

## 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	<b>Mai Vang</b>
Office Sought	<b>Sacramento City Council D8</b>
FPPC ID	<b>FPPC #1420665</b>
Occupation	<b>Executive Director</b>
Employer	<b>The Buck Scholars Association</b>
Campaign Email	<b>mai@maivang.org</b>
Campaign Phone	<b>415-680-4881</b>
Campaign Website & Social Media	<b>www.maivang.org</b>
Campaign Manager or Contact Person	<b>Mai Vang</b>
Campaign Consultants (list all)	<b>Richie Ross &amp; Chris Chaffee</b>
Anticipated Budget & Funds Raised	<b>\$150K/\$14,000</b>
Are you a dues-paying DPSC member?	<b>No</b>

#### Optional demographic questions:

Racial/Ethnic Identity	<b>Hmong</b>
Gender Identity/Pronouns	<b>She, Her, Hers</b>
LGBTQ+?	<b>No</b>
Veteran?	<b>No</b>
Young Democrat (35 or under)?	<b>Yes</b>
Union Member?	<b>No</b>

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 City Unified	Board Member	3 years - term will end Nov. 2020
Center for Land Based Learning	Board Member	5 years
Hmong Youth & Parents United	Board Member	6 months

You may attach your biography, a list of current endorsements, and any campaign literature as a single file. Please name your file: lastname/office sought. **See attachment for list of endorsements to date.**

## 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? **School Board Member**
5. What are your primary sources for fundraising? Please list your top three campaign contributors. **Donations from elders, community members, family, elders, residents of District 8, professional networks, small businesses and labor.**
6. Do you voluntarily decline contributions from any particular contributor or class of contributors? **Yes.** If so, list who and why. **No money from Big Tobacco or OIL.**
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? **Born and raised in Sacramento (meadowview & oak park for 34 years). I have lived 6 years in my house in D8.**
11. Out of the last five elections, how many have you voted in? **All.**
12. Why did you decide to run for this office and what do you plan to accomplish during your tenure? **I'm running to serve the community that raised me...a community that has provided me the tools to lead....a community that inspires me each day to fight for a better future. No matter a person's race or ethnicity, gender, age, social-economic status, mobility, or identity – everyone should have access to good jobs, affordable housing, clean and safe parks and neighborhoods.**

**These are the things I'll be fighting for -- together, I know that we can build a collective future where everyone in Sacramento is included in our prosperity and no one, no matter where they live, is left behind. My Hmong refugee grandparents and parents instilled in me a strong sense of giving back to the community that gave us so much. These are the values that have guided me as a community organizer, a school board member and I hope, as the future City Councilmember of District 8.**

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

- **I'm the only woman in this race**
- **I'm the only candidate that has experience working at City Hall**
- **I'm the only candidate with governance background**
- **I'm the only candidate that is the child of refugees**
- **I have a track record of working across race/ethnicity, gender, age, mobility -- all identities**

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?

- **Co-founded Hmong Innovating Politics - a grassroots organization to mobilize disenfranchised communities in Sacramento**
- **Ran a successful campaign to get the first Hmong City Councilmember elected in Elk Grove - Steve Ly**
- **Implemented D8CRE8 initiative in south Sacramento and lead the community project --fundraising and organizing to wrap 32 utilities boxes along the Florin Road and Mack Road Corridor**
- **Advocated for BP and ARs to ensure disaggregation of data for Asian American Pacific Islanders students in SCUSD**
- **Organized w/ community partners for Ethnic Studies requirement and voted to pass ethnic studies in SCUSD**
- **Increased graduation rates in SCUSD**
- **Built a strong parent base of English language learners in south Sacramento**
- **Built strong coalitions of neighborhood associations in D8**

## **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. **Yes. The City budget is \$1.2 billion. Revenues are mainly from taxes, charges, fees, licenses, permits, etc. The largest expenditure categories are police/fire...followed by City Utilities, citywide services ie parks and recs.**

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. Yes, I support by-district.**
17. How will you work with community advocates? **Yes** What will you do to be accessible to community members and other stakeholders? **In addition to having an open door policy to meet w/ constiunest at City Hall, I plan to have District 8 office hours at the Pannell Community Center, MLK Library and Valley-Hi North Laguna Library.**
18. What will you do to promote transparency and ethics at city hall? **I will empower the Ethics Commission to enforce its charter. Further, I will ensure that Measure U revenue is spent equitably and generously in our most vulnerable neighborhoods through a public, transparent process.**
19. What whistle-blower protections should there be for public employees who expose corruption, sexual harassment, or other illegal/unethical activity? **Whistle-blowers should be protected and shielded from any reprisals for their acts of public service. They should be extended all rights and protections.**
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? **Yes, the City of Sacramento has limits on contributions. However, I believe the City should invest in establishing public-financed elections.**
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? **While poverty is widespread in D8, Meadowview, Detroit and Valley-Hi area neighborhoods have the highest concentration of poverty. I would focus my efforts to ensure these neighborhoods receive the bulk of new investments to level the playing field and inject the areas with new job opportunities with safer streets and neighborhoods.**

