

Democratic Party of Sacramento County

Questionnaire: City Council Candidates

NOTE: The answers you provide on this questionnaire will be made available to DPSC members and will become public. Questions that are underlined are yes/no questions and do not require an explanation unless your response is “no.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Candidate Name	Katie Valenzuela
Office Sought	Sacramento City Council, District 4
FPPC ID	Katie Valenzuela for Sacramento City Council 2020, ID#1416339
Occupation	Policy & Political Director
Employer	California Environmental Justice Alliance
Campaign Email	<u>info@katie4council.com</u>
Campaign Phone	916-382-2116
Campaign Website & Social Media	<u>http://katie4council.com/</u> <u>https://twitter.com/katie4council</u> <u>https://www.instagram.com/katie4citycouncil/</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/katie4council/</u>
Campaign Manager or Contact Person	Beau Reynolds
Campaign Consultants (list all)	Kate Lyon, Mission Control LLC (general consultant) Alyssa Nelson (volunteer coordinator)
Anticipated Budget & Funds Raised	\$50,000 budget; \$28,000 raised
Are you a dues-paying DPSC member?	Yes

Optional demographic questions:

Racial/Ethnic Identity	Native American/White
Gender Identity/Pronouns	She/Her/Hers
LGBTQ+?	No
Veteran?	No
Young Democrat (35 or under)?	Yes
Union Member?	No

Please list all offices you have held or organizations to which you belong or in which you have held a leadership position, and what position you held:

Office/Organization	Position Held	Duration
Sacramento Community Land Trust	Co-chair	Sept 2017-present

AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee	Co-chair	Sept 2015-May 2017
Office of Health Equity	Advisory Committee Member	Sept 2015-May 2017
South Oak Park Community Association	Board Member	Aug 2015-Sept 2017
Oak Park Neighborhood Association	President Vice President Board Member	Jan 2017-Nov 2017 Jan 2016-Dec 2016 Aug 2015-Dec 2015
South Sacramento Building Health Communities	Steering Committee Member	Dec 2012-May 2014
Sacramento Young Professionals of Color	Leadership Team	Oct 2012-Mar 2015

ISSUE QUESTIONS

Section 1 – Viability & Campaign

1. Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

Yes

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

Yes

3. Have you always been a registered Democrat? If no, please state what else you were registered as, when, for how long, and why.

Yes

4. What will your ballot designation be? **TBD**

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

My donors have all been grassroots individuals, except for one business donation from my cousin. I have not received any PAC or other business donations to-date, except for two business donations that I returned.

My 3 biggest donors: Brian Shobe (Associate Policy Director, California Climate & Agriculture Network - \$1,750), Dean Florez (Former Senator - \$1,750), and Rose Cabral (Realtor - \$1,750)

6. Do you voluntarily decline contributions from any particular contributor or class of contributors? If so, list who and why.

Yes – I decline gifts from lobbying firms and will deny contributions from any individual or business that has taken or is proposing actions that contradict my values.

7. 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, list who, for which office, and why? Please be specific. **No**
8. Have you ever been investigated (by a governmental agency or private entity) for allegations that you engaged in discrimination, harassment, abuse, or retaliation? If so, what was the result of the investigation? **No**
9. Is there anything in your history on the subject of discrimination, harassment, abuse, or retaliation, which, if revealed, would bring you, your proposed office, or the Democratic Party into disrepute? **No**
10. How long have you lived in the district and community you seek to represent?

I moved to this district in the summer of 2009. I lived here until December 2014, when I bought a house in Oak Park. I moved back to this district in July 2017. Total time in this district is 7 years.

11. Out of the last five elections, how many have you voted in? **All five**
12. Why did you decide to run for this office and what do you plan to accomplish during your tenure?

Sacramento is at a crossroads. We are experiencing unprecedented housing prices and an unacceptable number of our neighbors are homeless. We also have opportunities to lead on climate and help our small businesses thrive, and to get more people engaged in local policies and budgets. I'm running because I think this is the right time for Sacramento to show that it is possible to preserve our communities while creating opportunities for everyone to thrive.

My biggest priority is to refocus Sacramento on serving residents who are here now. I have been implementing this priority by soliciting feedback on my campaign from the community through online surveys and canvassing, which has led to a platform that focuses on what District 4 residents care about the

most: accountability, housing and homelessness, climate change, and investing in our future. I will continue to proactively solicit input from my constituents, keeping an open door policy for input and feedback from the community, and pushing for transparency in our public spending and actions so everyone can understand what the Council is working on and hold us accountable if we are not acting in the public's best interest.

