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

**June 2018**

**Section 1**

Full Name Orlando N. Fuentes

Email address orlandofuentes@comcast.net

Office Sought Council Member, City of Elk Grove, District 4

FPPC ID #1401956

Occupation Board Member, Cosumnes Community Services District

Employer Cosumnes Community Services District (CSD)

Campaign Phone 916-812-0814

Campaign Website orlandofuentes.org

Campaign Manager None

Campaign Consultants (list all)

Andres Ramos

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

$40,000/$5,000

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

Angela Hollowell-Fuentes/Anand Maharathi

Manny and Raquel Lujano

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

Yes.

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.

Big Oil, Walmart, developers, charter schools. In particular, I am concerned about the incredible amounts of money charter school backers are pouring into school board elections and the results they are getting in seating those candidates.

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.

Cosumnes Community Services District Board of Directors – Elected November 16, 2016. Contact Maureen Zamarippa, 916-405-5327.

Democratic Party of Sacramento County – Elected Delegate. Associate in 2010, elected June 2010 effective January 1, 2011. Reelected and current central committee member. California Democratic Party Executive Board member.

Elk Grove South County Democratic Party – active member since 2010. Nancy Fox – 916-230-4560.

Latino Democratic Club – Past President, 2012 and 2013, ongoing member. Miguel Cordova – 916-616-1384.

LULAC – League of United Latin American Citizens – Chaplain – member since 2016. Lorenzo Patiño Council #2862. Bernardo Buenrostro, Immediate Past President, 916-217-0755.

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

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

No.

Have you ever endorsed, contributed to, campaigned for, or otherwise supported a candidate for election or appointment to a partisan or nonpartisan office that was not a member of the Democratic Party? If so, who, for which office, and why? Please be specific.

No.

Are you a dues-paying member of the Democratic Party of Sacramento County?

Yes. I am also a donor to CADEM 2018 on a monthly basis as well as an E-Board member of CDP.

Do you plan to purchase a ballot statement?

Yes.

What will your ballot designation be?

Board Member, CSD.

Have you read the Platform of the California Democratic Party? It can be downloaded at <https://www.cadem.org/our-california/platform>

Yes.

Have you read, and will you adhere to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices distributed by the Sacramento County Elections Department? It can be downloaded at <http://www.elections.saccounty.net>

Yes.

Have you ever been the subject of sexual harassment/abuse/assault allegations investigated by law enforcement, governmental institutions, businesses or any other organizations? What was the result of any such investigation?

No.

Is there anything in your history on the subject of sexual harassment/abuse/assault which, if revealed, would bring you, your proposed office, or the Democratic Party into disrepute?

No.

How long have you lived in the district you seek to represent?

27 years.

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

5.

Why did you decide to run for your position and what do you hope to accomplish during your tenure? List your top three issues.

1. Ensure public safety by ensuring that our police department has the proper equipment and training to do their job effectively. Elk Grove recently created a Citizen’s Advisory Board for the police department. Ensure that police act ethically and respectfully in their contacts with the public.
2. Address the traffic congestion that occurs especially around rush hour in the afternoons. More buses, more bike trails, walking trails as well as multi-unit housing to prevent urban sprawl are needed to reduce this congestion. Public transit must be reliable, run late into the evening, and be frequent.
3. Ensure that the city’s workforce is as diverse as the city. This is not currently the case so we have a lot of work to do in that arena.

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

At Cosumnes CSD: I have supported constituent demands for more diversity among our employees. Our fire department created a county-wide task force to improve diversity hiring. I am an active member of that task force and good is coming of it. We continue to meet and will do so for the foreseeable future. I now sit on interview panels for Sacramento Fire Department. I supported by-district elections though by a 3-2 vote CSD did not support the change. I will keep working towards that goal by maintaining good working relationships with other board members. I spoke up at a city council meeting to support by-district elections there. The appointed council member I am challenging voted against by-district elections. Our property tax revenue has increased slightly and we must find fair paths to distribute funds among unionized workers and nonunionized as well as meeting the equipment and other needs of our fire and parks.

**Section 2 - District & Governance**

Are you familiar with the budget(s) for which you will be responsible, if elected? If so, state how large it is, what its principal revenue sources are, and what its largest expenditure categories are.

The budget of CSD is nearly $90 million. The main source of revenue is property tax. We are a fire/parks and recreation agency. The largest expenditure category is for the Fire Department, especially for Firefighter salaries. In collaboration with our general manager, fire chief, parks and recreation chief, and finance manager, the board reviews and approves the budget. The budget for City of Elk Grove is comparable, with Police requiring more than half the budget. I am familiar with the labor negotiation process for the city as we negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions for Fire. The main source of revenue for the city is sales taxes.