### 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 a cis-gender, it's important for me to be cognizant of my own privileges. It's important to realize how much work we (as cis gender folks) have to do in order to make things better for the LGBTQIA folks who don't have access to these privileges. Leaning in to understand their struggles and showing up is how we can begin to do this work.**
28. What will you do to end discrimination in employment and housing? **I will continue to fight for a world without discrimination in any sphere. This starts by electing candidates who represent the diversity of their communities and who will stand-up to the establishment and break-down barriers.**
29. What will you do to close the pay gap? **I will continue the struggle for equal pay and fight for and elect more women and candidates of color to offices with the political power to end the pay gap for women and minorities.**
30. What will you do to protect immigrant communities? **As a school board member, I'm proud of the work I led to pass the Safe Haven Resolution and Board Policy to ensure that our undocumented students and immigrant families were protected. Additionally, I've been involved at the City level (as the SCUSD liaison) to ensure we work closely with Civil Rights organizations and the City of Sacramento's FUEL network to provide services to our undocumented and immigrant communities.**
31. Do you support placing limits on free speech or assembly in public places, such as protesting, picketing, or panhandling? **No** If so, how would you decide what those limits should be?
32. Do you believe that the criminal justice system is just and fair to everyone, particularly black and brown communities? **No.** If not, what reforms do you publicly support? **We must end sentencing discrimination, mandatory minimums, gun related add-ons, private, for profit prisons, and the mass incarceration system that's been developed in America. America shouldn't have more people in prison per capita than Stalin had in his gulags.**
33. What are the issues affecting black and brown communities in your district and will you do to address those issues? **Poverty and lack of opportunities are issues that impact Black/Brown communities. City programs should specifically target economically marginalized communities. Job programs must provide a living wage and encourage support for local worker centers, unions, and minority-owned businesses which are accountable to the**

**community. In addition, the City should provide culturally responsive infrastructures that serve the collective needs of these communities.**

34. How will you work toward greater police accountability in your city? What role would the community play in that? **Sacramento Police Commission must be given the authority to do more by providing real community oversight of our police department. This can be accomplished by working with the SPOA in a collaborative, collective bargaining style process to ensure both the officers continue to have personnel protections and the community has a voice in monitoring our public safety officers. Further, a more concerted effort needs to be undertaken to hire police officers that mirror the community they are serving.**
35. Do you support the universal use of police body cameras? **Yes.** When is it appropriate to release police body camera footage? **As soon as possible for transparency purposes and to build back community trust in our police department.**
36. What will you do to make your community more accessible to people with disabilities? **I will work with organizations like Resources for Independent Living to review city policies and procedures that make accessing city services difficult for people with disabilities. An accessibility review must be undertaken.**
37. What will you do to ensure that non-English speakers can fully participate in public meetings and access public services? **The City should have interpreters services at public city meetings -- especially for the most common languages spoken in Sacramento. We must do a better job to engage non-English speaker communities.**

#### **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'm against parental notification as it has been shown to put the lives of minors at risk. I stand in solidarity with Planned Parenthood and child advocates on this issue.**
40. What measures would you support to ensure adequate mental health services for all? **Medicare for all would be helpful on this front. Further, full mental health services should be a requirement for all health plans offered in Obamacare, if Medicare-for-All isn't fully implemented.**

41. What will you do to help address high child mortality rates in the Black community in Sacramento County? **I would work in collaboration with the County's Black Child Legacy Campaign to reduce Black infant mortality and continue to support the work of champions/service provides on the ground who understands the work on the ground needed to eliminate Black infant mortality.**

#### **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?  
**No**
44. Describe your relationship with organized labor. **Good.**
45. Will you support the adoption of project labor agreements or community workforce training agreements for your city? **Yes**
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?  
**As I've done as a School Board Member, I will meet regularly with representatives for the unions the City has union contracts with. These unions include Local 39, SPOA, and Local 522.**
47. What is the role of the office that you seek in promoting good jobs for our region?  
**The policies the city implements go a long way toward stifling job growth or supporting good jobs through good policy, workforce investments, and providing other important opportunities to local job seekers.**
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 would always work through the collective bargaining process to implement responsible budget cuts in the time of recession.**
49. Is income inequality an issue in your community? If so, what steps would you take to address it? **YES - we must level the playing field on access to opportunity.**

