

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: Catrayel N. Wood

Email address: cwood@catrayelwood.org

Office Sought: Sacramento County Board Supervisor for District 3

FPPC ID (enter N/A if you do not yet have one): 1416831

Occupation: Senior Budget & Policy Analyst

Employer: JCC

Campaign Phone: (916) 792-5811

Campaign Website: www.catrayelwood.org

Campaign Manager: Shaun Rojas

Campaign Consultants (list all): A former Sacramento County Board Supervisor and several prior candidates for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

What is your anticipated budget and how much have you raised to date? We've exceeded our initial expectations but we've decided not to disclose our anticipated budget and how much we've raised thus far to maintain our competitive edge. These figures will be disclosed at a later date and time.

What are your primary sources for fundraising? Please list your top three campaign contributors. I've built a robust fundraising operation.

Will all your campaign materials be printed by a union printer? Yes, that is my intent.

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've built a robust fundraising operation, but my campaign will always be focused on principles, ideas, and the interests of voters.

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. I am the 39th Honorary Mayor of Fair Oaks and have been an active member of the community

for years. I've been a member of [Habitat Young Professionals \(HYP\) - Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento](#), and I currently serve as a board member for the [Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce](#), and [ACE](#).

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. **Please see attached.**

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 not.**

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, I have not.**

Are you a dues-paying member of the Democratic Party of Sacramento County? **No, I am not.**

Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement? **Yes, that is my intent.**

What will your ballot designation be? **Senior Budget Analyst**

Have you read the Platform of the California Democratic Party? **Yes, I have.**

Have you read, and will you adhere to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices distributed by the Sacramento County Elections Department? **Yes, I have read the Code of Fair Campaign Practices distributed by the Sacramento County Elections Department and yes, I will adhere to the code.**

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've been a resident of District 3, Fair Oaks to be specific, since 2016.**

Out of the last five elections, how many have you voted in? **All of them. I don't believe I've missed an election since I've started voting at the age of 18.**

Why did you decide to run for your position and what do you hope to accomplish during your tenure? List your top three issues. **The time has come for a new generation to step forward, innovate, and lead Sacramento County to a better tomorrow. I am running for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors because hard working individuals are living paycheck to paycheck despite working full-time. I am running for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors because hard working individuals can no longer afford the rising rents. I am running for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors because hard working families are living on the streets because our county government is hamstrung by inaction and slow responses to the challenges at hand.**

I am running for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors because home affordability has hit a 10-year low; because residents can no longer afford the median home price; because poverty rose faster in Arden Arcade than anywhere else in California; because there was a 20 percent rise in homelessness between 2017 and 2019; and because a homeless person dies every 3 days in Sacramento County. I am running for

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors because we can do better than this. I'm running for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors because the time has come for change and a new vision for our future.

If you are an incumbent, what have you accomplished during your tenure? Not applicable.

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. Yes, I am. Sacramento County's FY 2019-20 budget is \$4.4 billion with incoming revenue from property taxes, sales, and other taxes.

Will you support moving to by-district elections (rather than at-large) where they are not held now? Please explain. Yes. Elected officials need to be accountable to their constituents.

What sets you apart from other candidates for this office? What I bring to the campaign is a unique and innovative approach that combines divergent thinking, a natural appreciation for collaboration, and the courage to take risks. We need to move beyond the group think of career politicians who can only provide ideas. Ideas are easy, everyone has one. It's execution that's important and it takes a collaborative effort, a team, to bring about change.

How will you work with community advocates? However I can. A collaborative relationship between elected officials and community advocates is necessary to move Sacramento County forward.

What will you do to promote transparency and ethics? California has an array of ethics laws to guide local officials in their service to their communities.

What whistle-blower protections should there be for public employees who expose corruption, sexual harassment, or other illegal/unethical activity? Employees are protected, in most cases, by general statutes and common law that prohibits discrimination and retaliation against whistleblowers.

Do you believe that current campaign finance rules should be changed? If so, how would you change them? A case can be made for a public finance option.