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

Yes. I have advocated for by-district elections at CSD and at Elk Grove City Council in the interest of voting rights as enacted in the California Voting Rights Act of 2001.

What sets you apart from other candidates for this office?

The depth and breadth of my history sets me apart. I grew up in the bay area. My political perspectives were shaped by the 1960’s and its student movement, anti-war protests, women’s movement, and cultural revolution. I studied as an undergraduate at San Francisco State University and received my master’s degree from UC Berkeley. I spent nearly 30 years in government service, 25 of those in state government in policy level positions as a consultant, specialist, and manager. This gave me a chance to learn about the legislative process, about state government and its subsidiaries (counties and cities as well as special districts).

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

As I do now with CSD, I will continue to work with community advocates, especially around by-district elections, athletic field allocations so everyone has a fair shot at getting the fields they need for their leagues, responding to community members when they have a complaint about our services, listening closely to those who propose new activities, and public speaking at their events at our venues.

What will you do to promote transparency and ethics?

I am completely in favor of transparency and ethical behavior. For example, I have advocated that our board meetings be recorded for publication on our website, so the public will be better informed of what we do.

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

We need strong whistle-blower protections that protect workers from retaliation. The handling of complaints of retaliation need to be taken seriously and the process to protect whistle-blowers strengthened.

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

In particular in Elk Grove we should have campaign spending limits so that all candidates have a more even chance of getting elected. Too often incumbents who have been friendly to developers reap the campaign contributions that make it difficult to challenge them.

**Section 3 – Civil Rights**

What will you do to advance LGBTQ rights?

At every opportunity I will embrace any rule or regulation to protect the rights of our workers who are LGBTQ. I will listen closely to the LGBTQ community of their concerns and look for opportunities to make changes as needed.

Discuss your feelings about the bullying and harassment of LGBTQ students because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. How will you help promote a safer environment in schools for all students?

I believe in Restorative Justice and restorative practices. I have worked in a middle school (part-time 2014 to 2016) and we often dealt with bullying of LGBTQ students on an overt and covert level. I have seen RJ work by mediating between students, getting each to respect the other, with even handshakes at the end. This must be done in the context of creating “restorative schools” that value RJ and mediation services. The entire school must be behind this effort.

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

Laws on the books must be adhered to strictly. Whistleblowers must be protected from retaliation such as being passed over for promotion or being demoted.

What is your position on a woman’s right to comprehensive healthcare, including the right to choose and access contraception, and the right to obtain a medically safe, legal abortion?

I believe in comprehensive healthcare for women and for all other Californians and Americans. Women’s healthcare in particular is under attack from the Republican Party who would take away a women’s right to contraceptive care and abortions. We see this happening all across the country already. We must make sure it doesn’t have an influence in California though it does in red states.

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

Women have for too long been paid less than men for equal work. This must end now. There is no justification for this discrimination. The full force of the law must be brought to bear upon this. Judges and juries must make victims of gender gap pay issues whole, receiving the compensation they have been denied but also punitive damages to set an example to other institutions and corporations who continue the practice.

What is your position on immigration? Do you support an amnesty program for those immigrants already living in the United States? Do you support a clean DREAM Act, without any enforcement funding attached to it? Should undocumented immigrants have a path towards citizenship? Why?

I am a child of immigrants. I believe in comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship for those already here. I support DACA students. I support a clean DREAM Act with no enforcement funding attached or $25 billion for a wall.

What will you do to protect immigrant communities?

I believe in the enforcement of all laws protecting immigrants and we must make certain that immigrants have a pathway to citizenship, that they have access to education for themselves and their children, as well as access to universal healthcare. Their labor rights must be protected as well, including the right to organize, to form a union, to join a union, to be paid fairly. Immigrants should not be discriminated against for speaking a different language.

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

Generally speaking, there should be minimal limits on free speech. Artificial limits such as a curfew, no overnight camping, no signs, harassment from police are some of the tactics used recently and must be banned.

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

Yes. No one adjudicated with a mental health issue or a convicted felon should have access. AR 15s must be banned as well as any other automatic/assault weapon. Sales should be limited to those at least 21 years of age.

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

No. We need more diversion programs, we need to have more rehabilitation programs such as those for drug and alcohol issues, we need to incarcerate fewer persons. The criminal justice system is disproportionately unfair to African Americans and Latinos.

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

No.

Please share your views on the Black Lives Matter movement.

Black Lives Matter. Everyone should support the African American community’s efforts to bring attention to the need for justice for the deaths of innocent African American victims.