#### **Section 6 - Local Economy & Public Resources**

50. Under what circumstances would you support raising revenues to support public services? **When services are not meeting the needs of my constituents.**
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 wouldn't.**

52. What is your position on "public/private partnerships"? **I support public/private partnerships when they serve the public good.**
53. When is it appropriate to use public money or tax incentives to subsidize private business? **When the services required cannot be performed in-house or through a strong labor contract.**
54. What is your plan to support and encourage local small business development? **We must do more to support our local small and ethnic business. District 8 has small local ethnic supermarkets - however many of them are not aware of the resources provided by local chambers or the City. Additionally, many of these businesses also needs support -- marketing, etc. The City should do more to provide tools and resources**

### Section 7 – Environment

55. Do you support the construction of the Delta tunnels? **NO**
56. Do you support the construction of the Southeast Connector? **YES**
57. When would it be appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary? **To allow for the construction of much needed affordable housing units.**
58. Please describe your position on regional habitat and working lands conservation. **I believe in following the recommendations of our local scientists and preserving our rural land as much as possible.**
59. What will you do to address climate change in your role? **I will support reducing carbon emissions, increasing the use of public transit, bike and scooter shares, reducing the average number of miles driven per day by city residents, increasing the energy and water use efficiencies of new housing construction, increasing the renewable energy use of city buildings, and much more.**
60. Please describe your education and/or experience with land use planning. **I served in Councilmember Carr's office and was a lead on numerous projects.**
61. Have you read the general plan and do you agree with its vision of future development? If not, what changes would you propose? **The general plan needs to be updated in many ways.**
62. If you are seated on the board of LAFCO, SAFCA, or SMAQMD, how will you use your role to promote environmental sustainability? **I will fight for the promotion of policies that further environmental sustainability.**

## 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? **Yes.**
65. What role do you believe charter schools should play in public education? **I support our public neighborhood schools. Since my tenure on SCUSD, I have not voted to approve and NEW charter schools.**

## 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? **I will work with housing advocates to build a local coalition to push for more rental housing options.**
70. What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction? **I will work with housing advocates to build a local coalition to push for building more affordable housing units.**
71. What is your plan to ensure that working class people have opportunities for home ownership? **I will work with housing advocates to create new incentives and opportunities for working class people to buy homes.**

## 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 am fully in support of Measure A.**
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 prioritize linking our**

**residential centers to our job centers with efficient rapid public transit options.**

74. What is your plan to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled in the region? **Make public transit a better option than driving your car to and from work for the vast majority of people in the Sacramento region.**

75. What is your plan to improve local and regional public transit? Please describe a priority project. **It's important for us to create life long riders. I support the initiative to provide universal access to RT for youth in the City/County of Sacramento but believe we can do more to increase ridership -- especially for communities who do not have the financial resources (elders, homeless, etc.). I'd like to see this program expanded to our elders. Additionally, while there has been improvement with Sac RT, I believe we can do better to ensure safer and cleaner public transit.**

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ming' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Date:

09. 27. 19

**MAI VANG FOR CITY COUNCIL  
ENDORSEMENTS  
As of 09.27.19**

**ELECTEDS**

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty  
Sacramento City Councilmember Larry Carr  
Sacramento City Councilmember Angelique Ashby  
Sacramento City Councilmember Jeff Harris  
Sacramento City Councilmember Allen Warren  
Honorable Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo  
Elk Grove Mayor Steve Ly  
West Sacramento Vice-Mayor Quirina Orozco  
Citrus Heights City Councilmember Porsche Middleton  
Sacramento County Office of Education Board Member Karina Talamantes  
SMUD Board President Dave Tamayo  
SMUD Board Member Nancy Bui  
SMUD Board Member Rosanna Herber  
SMUD Board Member Heidi Sanborn  
Sacramento City Unified School District Board President Jessie Ryan  
Sacramento City Unified School District Board Vice President Darrel Woo  
Sacramento City Unified School District Board Member Leticia Garica  
Washington Unified School Board Member Jackie Wong  
Cosumnes Community Services District (CSD) Jaclyn Moreno  
American River Flood Control District Board Member Rachelanne Vander Werf

**ORGANIZATIONS**

Sacramento-Sierra Building & Construction Trades Council  
Carpenters Local 46  
Teamsters Local 150