13. What sets you apart from the other candidates for this office?

I have a very strong background in community work. I have over 20 years of community organizing and advocacy experience as well as a Master's degree in community development, and value robust engagement and collaborative decision-making in everything that I do. I have documented success working out solutions to complex issues. I have always worked hard, holding down multiple part-time jobs to get through school and maintaining a strong record of volunteering in our region while working full-time.

I am a strong progressive that is not afraid to stand up for what's right; whether it's supporting higher use of force standards for our police, supporting a Democratic candidate for District Attorney, pushing for strong renter protections, and pushing the City to be more ambitious in our work to fight climate change by advocating for a zero emissions target by 2030 (and not 2045), my history on local issues stands in stark contrast to the positions of the incumbent that I'm running against. I don't just say I value something – I put my time and energy into actions that support those values.

I have also heard that James Lee Clark ("Faygo") is running as a Green Party candidate. I greatly appreciate James' advocacy for rights for people experiencing homelessness, but feel that I have more experience, policy expertise, and relationships in the community.

14. If you are an incumbent, what have you accomplished during your tenure? If you are a non-incumbent, what have you accomplished in the community prior to running?

I am not an incumbent, but have a long history of getting things done in Sacramento. While working at the Sacramento Housing Alliance I organized a 7-Day Food Stamp Challenge that enlisted local leaders and community advocates to live on the average CalFresh budget for one week. I built gardens in North and South Sacramento, eventually founding the Sacramento Urban Agriculture Coalition to address local zoning and policy changes needed to enable people to grow and sell food. I helped create a new neighborhood association in South Oak Park, and later started a consulting firm to build on my environmental justice work for groups in Sacramento and across the state. I helped manage the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute to train local leaders of color with the technical skills and policy expertise to be

effective representatives. I fought alongside neighborhoods in South Sacramento who were trying to keep the City Planning Commission from approving additional drive-thru restaurants in their community, eventually helping them identify goals for the next general plan update. I worked for three years at the State Capitol to legalize homemade food sales through AB 626 (E. Garcia). I was one of the first Sacramento appointees to California's AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee and was elected co-chair by my peers, leading the group to completely revamp the community engagement process for the California 2030 Target Scoping Plan by successfully advocating for the resources to hold 19 workshops in environmental justice communities across the state. I also served on the Office of Health Equity's Advisory Committee, using my personal experience as someone with a chronic disease to advocate for state level policy change. I helped facilitate the Sacramento Neighborhood Coalition, uniting neighborhoods across the City to push for transparency and accountability in our government. I was the first staff consultant for California's Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies. I also spent three years building the Sacramento Community Land Trust, which just accepted its first major grants to help combat gentrification and market speculation in Sacramento County.

I have stood up against oil, big tobacco, realtor/developer interests, and corporate lobbyists and will always fight for what I think is right.

Section 2 - District & Governance

15. 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 City of Sacramento's annual budget for 2019/20 is \$1.2 billion, split almost equally between general fund/Measure U and the Enterprise Fund (sustained by fees). Most of the City's revenue comes from taxes (44.1%, which is broken down as 33% is from property taxes, 17% from sales taxes, 12% from the utility user tax), charges/fees/services (38.2%, which includes impact/development fees, penalties/fines, regulatory fees, rental fees, and service fees). More than half of the expenditures go toward city employees (52.7%).

16. Does your city conduct its elections by-district (rather than at-large)? If not, would you support moving its elections to by-district? **Yes, Sacramento conducts elections by-district.**
17. How will you work with community advocates? What will you do to be accessible to community members and other stakeholders?

First of all, we need to undo the recent charter amendment that removed the requirement for City Council meetings to be in the evening. Secondly, I want to establish an expectation for my office and the city as a whole that proactive outreach and engagement with communities should occur *before* a proposal is brought to council or planning commission. I'd like to establish working groups of impacted community members and organizations working to tackle tough challenges so our interventions stay grounded in best practices and real outcomes, like for small business owners or affordable housing developers. Third, I want the City to embrace new methods of evaluation and goal-setting that is based on community input; we should have metrics defined by the community and continued reporting on how we are doing with those metrics, and annual reporting on racial and neighborhood impacts of city policies and investments to allow for comprehensive review and policy adjustment if needed.

