacher, I understand the sacrifices teachers make on a daily basis. It is common sense for the protection and nurturing of the next generation to pay our teachers a higher wage and ensure that they stay protected.

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

- As a victim of bullying I have seen the drastic effects on school performance and child mental health. We must address the issue head on with education, training, and awareness in our schools.

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

- An achievement gap exists in every school district, especially SJUSD. I would continue to work with school board members and parent groups to close these gaps and provide greater resources.

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

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

- Higher education, especially public schools, must be affordable for all to attend.

## **Section 9 - Housing**

What is your plan to address homelessness in your community?

- Too many homeless people on our streets struggle with mental health issues and do not have access to services. I would continue my work to provide resources, counseling, and other options to bring more people into secure housing with wrap around services and the opportunity to stabilize their lives. The county must also be creative and proactive to ensure

enough affordable housing is built in the region. I would also expand and strengthen the county's relationship with the City of Sacramento in regard to our homeless crisis, as the city has been at the forefront of investing in homeless care and service.

What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?

- The county and city must work together on a plan to keep people in their homes. We must build and provide more living options.

Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?

- There is no excuse for rents to exorbitantly increase from year to year. Tenant rights should be protected and just cause eviction ordinances must be enforced.

Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?

- I support affordable housing and believe that low income residents have the same rights as others.

What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

- My plan for funding affordable housing is to review the current budget for mismanagement, work with our city and state partners, and stream-line the permitting process for affordable housing projects.

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

- No one should be discriminated against at any time.

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

- The county should support existing programs to help people purchase a home. The work of affordable housing groups, like NeighborWorks, need to be advertised so more residents understand the down payment assistance programs available, home ownership classes, and financial education classes available in Sacramento County.

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

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

- I believe that a strong public transportation network will help with climate change and alleviate our congested roads. Creative, but equitable, decisions must be made to increase ridership and 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?

- I would continue the plan to push for greater connectivity in the county to the existing RT system. Micro-transit options will help my district but a larger restructuring of bus routes is needed.

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

- I would continue to support public transportation and increase access of routes to where the people live.

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

- Our community must prioritize public transit and make it accessible. A priority project is to restructure the district's bus routes and to increase the RT micro transit program.