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Abraham Perez, Instituto Mazatlan Bellas Artes de Sacramento\*  
Alma Lopez, Community Organizer with Brown Issues\*  
Andres Ramos, Community Advocate  
Annie Lee, Founder of Hmong Women Today  
Barry Boyd, Member of the Meadowview Neighborhood Association\*  
Benjamin Herr DC, Founder of Herr Chiropractic Clinic  
Caroline Cabias, Community Leader  
Caroline Thao, Grant High School Teacher  
Cat Nou, Chief Consultant for California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus\*  
Cathy Thao, Board President of Hmong Youth and Parents United\*

Cha Vang, Community Organizer with Hmong Innovating Politics\*  
Charlie Vang, Hmong Elder & Community Advocate  
Chinua Rhodes, Sacramento Parks and Recreational Commissioner  
Corey Deroo, Executive Director of the Florin Road Partnership\*  
David Bain, President of Cabrillo Neighborhood Association\*  
Dee Xiong, Co-Founder of Hmong Queer Suab\*  
Elizabeth Villanueva, Luther Burbank High School Spanish Language Teacher  
Estella Drake, Member of the Meadowview Neighborhood Association\*  
Fatima T. Malik, Del Paso Heights Growers' Alliance  
Genevieve Shiroma, State Commissioner of the California Public Utilities Commission\*  
George Raya, Neighborhood Leader and Community Advocate  
Isaac Gonzalez, Community Advocate  
Jean Crowder, Mai's High School Teacher  
Jenny Bach, California Democratic Party Secretary\*  
Jonathan Tran, Community Advocate  
Julian Yang, Co-Founder of Hmong Queer Suab\*  
Julie Spezia, Community Advocate  
Koua Franz, Innovation and Strategic Planning Consultant and Co-Owner of John Gooder LLC  
Lanz Nalagan, Fund Director for Sacramento LGBT Community Center  
Larry Lee, Co-President of Detroit Community Neighborhood Association\*  
Laura Vu, Co-Founder of Hmong Innovating Politics & Building Our Future Campaign Organizer\*  
Leesai Yang, Community Leader  
Linda Gains, Member of the Cabrillo Neighborhood Association\*  
Lindsey Nitta, Consultant and Community Advocate  
Lisa Peters, Rosa Parks K-8 School Teacher  
Mai Yang Thor, Executive Director of Hmong Youth and Parents United\*  
Manuel Buenrostro, Community Advocate  
Margarita Chavez, Co-President of Detroit Community Neighborhood Association\*  
Mary Kimbal, Executive Director of Center for the Land Based Learning\*  
Mary Nicely, Policy Advisor to the Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond\*  
Matt Read, Council Representative for Sacramento City Council District 4  
Maya Wallace, Vice Chair of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission\*  
Nailah Pope-Harden, Community Organizer  
Nakeya Bell, Founder of iQSQUAD  
Nhia Lue Vang, Hmong Elder and Community Leader  
Nia Kotobalavu, Community Advocate  
Nicholas Haystings, Founder & CEO of Squareroot Academy\*  
Nkauj Iab, Director of California Policy and Programs, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center\*  
Pachia Vang, Miss Hmong USA 2018  
Pat Fong Kushisda, President/CEO of the Sacramento Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce\*  
Rebekah Turnbaugh, Community Advocate  
Sadalia King, Community Advocate  
Sao Vue, Susan B. Anthony Elementary School Teacher

Sean Cooke & Melissa Cooke, Members of the Cabrillo Neighborhood Association\*  
Shonna McDaniels, Community Advocate, Activist and Artist  
Shoun Thao, Council Representative for Sacramento City Council District 2  
Sui Vang, Pharm. D. Nyiaj Xwm, Pharmacist and Hmong Community Advocate  
Suki Maharaj, Rosa Parks K-8 School Teacher  
Terfong Yang, Community Elder and Leader  
Thai Thao, Hmong Elder and Community Advocate  
Theresa Hernandez, Luther Burbank High Parent and Community Advocate  
Theresa Riviera, Community Leader  
Tiny Reynolds, CEO of Uptown Studios\*  
Todd McPherson, Luther Burbank Urban Agriculture Academy Teacher and Burbank Urban  
Garden Director  
Toni Colley-Perry, MA Educational Consultant  
Trer Vang, Susan B. Anthony School Teacher  
Wendy Hoyt, Community Advocate  
Ya Po Cha, Luther Burbank High School Hmong Language Teacher

\*Title for identification purposes only.