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

I look forward to being on City Council so I will have a voice on the standards, policies, and practices of the Elk Grove Police Department. This includes hiring practices. It is an interesting fact that the police department now has a citizen’s advisory board.

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

Yes. I believe footage should be released at the earliest time practicable. Extended delays in releasing such footage only serves to undermine the credibility of the police.

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

I believe in enforcing all applicable laws. I would listen to our disability advisory committee and implement and alleviate their concerns.

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

Where and when necessary, I believe the city should provide access to translators.

**Section 4 – Healthcare**

Do you believe that healthcare is a human right? If so, what do you believe is the most effective way to provide quality healthcare for all?

Healthcare is a human right. We need to create a universal healthcare system where everyone (citizen, resident, or undocumented) is covered.

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

I oppose. As a person with 16 years of experience in Maternal and Child Health at the California Department of Public Health I learned much about health policy. My 5 years of experience in child protective services plus 7 years in child abuse prevention public policy I know the consequences of intended and unintended pregnancies and the circumstances that can lead a child to seek confidential services such as those who are in abusive relationships in families. For example, imagine a dysfunctional family system where Mom’s boyfriend has impregnated her daughter.

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

There has been a movement in public health to ensure that mental health services achieve parity with medical services. This is a slow-moving train but it is moving in the right direction. Clinics and hospitals need to have mental health staff (licensed clinicians, counselors, advocates) available to patients. Depression and anxiety are two of the most prevalent mental health issues at doctor’s appointments.

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

As I learned in my 16 years in Maternal and Child Health Branch of the Department of Health Services, women need early access to prenatal care. This can be achieved by using health promoters in the community to find pregnant women and giving them resources for care. Resources include income support, food support, housing, transportation especially to prenatal care, counseling, and as needed drug and alcohol services.

**Section 5 – Good Jobs for All**

Describe your relationship with organized labor.

I have attended the Labor Academy 101 twice, most recently in February 2018. I am in the process now of seeking support from labor unions through endorsements and contributions. I have always belonged to my union, paid my union dues and supported fair share dues. We are all concerned about the pending Janus decision at the Supreme Court and its potential damage to the labor movement.

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

Yes.

Have you attended the Sacramento Central Labor Council Candidate Academy?

Yes. Twice.

Do you support project labor agreements?

Yes. These PLAs assure that prevailing wages are paid to employees and that there is labor peace during large construction projects that then can be completed on time.

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

Elk Grove has MOUs with EGPOA (police officers) and EGPMA (police managers). I believe in communicating with union and non-union staff over the phone, in meetings, or over lunch, as I do now at CSD.

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

The City Council and city government are fully engaged in promoting good jobs in our region and city. Minimum wage jobs serve no one’s interests. We need good paying jobs in Elk Grove and the industries that support them. Elk Grove is an attractive place for new companies to set up their new offices. We have excellent schools, affordable homes, a vibrant multicultural community as well as many activities and programs for children and families. Our city is safe and crime is below national averages.

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

Budget shortfalls often mean cutting back on services or cutting city personnel. Neither one of these options serves the public interest. The public often thinks of government as overfunded in the first place. However, when this reality hits, cuts are necessary. Police services are the largest part of the city’s budget. The public generally considers these essential therefore requiring cutbacks in other services like public works, roads, and potholes.

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

The most evident inequality issue right now in Elk Grove is the increasing demand on our food bank services and our increase in the homeless population. The city of Elk Grove now is working on addressing the homeless issue, there are monthly meetings of those working on the issue including churches, transitional housing advocates, and the city’s housing manager. I have begun to attend these meetings hosted by HART, the Homeless Assistance Resource Team.

**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?

Raising revenues and fees can be difficult. If raising fees is necessary to maintain levels of service, the community must be convinced that the only solution is raising fees. If raising fees is not popular then cuts in service are the only alternative. The city recently did a survey on a 1% and a 0.5% hike in sales taxes. Both had a majority of favorable/likely favorable votes in a proposed election. However, the top priority was for more police services.

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

I am against privatization of public and natural resources.

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

These are absolutely essential and can help to maximize resources to provide a higher level of services or to serve more people.

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

Elk Grove is at a particular point in our economic development. Our economic development is not unfolding as quickly as we had hoped. Homes are being built but most residents commute to jobs outside of the city limits. The city does use incentives to bring business to Elk Grove. I believe this may be necessary for now but I do not see it as sustainable. A new Costco is under construction where there was an agreement for splitting the sales tax revenue with Costco for many years down the road.

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

I would encourage and support the business development activities of the city’s office for economic development, such as holding joint classes with the Chamber of Commerce for those interested in starting a business here. The city can offer assistance in finding an appropriate site, in sharing recent reports and studies on economics, and in learning more about the demographics and economics of families in Elk Grove.

