

EL CERRITO DEMOCRATIC CLUB
AD15 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for being a part of the El Cerrito Democratic Club endorsement process. Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses to the questionnaire will be shared with our general membership prior to the candidate forum at **Harding Elementary School auditorium on February 27, 2018**. Please complete this questionnaire electronically, print and sign the first page, scan and return signed page and a PDF by email to ECDC_Pres@gmail.com prior to 5PM on Friday February 2, 2018.

Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Buffy Wicks
Occupation: Children's Advocate
Employer: Common Sense Kids Action
Campaign Address: 2627 Alcatraz Ave #227 Berkeley CA 94705
Campaign Phone: 510-207-9263
Campaign Email: amatier@buffywicks.com
Campaign Committee Name: Buffy Wicks for Assembly 2018
Campaign Committee Number: 1396734
Elected offices currently held: n/a
Elected offices previously held: n/a
Other campaigns for elected office: n/a
Appointed offices currently or previously held: Deputy Director, White House Office of Public Engagement under President Barack Obama
When did you become a registered AD-15 Democrat:
Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform? Yes

Signature

Date

Yes and No Questions; If 'Yes', please name them:

Are you accepting campaign funds from any PACs or SuperPACs?

SuperPACs, or independent expenditure campaigns, are not legally allowed to donate to state legislative races. I am, however, accepting money from PACs.

Are you accepting campaign funds from Unions?

Yes.

Are you accepting campaign funds from large oil corporations?

No.

Are you accepting campaign funds from large pharmaceutical corporations?

No.

Are you accepting campaign funds from natural resource extraction companies?

No.

Are you accepting campaign funds from charter school advocates?

No.

Are you accepting campaign funds from construction companies?

No.

Policy Statements

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
Business and Economy				
1. The rights of all employees to organize and strike			X	Yes, I will strenuously work to protect and strengthen unions - public sector or otherwise.
2. Privatizing essential governmental services and outsourcing public sector jobs	X			
3. Implementation of tax policies that provide a higher degree of equity, including a fair-self-employment tax rate to support small businesses			X	
4. Financial institutions for recreational marijuana industry			X	
5. Split property tax roles for businesses			X	I strongly support Prop 13 reform, requiring commercial properties (with a small business carve out) to pay property taxes at their market rate.
Children, Young Adults, and their Families				
6. Comprehensive immunization services			X	
Civil Justice				
7. The right of people to join together in class action lawsuits			X	We need to end binding arbitration. Our civil court system is a critical check and balance.
8. Funding for the Courts			X	The current lack of trial court funding has created yet another barrier to access to justice.
Communications and the Internet				
9. Build-out of high speed wired and wireless networks			X	
10. Online access for everyone to all legal content and data services			X	I strongly support net neutrality
Criminal Justice				

11. Drug addiction treatments located in the community			X	
12. Capital Punishment	X			
13. Marijuana regulation and taxation with respect to California's health and safety			X	
14. Increasing pay and benefits for law enforcement officers		X		
15. Body worn cameras			X	
16. Overcrowded prison populations	X			We have a mass incarceration problem and there are major racial disparities that need to be addressed.
17. Gun control legislation to keep guns out of the hands of the people with mental illness and of persons identified as dangerous to society			X	I support increased gun violence prevention legislation on the state and national level and am supported by Gabby Giffords.
18. Restorative Justice Programs			X	
Death with Dignity				
19. Death with dignity			X	
Education				
20. Access to free world-class K-12 Public Education			X	We need to significantly invest more in our schools and place education as our top priority.
21. Teacher retirement plans should be funded by all students				I'm not sure what is being asked in this question. I believe teachers should be paid more, given more professional development and that we need to honor our pension commitments.
22. Charter schools teaching more than 20% of a District's student body		X		I believe school districts should make this decision. I am concerned about the fiscal impact of charter schools on existing public school systems. I fundamentally believe we need more resources for all of our schools and don't want to create a bifurcated educational system. I also think we should make it easier to identify and shut down poor performing charter schools.
23. Free Community Colleges			X	As a California Community College system alum, I support free community college with traditional higher education classes and strong vocational programs.
24. Restorative policies and practices			X	
25. Curricula development by teachers			X	

26. Parents should be able to choose where their children are educated			X	
Energy and Environment				
27. Fracking	X			I will be a strong and relentless champion for steering California toward a 100% clean, renewable energy future.
28. Transportation of fracking oil, tar (oil sand oils and other hazardous materials on the county's rail corridors	X			
29. Statewide plastic bag ban should include micro-beads and micro-fibers			X	
30. Fossil fuel extraction tax			X	
31. Utility pricing should change to promote resource conservation and public good			X	
32. Community Choice Aggregation			X	
33. Increased reliance on the electricity grid for industry, residential and transportation uses				I'm unclear what this question is asking. I support investments in clean energy, more electric vehicles, reducing fossil fuels and more distributed electricity via residential and commercial solar. Generally, it is also important to invest in a smart and resilient electric grid.
34. Twin Tunnels are good for the Bay-Delta ecosystem	X			
Equality of Opportunity				
35. Affirmative action			X	
36. Full equality for LGBT individuals, including marriage			X	
37. Pay inequities	X			I support equal pay.
Health Care				
38. Universal comprehensive health care for all Californians			X	I worked alongside President Obama to pass the ACA. However, I recognize its shortcomings and support universal single payer health care.
39. Respite care and in-home support services and associated home care workers			X	
40. Holistic healing practices and alternative medicines		X		
41. California should lead the nation in funding opioid addiction treatment research			X	
Immigration				
42. Family reunification and naturalization			X	