18. What will you do to promote transparency and ethics at city hall?

Everything that our City and council does should be publicly available. I will post my office budgets online, and send weekly updates to my constituents with a full, complete reporting of all meetings that I've participated in with other elected officials or stakeholders. I will also advocate for resources and autonomy for the Sacramento Ethics Commission.

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

All public employees should be protected to the fullest extent of the law. Public government should exceed the standards in the law by instituting requirements for external investigation once a potentially verifiable complaint is received.

20. Does your city have contribution limits, public financing for campaigns, or any other campaign finance reform? Do you support adopting any such measures or changing the current measures that your city has in place?

Sacramento does have campaign contribution limits and the Campaign Reform Fund to provide public financing for campaigns (which hasn't been funded since 2010). I fully support allocating money to fund the Campaign Reform Fund.

21. What is the most disadvantaged area or constituency in your city or district? What is your plan for ensuring that that area or constituency receives the representation and services it needs?

District 4 is home to many of our unhoused residents who desperately need basic human services (bathrooms, clean water, lockers for storage, places to

sleep); addressing those immediate needs will be my first priority. I then want to work with housing and homelessness advocates to identify and address the gap in transitional and supportive housing to accommodate those coming off of the streets or out of temporary shelters as well as to prevent those who need assistance from ending up on the streets in the first place.

District 4 is also home to large SHRA managed housing complexes on Broadway named Marina Vista and Alder Grove that are incredibly isolated from services or representation. I want to stop the current plans for “redevelopment” of those complexes and engage in a community planning process with residents of those complexes to identify strategies the City and SHRA can implement to meet their needs.

Finally, District 4 is home to the most renters than any other council district in the City, so building off of the City’s recent anti-rent gouging measure to further improve protections for renters is critical.

Section 3 – Civil Rights

22. Do you support 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?

Yes

23. Do you support giving undocumented immigrants living in the United States a path towards citizenship?

Yes

24. Do you believe that LGBTQ people should have equal rights in employment, housing, education, and to marry?

Yes

25. Do you support background checks for all firearm and ammunition sales?

Yes

26. Do you believe that capital punishment should be abolished?

Yes

27. What will you do to advance LGBTQ rights?

As someone who is not LGBTQ, I will proactively build relationships and seek input from the LGBTQ community to get feedback and build partnerships to address their needs. No one should experience diminished quality of life or access to opportunity because they are LGBTQ.

28. What will you do to end discrimination in employment and housing?

Learning from what worked in affirmative action, we need to establish more robust data and reporting on employment, promotions, and housing that is disaggregated by race, gender, etc. to allow for public review and recalibration as needed. We cannot ensure equity without good data.

29. What will you do to close the pay gap?

Similar to the question about discrimination, we need better and more public data to allow the Council to review and assess pay equity issues. The City should then use that data to establish a deadline for achieving pay equity and report out to the community on its progress each year to ensure accountability.

30. What will you do to protect immigrant communities?

I will continue to defend our work to be a Sanctuary City and fight to defend our data to ensure that City services are not used to identify and incarcerate undocumented individuals. I would also direct my staff to evaluate all investments and partnerships to ensure that no public resources are being used to support Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities or private prisons.

31. Do you support placing limits on free speech or assembly in public places, such as protesting, picketing, or panhandling? If so, how would you decide what those limits should be?

I absolutely do not support limits on free speech or assembly. It is a constitutional right and essential to building/maintaining a healthy democracy.

32. Do you believe that the criminal justice system is just and fair to everyone, particularly black and brown communities? If not, what reforms do you publicly support?

The criminal justice system is absolutely not just and fair to everyone, particularly to people of color. This is a legacy of colonization and slavery, where communities of color have historically been oppressed, cut off from opportunity, and over-policed.

There is no simple solution, but we can start with better data so we can hold the Police Department and District Attorney accountable for inequitable patterns in who is arrested for and convicted of crimes. We also need to invest in communities to ensure there is an adequate support network to help formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals who may be struggling with access to the services and opportunities they need to thrive.

33. What are the issues affecting black and brown communities in your district and will you do to address those issues?

The primary issues in our community are housing and homelessness. District 4 must grapple with the escalation in the cost of rental housing and the rise in number of individuals experiencing homelessness that disproportionately impacts residents of color. Specific to one particular community of color in the district that is managed by SHRA – Marina Vista and Alder Grove – residents deserve a meaningful community planning process to ensure that improvement to their neighborhood meet their needs. As representative for this district, I think I also have the responsibility for ensuring that black and brown residents who live outside of my district but come here for work or recreation feel safe from police harassment and have access to affordable and efficient transportation options.

