



**Wellstone Progressive Democrats of Sacramento
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
General Questionnaire: 2013-2014**

All completed questionnaires will be accessible to Club members.

I. CAMPAIGN PROFILE

Name	Bruce Pomer
Office sought	City of Sacramento District 6
FPPC/FEC #	1373994
Campaign address (Including city, state and ZIP)	5429 Madison Ave, Sacramento CA 95841
Campaign email	Bruce4sac@gmail.com
Campaign phone	916-634-8435
Campaign website	Brucepomer.org
Occupation	Public Health Advisor-Executive Director, (Ret)
Employer	Health Officers Association of California
Campaign manager	Debbie Beltram

Elected or appointed offices currently/previously held:

- **Trustee, Los Rios Community College Board District 1990 - 2010**
- **Sacramento City Parks and Recreation Commissioner 2003 - 2008**
- **Board Member, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte 2004 - 2010**
- **Democratic Central Committee 1987 - Present**
- **Human Rights Fair Housing Commission 1985 – 1989**

Optional: Affiliations, clubs, community organizations (local/statewide)

Attach your latest biography, a list of current endorsements, any campaign literature and social media information.

- Kevin McCarty, California State Assembly
- Dave Jones, State Insurance Commissioner
- Ken Cooley, California State Assembly
- Jeff Harris, Councilmember, Sacramento City Council
- Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
- Steve Ly, Elk Grove City Council
- Genevieve Shiroma, Member, SMUD Board of Directors
- Dave Tamayo, Member, SMUD Board of Directors
- John C. Scribner, Member, Sacramento County Board of Education
- Senator Deborah Ortiz (Ret.), Trustee, Los Rio Community College District
- Senator Darrell Steinberg (Ret.)
- Anne Rudin, Mayor, City of Sacramento (Ret.)
- Heather Fargo, Mayor, City of Sacramento (Ret.)
- Rob Fong, Councilmember, City of Sacramento (Ret.)
- Sandy Sheedy, Councilmember, City of Sacramento (Ret.)
- Lynn Robie, Councilmember, City of Sacramento (Ret.)
- Ted Sheedy, Supervisor, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors (Ret.)
- Maurice Read
- UA Local 447 Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union
- Sotiris Kolokotronis, Co-Founder, Midtown Business Association*
- Isaac Gonzalez
- Earl Lagomarsino, Secretary, Democratic Party of Sacramento County*
- Lou Blanas, Sacramento County Sheriff (Ret.)
- Sherrie Golden, Government Affairs Administrator, California State Employees Association (Ret.)

*(For informational purposes only)

II. INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

Answer 'Yes' or 'No' or explain as requested

1. Have you ever been registered as anything other than Democratic, including decline to state? If so, explain.

No

2. Do you agree with the Statement of Principles of the Progressive Caucus of the California Democratic Party in its entirety? ([See Statement of Principles here](#))

Yes () No () If not, where do you disagree?

3. Briefly describe why you are running for this office and what sets you apart from your opponents.

I served on the Los Rios Community College Board for 20 years and just completed a 30-year career leading a public health organization. In my public and private careers many decisions were made that affected

people's lives. I know good things happen and the best decisions are made when I involve others. It is one of the most valuable lessons I have learned. My wife Anne and I have lived in Council District 6 and have been involved in the community for 39 years. We raised three children who attended Sacramento's public schools.

My passion for public service, my professional career experience, my strong commitment to involving others, and my long history in this community has uniquely prepared me to represent the residents of District 6. I know that great neighborhoods make for a great city. It doesn't take a "strong" mayor to keep Sacramento strong. It takes people involved in the decision-making process that impacts their lives and it takes people giving back to their community in ways both big and small. That's when a community shines its brightest. These are values which I hold dear.

My strong history of fiscal responsibility, especially while I served on the Los Rios Community College Board of Trustees, is my unique advantage in this race. I worked to create a large budget surplus, enough so that during three recessions we still were able to build facilities and provide services without imposing layoffs. That is what I intend to bring to the City Council.

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4. Where would you place yourself on the political spectrum: libertarian, conservative, moderate, liberal, progressive, etc., and why do you identify yourself that way?

Progressive because I believe strongly that we have not only maintain the middle class but that we must also uplift others into the middle class and that that is the most compelling question of our age- income inequality. Until we insure the protection of those in the middle class and uplift those that are not, this society is in grave danger of losing its credibility and stability.