Section 3 – Civil Rights

What will you do to advance LGBTQ rights? No one should be the victim of discrimination because of who they are. To effectively advance LGBTQ rights it is imperative to develop, implement, and enforce policies that prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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? No one should be the victim of bullying because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. To combat this, we must develop, implement, and enforce policies that prevent bullying and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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

in education, employment, and housing we must continue to develop, implement, and enforce policies that prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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? It is a woman's right to have access to comprehensive healthcare, including the right to choose and access contraception, and the right to obtain a medically safe and legal abortion.

If elected, what will you do to close the gender pay gap? There are many factors contributing to an overall lower rate of pay for women, especially women of color. In order to address the gender pay gap we must hold public and private sector organizations accountable for these disparities.

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? We need to develop and implement fair and humane policies that facilitates the ease of legal immigration.

What will you do to protect immigrant communities? Whatever I can.

Should there be limits on free speech or assembly in public places, such as protesting or picketing? Please explain. No. These are rights enshrined in the US Constitution.

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

Do you feel the criminal justice system is just and fair to everyone? If not, what reforms would you like to see? The criminal justice system needs to be reformed so that it operates fairly and equitably.

Do you support capital punishment? If so, please explain when you think it's appropriate. Murder, by any means, is morally reprehensible and those who commit violent and heinous acts need to be held accountable, but we must reform the criminal justice system so that it operates fairly and equitably for all.

Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement. The First Amendment guarantees the "right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

How will you work toward greater police accountability? What role would the community play in that? Effective oversight can take an array of forms and can operate under a wide range of authorities. Each jurisdiction needs to carefully assess the needs of the community and the needs of local law enforcement to adequately determine the costs and benefits of the oversight programs under consideration.

Do you support the universal use of police body cameras? When is it appropriate to release police body camera footage? Yes, I do support the universal use of police body cameras. I believe it is appropriate to release police body camera footage as soon as reasonably possible. Unnecessary delay may be interpreted as a lack of transparency and may undermine the community's trust in law enforcement.

What will you do to make your community more accessible to people with disabilities? As cities grow, they must be built with accessibility in mind and those with disabilities must be involved in the planning process.

What will you do to ensure that non-English speakers can fully participate in public meetings and access public services? First, we need to ensure that non-English speakers are aware of existing language access services and resources. From there, we'll need to continually monitor those services to ensure that they are meeting the needs of those they're intended to serve. It is important that we ensure equal access regardless of any individual's ability to communicate in English.

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? Yes, I do believe healthcare is a human right.

What is your position on parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy? Please explain. This is a decision that is best left to families. Elected officials dictating how that decision should be made will only further complicate an already difficult choice.

What measures would you support to ensure adequate mental health services for all? Mental health providers must be given adequate funding to hire skilled staff and to implement evidence-based practices to help meet demand.

What will you do to help address high child mortality rates in the black community in Sacramento County? I support the Black Child Legacy Campaign.

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

Describe your relationship with organized labor. I've had several meetings with union officials, most recently with several members of SEIU. These meetings have been very productive as they've allowed me to share my thoughts, and listen, on how we can effectively collaborate and move our county forward.

Do you support the right of workers to unionize by card check? Yes, I do.

Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy? I am scheduled to attend the August 17th Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy.

Do you support project labor agreements? Academic studies regarding the advantages and disadvantages of PLAs are inconclusive.

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've had several meetings with union officials, most recently with several members of SEIU. These meetings have been very productive as they've allowed me to share my thoughts, and listen, on how we can effectively collaborate and move our county forward.

What is the role of the office that you seek in promoting good jobs for our region? We need to invest in new innovations and ideas; create an atmosphere that is small business-friendly; reduce business costs; and simplify local regulations for startups.

What solutions would you propose to solve budget shortfalls and how would you prioritize the needs of your constituents? Consult stakeholders; eliminate nonessentials; prioritize projects; favor revenue-generating expenditures; and consider the long-term implications.

Do you believe income inequality is an issue in your community? If so, what steps would you take to address it? According to a 2016 report from the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, income inequality grew by over 30 percent in the greater Sacramento region. We need targeted programs that are aimed at low-income families and individuals.

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? I support any reasonable measure that is economically inclusive and promotes economic growth.

Under what conditions would you support the privatization of public or natural resources (i.e. water, publicly-owned buildings, schools, park lands, parking facilities)? It depends on the circumstances and whether it translates into improved efficiency.