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

Accountability starts with process and only works if there are meaningful consequences. The Council needs to approve [the recommendations presented last fall by the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission](#), and embolden that Commission with the authority to recommend disciplinary actions for officers who violate the rules. The Council and the Commission should be open to receiving complaints or suggestions from the community, and should be responsible for ensuring those items are fully examined and considered by staff. I also believe that the public should have access to an annual report on any disciplinary recommendations or actions taken against officers.

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

Absolutely. Our officers should never be doing things that they wouldn't want the public to see. The only time I think body camera footage should not be released is when there is a sensitive issue with a suspect or victim of a crime – for example, if they are investigating a brutal murder or assault, I'd hate for that victim to have their body shown to the public.

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

Finding accessible housing is a major obstacle for people with disabilities. I would like to see the City dedicate resources to programs that help adapt a home or apartment for those individual's needs.

I would also push for an assessment of our sidewalk system. There are too many neighborhoods that have insufficient curb-cuts, lighting, width, etc. to accommodate people with wheelchairs or other mobility challenges. These improvements will help everyone who uses sidewalks, but are urgently needed for individuals who might otherwise place themselves in danger by using the street for getting around.

Further, since the City holds seats on Sacramento Regional Transit, I will use my potential appointment to that board to fight to ensure adequate levels of service throughout the City and for Paratransit.

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

Sacramento really struggles with communicating with people who don't speak English. I have never been to a public meeting that had translation services, and have often talked to people who don't speak English who complain about problems that the City has not addressed. This isn't just about creating better policy and ensuring access – if a climate disaster strikes (which it will) we must have a plan to meet everyone's needs, and that mandates that we are able to communicate with and to our extensive non-English speaking population.

Sacramento should invest in the equipment and contracts to ensure that translation and interpretation is possible for every public meeting. Then, we must go out and engage those communities so we can build trust and establish methods for communicating with them in an ongoing way. This will look different in every community, but establishing those systems and expectations will go a long way in creating a norm for city staff and communities that can hopefully inform better policy and planning.

Section 4 – Healthcare

38. Do you support Medicare-for-All?

Yes

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

I do not believe a minor should have to inform or request permission from a parent before getting an abortion. These policies only serve to drive patients to less safe means of birth control and abortion.

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

Sacramento is woefully behind in mental health services, particularly for those who need long-term or intensive treatment. In addition to continued partnership with the clinics in our community, I would work with my colleagues at Sacramento County to ensure the City was identifying and pursuing all resources to ensure the needs of those with mental illness are met.

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

High child mortality rates in our Black community need to be addressed through comprehensive solutions. That means equitable access to healthcare services, reduced exposure to pollution or other environmental harms, quality educational programs, and quality support – including access to meaningful employment opportunities – for parents.

Section 5 – Good Jobs for All

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

Yes

43. Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

Yes

44. Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I've never had the honor of working at a union employer, but am very supportive of organized labor. I understand that without labor we wouldn't have the basic protections we have today, and believe the labor movement should continue to grow to include more sectors of work and more workers. In my day job in climate policy and environmental justice I have always supported and worked for just transition policies for workers in the fossil fuel industry – a project I'm still focused on today.

45. Will you support the adoption of project labor agreements or community workforce training agreements for your city?

Yes – I support project labor agreements and community workforce agreements, particularly those that include targeted hiring for disadvantaged workers.

46. Which labor unions will you be interacting with in your role? What is your plan for building collaborative relationships with both union and nonunion employees?

In addition to several unrepresented groups, the City of Sacramento has direct relationships with the following groups:

- **Auto, Marine and Specialty Painters**
- **International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers**
- **Plumbers and Pipefitters**
- **Sacramento Area Firefighters**
- **Sacramento City Exempt Employees Association**
- **Sacramento Police Officers Association**
- **Sacramento-Sierra’s Building and Construction Trades Council**
- **Stationary Engineers**
- **Western Council of Engineers**

I have already reached out to representatives for many of these groups. When elected I will continue to work to build relationships through proactive meetings and being accessible when needs or opportunities arise, and staying focused on ensuring the City is doing everything it can to provide good jobs.

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

I think ensuring access to high quality jobs is a critical responsibility of all elected officials. The Council can do a great deal to promote availability of good jobs through their own procurement and contracting policies, but could also reach beyond their own practices by creating incentives and programs to help employers who have commitments to provide good jobs with benefits as well as promotion and training opportunities. The City should also never use any incentives to help a business that does not have good labor practices.

