

**RainbowPAC Nonpartisan Candidate Questionnaire
2016-FINAL : Entry # 79****Campaign Committee Name:**

Coby Pizzotti for School Board 2016

Address:

3110 Suisun Bay Rd
West Sacramento, California 95691
United States
[Map It](#)

Phone Cell:

(916) 708-5548

Phone Office:

(916) 329-9140

Emailcpizzotti@me.com**Campaign Web Site:**<https://www.facebook.com/cpizzotti4schoolboard/>**FPPC ID:**

1387654

Campaign Consultant:

Coby Pizzotti

Consultant Phone:

(916) 708-5548

Campaign Manager:

Coby Pizzotti

Manager Phone:

(916) 708-5548

Employer:

Lyles, Wiesmann, Pizzotti & Associates

Occupation:

Partner/Consultant/Lobbyist

**RainbowPAC Nonpartisan Candidate Questionnaire
2016-FINAL : Entry # 79****Office You Are Seeking:**

Washington Unified School District Board of Trustees

Specify District/Seat/Ward Number or Indicate At Large:

at large

Estimated Campaign Budget:

10000

As of this Questionnaire, Amount Raised:

5700

1. Do you support the mission and purposes of Rainbow PAC, as outlined on the PAC web page? How have you helped or will help to achieve RainbowPAC objectives?

Absolutely!!! I am partner in a seven person office in Sacramento and as part of our office policies we have ensured that all of our staff have had sensitivity training. While being a small office we still support the LGBT community and have contributed to the EQCA PAC on behalf of our client.

I am a lobbyist and PAC consultant and have recommended that our client contribute to the campaigns of several LGBT candidates like: Assembly Members Toni Atkins, Rich Gordon, Susan Eggman Talamantes, Evan Low, Senators Ricardo Lara, Mark Leno and Cathleen Galgiani.

2. Are you a current member of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce? If yes, since when? And, are you or any of your staff or key volunteers openly LGBT?

No my firm is not a member. Our firm was founded to service one client, the California Association of Psychiatric Technicians. Our client is a state employee labor union and we only provide services to them and are not looking to expand our business. Therefore we have not joined any Chamber.

As for our staff, we inherited the staff from the previous firm that represented our client and to my knowledge no one is openly LGBT.

3. Describe how you would support/oppose the use of programs to insure equal opportunities, policies, laws, and/or ordinances that protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in the workplace.

As a current school board member, I support our zero tolerance policy for bullying. Furthermore, if elect, I would like to set up an LGBT Task Force to help create policies that protect students, teachers and staff from suffering any bullying or intimidation in the schools or work place.

I would always oppose any legislation, policy or ordinance that showed any form of LGBT discrimination, such as the North Carolina bathroom law.

4. Describe your position on gender-neutral restrooms in public schools and public facilities.

I support gender neutral bathrooms, and have already implemented gender neutral bathrooms in our school district.

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5. Would you support mandatory diversity training that includes LGBT issues for public employees, law enforcement personnel and correctional peace officers? Why or why not?

Yes, I would. I represent a state employee labor union, and many of our members are members of the LGBT community. We have as a union of state employees always supported and advocated diversity training and will continue to do so. I believe all law enforcement personnel should receive diversity training as well, and I believe we need to do a better job as a society in providing training to law enforcement on a number of social issues.

6. What is your position on funding for HIV/AIDS services, including, but not limited to, needle-exchange programs?

I fully support needle-exchange and fully funding HIV/AIDS services.

7. What is your position on age-appropriate public school curriculum that teaches awareness and sensitivity regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and anti-bullying?

My position is that it is never too young to start teaching children about sexual orientation, gender identity, diversity, and that bullying should never be tolerated. Bullying is a learned behavior and we as parents can teach our children that saying or doing hurtful things can really do harm. My little girl is four years old, and my wife and I have already started teaching her that some girls like other girls, some boys like other boys, and some girls like boys. We have tried to stay away from gender stereotypes and allowed her to choose her own path.

I believe our schools need have sensitivity regarding sexual orientation, gender identity and anti-bullying.

8. Explain your position of support/opposition the right for a woman to access reproductive healthcare.

I fully support a woman's right to have access to reproductive healthcare.