43. Local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement	X			
44. State and Local law enforcement cooperation with immigrant communities				I'm unclear what this question is asking. I believe law enforcement officials should be focused exclusively on fighting crime, not tearing immigrant families apart.
Labor, Economic Justice and Poverty Elimination				
45. Public assistance programs that allow individuals to support themselves and their families			X	
46. Tax reform which eliminates corporate welfare and achieves an equitable tax system for working families			X	
47. Preference for contractors who employ Californians during selection for publicly funded construction work			X	
48. Project Labor Agreements for private and public-sector infrastructure projects that provide for local hire, returning veterans, and training programs for the community			X	
National Security				
49. Work with gun owners and sporting associations regarding responsible gun ownership, safety education and reasonable background checks			X	I have worked with Giffords, Everytown and Moms Demand Action on this very issue. I would work all stakeholders to address this critical problem.
50. Infrastructure improvements that promote energy independence through renewable sources			X	
Political Reform				
51. Supreme Court Decision <i>Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission</i>	X			I strongly oppose the <i>Citizens United</i> decision. We desperately need campaign finance reform.
52. Full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements			X	I strongly support the <i>Disclose Act</i> and would vote in support of even more aggressive disclosure laws.
53. Public financing of elections campaigns at the local, state and federal levels			X	I strongly support moving away from our current method of funding campaigns, to public financing of campaigns at all levels.
Seniors				
54. Mandatory training for Public Employee to recognize and serve seniors suffering with dementia			X	
Sustainable Communities				
55. Constrain urban and suburban sprawl			X	We must build transit-oriented housing and invest in our public transportation system. This would prevent suburban/exurban sprawl.
56. Regional tax revenue sharing			X	

57. Limit eminent domain to reasonable uses	X			
Veterans and Military Families				
58. Leases and use of Veteran Administration property solely benefit veterans and/or their families			X	
59. Provide our troops with the latest protective equipment, weaponry and training prior to deployment			X	
Women				
60. Age-appropriate sex education in California school curriculum			X	
61. Confidential, unrestricted access to health care services, including the full range of reproductive services, contraception and abortion, without requiring guardian, judicial, parental or spousal consent or notification			X	
World Peace and International Relations				
62. International efforts to establish Arms Trade Treaty			X	
63. Follow the Geneva and Hague Conventions			X	
64. Reduce trade deficits and restore America's global economic leadership by designing policies regarding globalization		X		

Other Questions

Each response box allows approximately 60 word response to show as 4 lines of text when in New Times Roman 10 point font. Please use the specified font and size.

1) Under what circumstances, if any, do you favor the death penalty? Please explain your position

I do not support the death penalty under any circumstances.

2) Under what circumstances should affordable housing be mandated in market-rate housing projects?

We need more funds for affordable housing. Addressing the needs of vulnerable communities with growth doesn't have to be a zero-sum game. Our overall lack of housing exacerbates the circumstances of these communities, and increasing the housing stock for all income levels will help change that. To comprehensively address our state's housing crisis, we must have a both/and approach to policy making and problem solving.

3) What hurdles prevent California converting to a no-fault compensation system that reduces business liability, costs and exposure while increasing health care outcomes?

I support single payer health care and believe it would ensure every Californian has quality health care. To protect the millions of Californians currently covered by the ACA, a bill that I helped pass, and preserve our stable exchanges,

California should immediately create a “Medi-Cal public option” to ensure affordable and quality care open to all state residents.

4) What specific legislative changes would you introduce to restore full service health care hospital(s) to northern Assembly District 15?

I would strongly support laws that declare emergency services to be “essential public services” and champion budgets that provide funding to emergency departments and trauma center to provide care to the uninsured and indigent. I will also lead oversight efforts to ensure compliance as it relates to these matters.

5) Under what circumstances should a school district support charter schools?

We need more transparency and accountability for charter schools. We need to outlaw for-profit charter schools and under no circumstance should we consider vouchers for private schools. We need to make it easier to identify and shut down poor performing charter schools and all charter schools should be subject to the Brown Act and the Political Reform Act. Lastly, we need to find ways for charter schools to work with district schools.

6) Should Proposition 13 be partially repealed (Split-roll) or fully repealed, and why?

I strongly support Prop 13 reform, requiring commercial properties (with a small business carve out) to pay property taxes at their market rate. Doing so will generate an additional \$11.4 billions in revenue which can be used to finance more affordable housing, as well as investments in local schools, roads, and other public services.

7) What types of renter protections should be mandated at the state level?

We desperately need renter protections and this should be a multi-pronged approach. We should fix Costa-Hawkins to include a rolling date for buildings to come under local rent stabilization laws, as opposed to the 1995 fixed date. We also should significantly increase and expand the Renters Tax Credit (RTC) and set rates based on metro area. Lastly, to prevent unscrupulous landlords from wrongly kicking tenants out of their homes, I would also push for legal services for folks facing unfair eviction.

8) What are the two most serious issues facing AD 15 communities?

There are many issues facing Assembly District 15, but I believe housing/homelessness and education are two of the most critical issues. The crisis we face on these issues has a reverberating effect on our criminal justice system, our environment, the economic security of our residents and the general health and well-being of our community.