48. What solutions would you propose to solve budget shortfalls and how would you prioritize the needs of your constituents in deciding what to cut first?

I think that the City should be more transparent with their budget so the communities and affected workers can see where 100% of our money goes and can engage in a meaningful discussion about community priorities to inform any needed cuts.

49. Is income inequality an issue in your community? If so, what steps would you take to address it?

Income inequality is absolutely an issue in Sacramento. In addition to the practices outlined above, Sacramento can address income inequality by targeting resources and training opportunities to communities of color and low-income communities to ensure that they have adequate skills and resources to obtain the jobs available. That could mean public funding of those programs, or simply matching available programs with communities in need and assisting with public meeting spaces for classes to occur.

Section 6 - Local Economy & Public Resources

50. Under what circumstances would you support raising revenues to support public services?

I support raising revenues to support public services when there is a clear, documented reason for the need for that revenue, and when there are clear, enforceable oversight provisions in place. [I recently opposed Measure U's permanent extension](#) because I felt the City had failed to provide for those oversight measures, and continue to believe that the City has many improvements to make on their budget management processes to ensure adequate transparency and accountability for spending.

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

I do not support privatization of public or natural resources.

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

I think public/private partnerships are ways for local governments to avoid costs by contracting out services that should be completed/managed by public officials, not private ones. I do not support them.

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

I think the City should focus our incentives on small, local employers. Small businesses provide the vast percentage of jobs in our region, and collectively represent a significant percentage of our sales tax revenue. There are plenty of small businesses or potential businesses here in Sacramento, the City should focus its resources on helping residents here succeed.

The level of support from the City should be responsible and strategic, and not on-going. Whether it's a one-time real estate tax waiver, a short-term sales tax waiver, or an innovation grant, those investments should target businesses run and managed by Sacramento residents and should align with other community needs and priorities. For example, a small grocery store

willing to locate in a food desert should receive some level of subsidy to ensure profitability is achieved.

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

I want to create a Small Business Ombudsman position at the City. I've heard from too many small, locally owned businesses that they have had issues with permitting or other challenges that the City is well-positioned to help with; having a point of contact at the City will help elevate those issues and hopefully expedite solutions. I will also convene a small business roundtable to meet quarterly to ensure that I am aware of any ongoing challenges or opportunities that the City can assist with.

Section 7 – Environment

55. Do you support the construction of the Delta tunnels?

No – I don't think it's good for the environment, and it's treating a symptom (issues with water access) not the cause (unsustainable water practices).

56. Do you support the construction of the Southeast Connector?

No, I do not support the Southeast Connector. It is well documented that building more roads or expanding road capacity eventually increases traffic. This project will not only have a significant environmental impact, it will facilitate significant development in previously undeveloped parts of our community that would not align with our environmental goals.

57. When would it be appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary?

I do not think the urban growth boundary should be extended unless there is overwhelming evidence that it is warranted and there are no alternative strategies available. Our cities are big enough to facilitate the number of housing units we need, and we need to get serious about preserving open space and farmland. We should be investing in the communities we have, not expanding our boundaries to create new communities.

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

I absolutely support any and all efforts to conserve regional habitat and working lands.

59. What will you do to address climate change in your role?

Local governments have a significant role to play in fighting climate change. It starts with using our land use authority to ensure every project with the

City facilitates reduced driving, ensures affordability to prevent displacement, and deploys the best available technology to reduce energy use and sequester carbon. It continues with our role in transportation planning, where we can ensure that investments do not go to new or expanded roads but to expanding access for non-car users and building an effective, affordable transit system. Finally, the City has unlimited opportunities to pursue innovative partnerships and grants to develop and lead on best practices for sustainable urban development, such as figuring out how to deploy new technology in disadvantaged communities or trying new methods for waste disposal.

We are capable of hitting zero emissions by 2030, and have an opportunity to help show other cities how it's done.

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

I have a Bachelor's and Master's degree in community development, which included significant research of land use practices here in California and around the world. I've also engaged in our local planning process multiple times, and helped start the new environmental justice planning process required for the City's General Plan Update by SB 1000 (Leyva, 2016).

61. Have you read the general plan and do you agree with its vision of future development? If not, what changes would you propose?