What is your position on "public/private partnerships"? Public private partnerships, when well structured, can be valuable.

When is it appropriate to use public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business? The use of public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business vary widely, so do their effects. I've seen little substantive evidence to support the use public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business as a means to spur long-term economic growth.

What is your plan to support and encourage local small business development? We need to invest in new innovations and ideas; create an atmosphere that is small business-friendly; reduce business costs; and simplify local regulations for startups.

Section 7 – Environment

Do you support the construction of the Delta tunnels and the Southeast Connector? Please explain. This requires further analysis and I've taken no position on the matter at this time.

When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary? We must promote multi-modal investments and infill development.

Please describe your position on regional habitat and working lands conservation. This requires further analysis and I've taken no position on the matter at this time.

What will you do to address climate change in your role? Please be specific. Develop a local climate change plan that is both adaptive and mitigative.

Please describe your education and/or experience with land use planning. I support land use planning when it promotes more desirable social and environmental outcomes and the efficient use of resources.

Have you read the General Plan and do you agree with its vision of future development? If not, what changes would you propose? Sacramento County's General Plan, its amendments, and supporting documentation is more than 2000 pages. As of this response, I have not completed my review and analysis.

Section 8 – Education

Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs? Yes, I do.

What role do you believe charter schools should play in public education? Charter schools vary widely in their performance. The academic achievement gap needs to be addressed and charter schools may play a role in that.

Do you support reforming teacher tenure, due process protections, or teacher salary and benefits? Please explain. Teachers are often overworked, underpaid, and underappreciated. We need to do a better job of valuing our teachers.

What will you do to minimize bullying and promote tolerance in school? We need to provide educators and administrators with the tools and resources necessary to recognize the signs of bullying and intervene.

Is there an achievement gap in your school district? If so, what will you do to close that gap? Yes, there is. The National Education Association (NEA) has conducted numerous, ongoing, studies on how to best close achievement gaps. I would adhere to their recommended strategies.

For school board candidates: Please explain LCFF and LCAP in three sentences or fewer. Not applicable. I am not running for school board.

Do you believe that public adult education, colleges, and universities should be tuition free? I've been thinking about this a lot in recent months and there is no substantive basis for colleges and universities to bury students in debt, but I have a very hard time supporting a policy that doesn't really address the broader issue of affordability. According to a recent study, in California, for example, tuition accounts for less than half of the annual cost of attending a UC. The real barrier for many students is not necessarily the cost of tuition but the cost of living.

College affordability involves many difficult issues from class to government spending. If we are really address the burdens of student debt, then we must move beyond politically expedient conversations of free tuition and focus on the root causes of educational inequality.

Section 9 - Housing

What is your plan to address homelessness in your community? Individuals and families fall into homelessness every month in Sacramento County due to a variety of reasons including rising housing prices, job loss, eviction, or illness. Combating homelessness requires effective strategies to reduce the number of families and individuals who become homeless.

We need to retool the current systems to better meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness by taking into account the changing needs of our community's Veterans, families, and far too many of our youth.

Let's implement programs that actually solve homelessness. Let's use data to drive results and invest in evidence-based practices to functionally end homelessness; let's collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations; and let's provide affordable and permanent housing as quickly as possible by streamlining application and approval processes and reducing wait times.

I am running for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 3 because I believe that we can functionally end homelessness by putting a system in place that prioritizes housing first. I am running for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 3 because I believe that no one should experience homelessness, and no one should be without a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis? Our friends and families across the county are struggling to find and afford homes that are safe and connected to the resources they need. We're experiencing bidding wars for homes and long lines to rent apartments. This doesn't have to be the case. Let's work together and push for sensible reforms to make the current system more efficient for us all.

My vision for Sacramento County is built on the principles of the American Dream -- and to make this dream a reality:

We need to re-think the overly restrictive fees and regulations so that we can create more affordable housing. Let's streamline the approval process for the development of new homes; let's provide more choice for renters by bringing new products into the market to meet the growing appetite for affordable housing; let's leverage private investment to create affordable homes and apartments; and let's provide incentives to include an equitable number of affordable homes within new developments so that the community can benefit from expanding the supply of affordable homes.

Improving housing affordability is a must if we are to make the American Dream possible for more members of our community. This should be a key policy goal for Sacramento County and it will be once I'm elected to the County Board of Supervisors.