III. ISSUE QUESTIONS

Provide a brief & clear response.

5. What role should government play in our lives, and what limits should be placed on government, if any?

Government should be the social and economic stabilizer of our society to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to succeed and prosper. Government should be there to uplift and provide opportunity to those in the more disadvantaged sectors of society. Government should provide access to health services and sure the prevention of epidemics and health crises. It should also be used to stabilize the economy during periods of extreme downturn. Limits should include matters of personal privacy and personal choice so that the government is not interfering with activities that would harm society.

6. Do you believe in the separation of religious institutions/organizations and state? Specifically, do you believe it is acceptable to teach “intelligent design” in public schools or to put up religious monuments on public property? Is it OK for religious institutions/organizations that engage in political activity and/or engage in discriminatory practices to maintain tax-exempt status?

I do not support intelligent design in schools or religious monuments on public property. Tax-exempt orgs should not engage in political activity or engage in discriminatory practice, less they lose their status as a result.

What values and/or interests do you believe should guide U.S. foreign policy? When, if ever, should U.S. forces be sent to intervene in other countries? When, if ever, should the United States impose economic sanctions on other countries or on specific leaders in them? What are the appropriate roles of international law and the United Nations? Should military spending be increased, reduced, or kept at current levels?

Unless there is a clear and direct interest identified, economic or security related, there shouldn't be any intervention. The American people should always be made aware and feel comfortable with the scope of the actions. Economic sanctions should be used instead of military intervention when possible. The UN should ensure that countries follow basic conventions regarding POWs and torture, they should maintain a standard so that human rights are upheld around the world. The basic standard of humaneness and fairness of citizens should encompass the globe. Military spending should be reduced with an increased attention and resources toward taking care of our veterans.

7. Do you support marriage equality, and if so, what is your vision for LGBTQ rights beyond marriage equality?

Yes I 100% support marriage equality. There should be absolutely no barrier to anyone's equal participation to any segment of our society or economy. They should have the full benefits that anyone else has in society.

8. Would you support mandatory diversity and sensitivity training for private as well as public employees?

Yes. In some social circles, people are misinformed and believe it is acceptable to use derogatory terms when referring to minorities, members of the LGBTQ community, and other individuals. This must be addressed.

9. What will you do to ensure that women have equal pay, equal access to jobs and full control over their bodies?

I will continue to support laws which promote all of those things, at the local, state and national level.

10. Do you support seniority rights for workers? Do you support project labor agreements? Do you have any relationships to organized labor? **I support seniority and PLA's. Many members of my family are members of labor unions and I in the past have been a member of a labor union.**

11. Are you supportive of a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already living in the United States? If so, what would that pathway to citizenship entail? Are you supportive of the federal DREAM Act? The state DREAM Act?

Yes, I support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants living in the US. A timely path to citizenship without financial barriers and family unification. All rights and responsibilities afforded to natural citizens should be afforded to those on the path to citizenship including access to health and human services and educational opportunities. I am supportive of the DREAM Act(s).

12. What are your views on civil liberties as they relate to: 1) the effects of gang injunctions; 2) the right to protest under the 1st Amendment; 3) the 2nd Amendment and the right to bear arms, and 4) the right to privacy and surveillance by law enforcement?

1) The test for injunctions for gangs has to be very high and in a manner when to otherwise not act causes harm to society.

2) The standard would have to be very high to limit the ability to gather and express protest – it would have to relate to violence which would directly harm the public peace and safety. Otherwise the right to assemble cannot be suppressed.

3) I do not believe that the 2nd amendment was designed to completely restrict the government's ability to regulate and restrict the use of arms. Measures to reasonably regulate the use of weapons such as some guns are important to the safety of the society as a whole.

4) Again the test has to be very high for the use of surveillance on individuals and groups in terms of an actual threat to the public or society in general. The process should be thorough and complete to prove the necessity.

13. Suppose an employee over which you had responsibility became a whistleblower, going to the media with damaging information that he or she alleges was not properly dealt with via normal channels. What actions would you take? Would you support civil or criminal penalties for this person?

When I was executive director of the nonprofit I ran for several years, I established whistleblower guidelines. I believe that whistleblowers must have protection and independence as it increases safety overall.

14. What is your view on the current administration's use of indefinite detention to hold people deemed to be threats to national security, and use of extrajudicial assassination to kill people deemed to be "unlawful combatants" (e.g. drone strikes)? What is your view on the use of so-called "enhanced interrogation" techniques?