I do agree with many components of the general plan, the issue historically has been enforceability of the provisions outlined. There seems to be a disconnect between the long-range planners and the folks who sit on Planning Commissions, who frequently approve projects that do not align with the general plan principles. I attribute this to a lack of specificity or metrics for implementation that would hold planners responsible for ensuring the projects align with community priorities and needs. I'm excited to see what comes out of the new general plan update, since there are new requirements for environmental justice and emergency planning that weren't in statute when the plan was last updated, and will be looking for specific enforceability and community engagement provisions that should help address this issue moving forward.

62. If you are seated on the board of LAFCO, SAFCA, or SMAQMD, how will you use your role to promote environmental sustainability?

These boards all have important roles for ensuring habitat and farmland is conserved, urban sprawl is curtailed, and that development meets the health and safety needs of residents. I would use my role on any of those boards to proactively evaluate projects and be vocal about maintaining the goals I've outlined above.

Section 8 – Education

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

Yes

64. Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

Absolutely – those programs have a documented record of success. Our kids deserve every opportunity to thrive.

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

Charter schools can play an important role for students with special needs/talents, or for communities looking to integrate culturally-relevant curriculum into their schools (i.e. Native American tribes). However, they are no substitute for having a high-quality public school in every community. I support policies to limit the growth of charter schools, to require open meetings and transparency in their decisions and student outcomes, and to allow for teachers at charter schools to unionize.

Section 9 – Housing

66. Do you support the adoption of rent control and just cause eviction protections for your city?

Yes

67. Do you support the adoption of an inclusionary housing ordinance for your city?

Yes

68. Do you support the adoption of a local ordinance to end Housing Choice Voucher discrimination (Section 8) for your city?

Yes

69. What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?

The City’s anti-rent gouging measure and the passage of AB 1482 at the state-level provide new protections that are a good step forward. I would like to see the City collect more data on rental prices so we can more effectively monitor the trends in housing prices. I would also like to see a permanent measure of rent control at 5% and more robust resources for the rental

inspection program to ensure tenants are protected from landlords who fail to maintain their units. The City must also stop allowing for the destruction of single-occupancy room buildings like Hotel Marshall. Finally, the growth of the Sacramento Community Land Trust presents opportunities for preserving affordability by pulling houses out of the market.

70. What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

Developers shouldn't be able to buy their way out of building affordable units, and the City should make it easier for people to develop accessory dwelling units or to develop higher density housing (duplexes, small apartments) in areas zoned for one unit, one lot style of development where it's appropriate. The City must immediately stop selling publicly-owned vacant parcels, and reserve all of those parcels not planned for open space for nonprofit affordable housing developers. We must increase funding for the affordable housing trust fund so we can provide meaningful resources to developers looking to build affordable units. By entering some units into the Sacramento Community Land Trust, we can preserve affordability by keeping some units out of the market – reducing the long-term subsidy needed when compared to other models.

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

The City needs to be stricter with requirements for developers to build affordable units, and make it easier for affordable housing developers to build. We could also partner with financial institutions to pursue grants or other funding to enable down-payment assistance for first-time home buyers. Finally – not to be repetitive – but I think the model of the Sacramento Community Land Trust presents some exciting opportunities!

Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit

72. Would you support a local tax measure to fund transportation and public transit? If so, which specific form of local taxation would you support?

Yes, I support a local tax measure. I think a sales tax is probably our best option, but would also like to see the City through its role on STA or Sacramento RT to explore state and federal grants and other funding sources to ensure we're asking for as little as possible. Any tax measure would need to come with strict oversight and accountability for use of funds.

73. 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 use my role to prioritize equity and environmental stewardship. We have lost track of the federal civil rights mandates that we have to prioritize communities of color in transit. I would push for a ridership survey that includes racial identification to ensure that those communities are served in accordance with the law.

SACOG's plans are ambitious, but often lack enforceability in implementation, so I would like to work with them to explore ways we can more meaningfully tie our incentives to that plan – even if that means looking to the State Legislature for a policy solution.

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

I don't have a car, so know firsthand how hard it can be to get around this City. I will work to reduce vehicle miles traveled by being strategic with our transportation resources to create a robust network of options that don't rely on a car. That means surveying folks to identify gaps in our current sidewalk/street lighting/bike lane infrastructure, and re-envisioning our transit system to be innovative and responsive to public needs.

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

My first priority project will be to reduce the fares for Sacramento Regional Transit; the fares are simply too high, and I believe that lower fares might actually increase ridership. I also think a targeted ridership survey will help identify significant gaps in the system – particularly for communities of color, who are mandated to be prioritized by federal law.

Signature: 

Date: **September 26, 2019**