9. Explain your position of support/opposition to comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship.

I believe we need path to citizenship, as many undocumented immigrants work and pay taxes in this state and country for that matter. This country was founded on immigration, my family immigrated to this country in 1916. So, unless you are Native American, all of came from somewhere else. It boggles my mind that there is still a debate about immigration, the benefits to our businesses and community are proven. The fact that we do not have comprehensive immigration reform including a path to citizenship just shows how prejudice our country still is.

10. Describe your community involvement. List specific organizations and roles.

Washington Unified School District, Trustee
Universal Preschool for West Sacramento (UP4WS) Committee member

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11. Who has endorsed your candidacy? Please be specific.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson
 Vice Chair of the California Democratic Party Alex Gallardo-Rooker
 Sacramento Mayor-elect Darrell Steinberg
 Yolo County Supervisors: Oscar Villegas, Don Saylor, Matt Rexroad
 West Sacramento City Council Members: Babs Sandeen, Chris Ledesma, Mark Johannessen
 Washington Unified School Board Trustees: Alicia Cruz, Sarah Kirby-Gonsalez, Katie Villegas
 Former Assembly Members: Mariko Yamada, Joan Buchanan
 Local community member Jeanette Ali - Realtor, BWIPTO President, Multi-Cultural Community Council
 Local community member Sonny Ali – Sacramento Spinal Foundation, CEO/Founder
 Washington Teachers Association
 Yolo County Democratic Club
 Sacramento Central Labor Council
 Sheet Metal Workers Local 104
 California Statewide Law Enforcement Association Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 77
 California Association of Psychiatric Technicians

12. What are the most pressing issues facing our region and how do you propose we resolve them?

I would say that for my particular race dealing with schools the teacher shortage is something that effects not only our district but our region. We must be able to recruit and retain good teachers as they are the backbone of our schools. Far too many teachers have left the district for higher paying jobs in other districts. We must find ways to be more competitive. We need to offer teachers signing bonuses for entering the teaching profession in our district, as well as offer competitive benefits.

13. What is your vision to attract major businesses/Fortune 500 companies into our region?

Provide a well qualified work force, which starts with the schools. We should partner with businesses to find out what kind of career and technical education skills they need for their work force. Our district has an excellent Career and Technical Education program, and have worked with many farms for farm to fork education, as well as construction trades so that our kids learn skills they can use straight out of High School and go to work. This type of investment in the future workforce is an incentive for companies to come to our region.

14. What are your ideas for mitigating the impacts of burdensome regulations and unfunded mandates on small businesses?

While this doesn't necessarily apply to our school districts, I believe we should be advocating in the legislature to stop passing laws that are unfunded mandates. We should have a special commission on mandates to look at those pieces of law that are burdensome on businesses and stymie growth.

15. How do you envision expanding and improving our local and regional mass transit system?

For the city of West Sacramento and the Washington Unified School District, we need to partner with the regions mass transit system so that we can ensure that kids have the ability to get to school. While the high school does have school buses providing transportation, the rest of the schools do not. Not every parent can take their child to school, and we should work to increase routes so that kids are not late for school or just not show up at all, which impacts our Average Daily Attendance Funding.

**RainbowPAC Nonpartisan Candidate Questionnaire
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I support Project Labor Agreements, however, I am not familiar with the other two.

17. Do you support increasing the minimum wage, locally and/or statewide? Do you support a \$15 minimum wage? How would you propose to mitigate the impact of a minimum wage increase on small businesses?

Yes, I support the gradual increase to \$15. While I realize this can be a revenue loss for some businesses, the taxes generated from people having increased salaries will benefit society. Local businesses will likely have to raise prices for services.

18. What is your position on in support/opposition to the Affordable Care Act and requiring employers to provide health care insurance to workers and families?

I am torn on the Affordable Care Act. Being a small business owner myself, I know we pay a small fortune to provide healthcare to our staff. However, I feel it is a moral obligation to treat my staff well and that includes providing them with good pay and excellent benefits. That is why our staff has only lost one staff member in the past 13 years. At the same time, other small businesses are struggling to afford to pay for health care for their employees.

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