**Section 7 – Environment**

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

No. The delta is an estuary. Decreasing the flow of fresh water into the estuary will increase the salinity from the water that comes in from the ocean. This will dramatically change the ecology of the region endangering the recreation, boating, and fishing industries of the area as well as the agricultural uses.

When is it appropriate to expand the urban growth boundary?

I see the expansion of the UGB only when the city is well on its way to completing infill development. Elk Grove has too much sprawl. We are building houses faster than we are creating jobs. I do not support encroaching on farmland or sensitive habitat areas such as the Cosumnes River Preserve.

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

I support the preservation of regional habitat and conservation. Our urban growth must be smart and make the most use of the land within city limits before we sprawl our way out to sensitive areas.

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

As a member of the City Council, I would lead the City Council to always consider climate change in our planning, such as building energy efficient buildings, solar paneling, weather stripping, recycling and the avoidance of our carbon footprint.

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

This will be a new experience for me, though at CSD we do look at park creation, maintenance, and development, and fire station construction in consideration of the surrounding environment.

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

I have reviewed the highlights of the plan. It sets a vision for the next 25 years of development in the city. I am most concerned with going beyond our urban boundary into ecologically sensitive areas and expanding further into farmland such as a recent LAFCO approval of about 1,160 acres south of the city limits.

**Section 8 – Education**

Do you support Restorative Justice and funding such programs?

Yes. I was on the board of Restorative Schools Vision Project, headquartered here in Sacramento, though statewide in its impact. I worked at Natomas Middle School from April 2014 to May 2016 part-time providing such services to 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The students responded very favorably to our circle discussions in classrooms, one-on-one meetings with students, and our mediations with students who are in conflict. The entire school must be onboard with RJ principles and practices, including administrators, teachers, and counselors. RJ is part of the movement to end the schools-to-prison pipeline.

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

Minimal. And, only as dependent charters of school districts.

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

No. We need to support teachers and the work they do.

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

Restorative Justice. I will advocate as a City Council member that EGUSD ensure those practices are included in the school’s guidelines.

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

As a Council Member I would offer my support to the school board in its efforts to reduce the achievement gap, that has persisted for too long. LCFF should be one of the primary sources of revenues to make this possible.

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

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

Yes, we must do everything we can to encourage education. The cost of living for our students including tuition today is unbearable.

**Section 9 - Housing**

What is your plan to address homelessness in your community?

I have started to participate in the homeless coalition that now exists. Elk Grove has been developing transitional housing for adults and families. There has been an outcry from neighborhoods at City Hall who believe that housing homeless in their neighborhood will lead to higher crime rates and bring down the value of their homes. Neither has been shown to be true. There are many success stories of once homeless people finding jobs and moving into their own housing.

What is your plan to relieve the rental housing crisis?

We need to support the building of more affordable and inclusive rental housing units especially for low and moderate-income people.

Do you support rent control and just cause eviction?

Yes, I do. Rents are rising too steeply in the Sacramento region. Landlords must respect tenants rights and not just arbitrarily evict tenants from their homes.

Do you support the adoption of inclusionary housing ordinances?

Yes.

What is your plan for funding affordable housing construction?

The city of Elk Grove must include affordable housing for low and moderate-income families. The absence of such will lead to homelessness which we are now beginning to experience. As the price of houses have gone up without commensurate increases in wages and salaries more and more we will see individuals and families living in the streets and in their cars. We need mixed use development with more dense housing so people can be near retail and transportation to their jobs, which are generally found outside of our city limits.

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

Yes, poor people with vouchers need homes, too. Discrimination in any form is abhorrent.

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

Generally, low income housing does not exist in Elk Grove. The median home value in 95624 is over $400,000 and rent is close to $2,000 per month. Nonetheless if we build smaller homes, in clusters we can have more affordable homes.

**Section 10 – Transportation and Public Transit**

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

Yes. If voters decide they want to do this we will implement strategic services so almost everyone has convenient access to public transportation. We need a society where we are less dependent on cars, that curbs climate change, that reduces emissions, and that improves our standard of living.

If you are seated on the board of SACOG, STA, or Regional Transit, how would you use your role and what would you prioritize?

More public transportation, less congestion on roads and highways, reduce peak hour traffic, synchronizing stoplights, housing for low and moderate income, addressing the homeless need for housing.

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

More public transit, bringing light rail to Elk Grove, more bike lanes and walkable urban areas.

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

I have been advised that our local E-Tran services that are run by a private corporation are having economic trouble. I would look at shifting bus services to Regional Transit.