Do you support rent control and just cause eviction? I understand the appeal of rent control and it does have certain short-term benefits to residents. However, countless nonpartisan economic studies have shown that rent control results in artificially high rents by disincentivizing new construction.

Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances? Yes, I do.

What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction? We need to re-think the overly restrictive fees and regulations so that we can create more affordable housing. Let's streamline the approval process for the development of new homes; let's provide more choice for renters by bringing new products into the market to meet the growing appetite for affordable housing; let's leverage private investment to create affordable homes and apartments; and let's provide incentives to include an equitable number of affordable homes within new developments so that the community can benefit from expanding the supply of affordable homes.

Improving housing affordability is a must if we are to make the American Dream possible for more members of our community. This should be a key policy goal for Sacramento County and it will be once I'm elected to the County Board of Supervisors.

Would you support a local ordinance to end Housing Choice Voucher discrimination (Section 8)? Yes, I would. Discrimination against voucher holders and the biases of landlords are exacerbating inequality.

What is your plan to ensure that working class people have opportunities for home ownership? We need to re-think the overly restrictive fees and regulations so that we can create more affordable housing. Let's streamline the approval process for the development of new homes; let's provide more choice for renters by bringing new products into the market to meet the growing appetite for affordable housing; let's leverage private investment to create affordable homes and apartments; and let's provide incentives to

include an equitable number of affordable homes within new developments so that the community can benefit from expanding the supply of affordable homes.

Improving housing affordability is a must if we are to make the American Dream possible for more members of our community. This should be a key policy goal for Sacramento County and it will be once I'm elected to the County Board of Supervisors.

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

Would you support a local sales tax measure to fund transportation and public transit? Please explain. Yes, I would support a local sales tax measure to fund transportation and public transit that is efficient and effective.

If you are seated on the board of SACOG, STA, or Regional Transit, how would you use your role and what would you prioritize? Not applicable.

What is your plan to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled in the region? Promote multi-modal investments and infill development.

What is your plan to improve local and regional public transit? Please describe a priority project. I would support a local sales tax measure to fund transportation and public transit that is efficient and effective.

Hi,

My name is Catrayel N. Wood, I'm 34, a father to a beautiful and brilliant two-year-old daughter named Vivian, a husband to a beautiful and creative, award winning, multi-published author named [JaNay](#), and I love my mom. I'm the 39th Honorary Mayor of Fair Oaks, a Senior Budget & Policy Analyst with the Judicial Council of California, and I announced my candidacy for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 3 in a May 16, 2019 [Sacramento News and Review Op-ed](#) because I believe we're at one of those rare moments in history where we've been given the opportunity to change our county for the better and because I know I'm the best candidate for the job.

I'm running for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 3 because our county government is hamstrung by inaction and slow responses to the challenges at hand. There's a lack of affordable housing, rents are rising, families are living paycheck to paycheck despite working full-time, and there are continued spikes in homelessness. We can do better than this. What has stopped our current elected officials from meeting these challenges is an absence of sound policies, plans, and a clear vision for our future.

I've been an active member of the community for years. I've been a member of [Habitat Young Professionals \(HYP\) - Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento](#), I am a recognized and honored donor for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento, and I currently serve as a board member for the [Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce](#), and [ACE](#). I hold a bachelor's degree in Politics & International Relations from the University of London, London School of Economics, have an MBA, and I've studied economics, finance, and marketing at the University of Oxford, Cornell, and Peking University, respectively.

Below is a small sampling of what's been said about me in the media.

There have been several press releases and news articles about my campaign; here is a recent example: *American River Messenger* [Catrayel Wood Runs for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors](#). I view this article as a small indicator of the growing support for my campaign. It has been liked more than 300 times and shared nearly a 1000.

Website: www.catrayelwood.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CatrayelNWood>

Endorse me for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors for District 3 and let's move beyond a district where home affordability has hit a 10-year low; where residents can no longer afford the median home price; and where poverty rose faster in Arden Arcade than anywhere else in California. Let's move beyond a 20 percent rise in homelessness between 2017 and 2019; and let's move beyond a time in which a homeless person dies every 3 days in Sacramento County. Endorse me and let's provide a new vision for our future.