

**RainbowPAC Nonpartisan Candidate Questionnaire
2016-FINAL : Entry # 81****Campaign Committee Name:**

Voyce for SCC Board 2016

Address:1907 Minnesota Street
Fairfield, California 94533
United States
[Map It](#)**Phone Cell:**

(707) 290-2522

Emailinfo@quintenvoyce.com**Campaign Web Site:**<http://www.quintenvoyce.com/>**FPPC ID:**

1387625

Campaign Consultant:

Stefan Murphy

Consultant Phone:

(530) 559-5599

Employer:

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District

Occupation:

High School Teacher

Office You Are Seeking:

Solano Community College Governing Board

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

Solano Community College District 5

Estimated Campaign Budget:

10000

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6000

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?

I fully support the mission and purposes of the Rainbow PAC. An important part of my platform is support of an innovative new program in California's Community College system: Solano Community College is pioneering a Bachelor of Science four-year degree in Biomanufacturing in 2017. As a science educator, with experience in biotechnology, I am seeking to ensure that this new program is fully supported in its infancy. This is a chance for the college to build a trained workforce that will attract businesses to our budding biotechnology industry, strengthening our community. Here is an excellent example of bringing together business needs and community needs by fostering a diverse, educated, and trained workforce, to pair with better-paying jobs in a growing and innovative industry.

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?

I am not currently a member of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. I am an openly LGBT faculty member in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District and in my home community of Fairfield. My Sacramento Campaign Liaison is former RCC Board Member Stefan Murphy, and my brother-in-law Alberto Sanchez, current RCC Board Secretary, is a Volunteer. My Campaign Treasurer, Gary Walker, is openly LGBT, and a longtime member of the Solano community.

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.

If elected, I will likely be the only openly LGBT elected official in all of Solano County. Our region is consistently noted as one of the most diverse populations in the country and that diversity should be reflected in our higher education and vocational training. I know first hand the struggles of being a first-generation college student, and I value the success of our students from every background. It is imperative that we promote diversity and acceptance in our classrooms and in the policies proposed and implemented by the Solano Community College Board, from admissions, to activities; from undergraduate education, to workforce development and training. I look forward to continuing the momentum of recent changes not just in the law, but in public awareness and acceptance in order to make for a better and more enriching educational experience not just for LGBT students, but for the entire student body.

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

I firmly support gender-neutral facilities in our schools and public facilities. Solano county is often more conservative than others in the area, (and in fact was the only Bay Area county that voted in favor of Proposition 8) and that's why I consider it especially important to be an openly LGBT elected official, to be that voice not just of tolerance and inclusion, but of progress.

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Date

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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 support mandatory diversity training. People sometimes confuse "understanding" differences as "accepting" them, and that is not always the case. As an educator I spend every day exposing minds to ideas and concepts unfamiliar to them. Gaining an understanding of diverse backgrounds and cultures leads to better critical thinking skills, in the young adults I see every day, that exposure leads to growth. So for public officials and law enforcement, that can only lead to better relations between groups, and a more effective government.

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

I have been a strong supporter of HIV/AIDS education and services of all kinds. While not professionally connected to our Solano College Health Center, I would continue to advocate for it, as it has served as a model for other community colleges and provides in-person and virtual information on HIV/AIDS.

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

As a public school educator, I receive regular training in all of these areas, and must put that knowledge into practice each day. I have had, and will continue to have, LGBTQ students in my classes, and I am proud to be an out and open resource to them.

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

A woman should have access to the knowledge and resources necessary to make her own health decisions.

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

Each year I have students who are immigrants or are the children of immigrants. The uncertainty in their lives regarding housing, jobs, and even deportation is a horrible drain on them emotionally and is a tremendous distraction to learning. In my Early-College classes, many of these students are the first members of their families to even consider a two-year or four-year degree. These families are in need of a path. I am an advocate for my students to have a reasonable and achievable path to citizenship.

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

Samantics Nonprofit Choir supporting arts education scholarships - Board of Directors from 2013-2016
Served as a teacher volunteer on the School Site-Council for Rodriguez High School from 2014-2016, and as Chair of the School Site Council from 2015-2016
Supporter of the Solano Pride Center
Member of the Stonewall Democrats of Solano County
Member of the Sacramento Stonewall Democrats

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

Official Democratic Endorsed Candidate - Solano County Central Democrat Committee

With recommendations from:

- Stonewall Democrats of Solano County

- United Democrats of Solano County

Monica Brown - Solano Community College Trustee (Current Trustee for District 5)

Dana Dean - President of Solano County Board of Education

IBEW-Local 180 - International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Gary Walker; Former Fairfield City Councilmember; Fairfield Planning Commission

Jim DeKloe; Solano Community College Professor, Biotechnology

Sacramento Stonewall Democrats

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

In my scope as an educator, I see access to, and financing of education as a critical issue. We cannot sustain a tax base without employed people. We must ensure that for those who want an education, whether academic or vocational, that we provide easy access to enroll and pay for the learning necessary to earn and maintain gainful employment in such a way that the student is not burdened with insurmountable debt. A diverse, open, welcoming, and affordable quality community college education must be available to all those that express interest. And a skilled and knowledgeable workforce attracts and retains businesses both large and small.

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

In my capacity as Board Member, I see our greatest opportunity to attract major businesses in bringing the four-year degree in Biomanufacturing to fruition. As one of only a handful of community colleges in all of California selected to participate in this special degree program, I feel it is a remarkable opportunity for us to shepherd our local student population into becoming a skilled, knowledgeable, and sustainable workforce that biotech firms will compete to hire. Pioneering the Biomanufacturing degree at Solano is a natural fit with our existing Biotech firms already doing business in the area.

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

In my capacity as a Community College Governing Board member, I will not have any direct influence in this area.

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

Unlike Sacramento-area students, our Solano population must rely solely on our local bus transit systems, primarily FAST and CityCoach (Fairfield/Suisun and Vacaville, respectively). Getting our students from the main campus to biotech manufacturing sites in the county will be a critical component in the success of the Biomanufacturing degree program as we explore site visits and internships. As that program expands, I see that the employer pool may be able to participate, much as many companies already do in ride-share, van-pool, and subsidized transit passes for existing employee populations.

16. Describe your position on Community Benefit Resolutions, Living Wage Ordinances, and Project Labor Agreements?

As a Governing Board Member, I can have a strong influence on developing and implementing such agreements. Promoting a diverse faculty, staff, and workforce has a direct impact on the student body: If a student sees faculty and staff that are part of their same "community", then the student can see themselves in that same or similar role. Advocating for and including minority-owned businesses in contracts and hiring would also fall under my purview as a Board Member.

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?

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Many of my student's families struggle to maintain households in our area. Minimum-wage must be a live-able wage. Our area is expensive, but mandating a state-wide minimum wage may generate issues for small business owners in areas where the cost of living is nowhere near the outrageous costs of the greater Bay Area and Sacramento Metro areas. We have to find a reasonable compromise for the different areas within California, while being careful not to create a labyrinth of complicated rules or formulae.

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?

While I will have no direct influence in my position as a Governing Board Member in this area, personally I feel that healthcare is necessary for all. Large businesses are in a much better position to satisfy this need compared to small business owners, where the burden may be unsustainable without further healthcare reform. What I can do as a Board Member is to make sure that our Student Health Center remains a valuable and affordable resource for our student body, regardless of their employment status.

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