I find this policy troubling- it's lack of transparency for one and I do not see a clear nexus between this policy and the direct security interest of the United States. I am totally against "enhanced interrogation" techniques. It is ineffective and damaging to the image and ideals of the United States.

15. What reforms, if any, do you believe should be made to the current campaign finance system? Would you support support the ratification of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution ending corporate personhood, regulation of corporate campaign contributions or public financing of campaigns?

I would support the amendment. Citizen United should be overturned. It has been extremely damaging to the democratic nature of our political process. I would support a strong public finance law

16. What reforms of the criminal justice system would you like to see? Do you support capital punishment, LWOP (life without parole) for adults or juveniles, three strikes, or solitary confinement?

Three strikes is a disaster which has led to an inequality in the application of penalties and has led to a significant overcrowding problem. I do not support the death penalty. I do not support LWOP for juveniles. I do not support solitary confinement as a manner of long term incarceration.

17. What practices or policies would you support to promote a well-rounded quality public education for students and attract and retain quality educators in our schools? What is your view on the creation of charter schools?

I think we have to have a complete and total commitment to the public education system. It holds our society together. It is important that we pay our teachers properly, and that classes are not overcrowded. We cannot place the entire burden and the ills of society, on the public school system and then blame them when they cannot solve the issues at the root of the problem for students. All students need access to assistance programs to help them lift out of the disadvantaged portions of society. The creation of charter schools should not be done at the expense of the public school system, either by taking away resources or by cherry-picking the best students. Some charters provide specialized service for students with needs or act as an incubator for new approaches for education.

18. What action would you take to address climate change? How would you balance environmental sustainability, energy policy and social justice?

We should utilize new technologies whenever available to increase energy efficiencies in all city owned/managed properties, such as LED street lighting, programmable HVAC systems which can connect to the smart grid, and use cleaner fuels or electric options when available for the city's fleet of vehicles. All residents deserve access to clean water, healthy food including locally grown fruits and vegetables, and safe parks and recreation centers to promote exercise and healthy living choices. The homeless population also deserves access to these services, as well as further options to allow them to live their lives with dignity and opportunities toward permanent housing. The bar for environmental justice should be equal citywide - poorer neighborhoods should not bear the weight of a disproportionate amount of pollution and neglect.

19. How do you feel about the privatization of public resources and services, e.g. water, water treatment, parks, schools, parking structures, libraries, law enforcement, fire emergency and emergency medical services, Social Security, military, roads, bridges, etc.?

I oppose it. Government losing control over the services provided and not providing the long term expertise is bad for society as a whole.

20. What is your stance on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act? With the ACA now a reality, what is your position on health care for all?

I am in total support of ACA, however I feel strongly that the best possible approach to health care is to create a single payer system.

21. What are your views on international trade policies, and free trade in particular?

I have a specific disdain for the policies which allow the circumvention of basic public health and safety standards by our government.

22. What solution(s) would you propose to solve budget shortfalls and how would you prioritize the needs of your constituents? Would taxes be part of that solution?

On my first day in office, I will commit to a top-down comprehensive review of the city budget. I will bring to the City Council what I provided during my 20-years of experience on the Los Rios Community College Board of Trustees- I will work to provide services while setting aside enough to build a healthy reserve and grow the city in a responsible fashion. I think it is paramount to review how and what government does and make sure government is providing essential services to society, while providing the a high quality of life in a community and an opportunity for one to improve their situation. Anything which causes the transfer to wealth from one section of society to another who has less should be avoided. Any services provided by the private section should be looked at closely, and when able the public should provide that service in a smarter more focused way. After

review of government expenditures, I would consider tax measure as a possibly as long as it was shared equitably across the members of society.

23. What is the most important issue in affecting your constituents and what will you accomplish while in office to address that issue?

I want to build upon the economic recovery and work towards local, well-paying jobs on which workers can support their families. I want to be an active and vigilant participant in providing oversight for the proper and prudent implementation of the Entertainment Sports Center. I want to play a critical role in confronting the City's ongoing long-term liabilities and financial obligation--or the so-called "wall of debt"--that is being described as growing dangerously high. I will make sure that at every level of local government where decisions will impact our neighborhoods and our community that public participation is a critical element in that process. I want to develop more youth programs throughout the community to keep our kids safe and out of trouble. I want to make sure our municipal parks stay open and remain safe.

Signed: Bruce Pomer – Electronically

Dated: 2-8-15