

Green Party Questionnaire for NHUSD Board candidates

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QUESTIONS FOR BRIEF RESPONSES:

1. Please provide a very brief summary of your background and qualifications for NHUSD Board. If you are a current elected official, what successes could you point to in your time as an elected office.

Union City has been my home town since migrating from India in 1991. I am a former high school math and science teacher. My three sons are products of our district. I am serving as the president of the Board of Education this year. I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve our community and kids.

In the last eight years, I have helped our district overcome the significant challenges of the state wide fiscal crisis and kept emphasis on classroom priorities. I have always been instrumental in obtaining the resources needed to ensure every child's success. Student achievement, school safety and sound budget remained my highest priority. To reduce the achievement gap we have provided open access to AP courses at Logan. Parents and business community is more involved in student learning and assessments. Our budgets has been getting positive certifications. We have increased graduation rates and decreased dropout rates. By working collaboratively with fellow board members, parents, teachers, and staff, I have helped to create a positive culture for the district. Together, we were able to maintain safe learning environment amidst the tragic shootings in schools.

On the ongoing basis, still lot more work remains to get kids scores better and proficiency levels high.Kids for whom college is not a choice, direly need different kinds of hands on career technical education.

Biggest challenge is that California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil funding, when considering the cost of living and doing business here. We need to do more advocacy work to address this problem.

Our kids inspire me everyday. I will continue to work hard to improve the educational opportunities for all families in the New Haven Unified School District by supporting policies that enhance quality student learning and financial stability. I again, humbly ask for your support and vote on 11/6/2018 to reelect me to sustain the positive change I have helped to bring in our schools.

2. Why did you choose to run for NHUSD Board? What strengths/skills would you bring to the it?

I am a life long educator. Community saw my strengths during my volunteer work in our school system and requested me to run first ever time in 2006. I did not have any knowledge , exposure and any aspiration for politics back then. This has been very interesting growth opportunity and it has become one of my missions to help elect as many right people in the system. Democracy is not spectator's sport.

3. Have you been affiliated with any local civic, citizen, or environmental advocacy groups? Since 9/11, I have been an active member of many worthy organizations. Due to my board responsibilities, now, I am only member of League of women voters of Tri City, Union City Lions Club, Union City Historical museum, Fremont Area Writers, Save the Hills in Union City.

4. What endorsements have you received so far (from either groups or individuals)?

Tri-City Democratic Forum, Assemblyman Bill Quirk, Senator Bob Wieckowski, Supervisor Valle

Union City Mayor Dutra-Vernaci, Mayor Mark Green, My fellow board members Sharan Kaur, Jeff Wang, Linda Canlas and many other elected officials of the area.

Council man Gary Singh, Council women Duncan, Some others are in the pipeline.

Organizations---

Professional Engineers in California Government, Carpenters and Building Trades Unions.

5. What are some of the most important issues in the NHUSD Public Schools that need to be addressed, and what creative ideas can you offer to address them?

All school districts in Alameda County, except Fremont and Piedmont are facing declining enrollment. We are starting more advocacy efforts for our excellent schools, which offer myriad types of programs to cater the needs of each child. Charter schools movement is a threat to American public education system and to our democracy.

6. How much money do you currently plan to devote to your campaign? Are your donors publicly listed on your website?

I plan to raise between 15 - 20 K. Printing costs, mailers, lawn signs, voter guide participations are all very expensive. All information about donors is public.

7. Do you consider environmental education as part of your vision for the public schools? If so, how would these concerns be implemented?

Yes, being a civil engineer, I understand the value of this education. Environmental education has always been a part of my vision.

8. Would you favor developing school community gardens to teach environmentally sound practices?

Of Course. Actually, I always helped alongside my sons in Searls elementary to grow kitchen garden on the school campus. We also stencil painted " Drains to Bay" the storm drains in my neighbor hood schools.

9. Do you plan to have the schools to expand solar panel coverage on the roofs of school buildings as well as parking lots?

We are ahead. New Haven Schools are almost done with installing solars on all of our school buildings.

10. Do you have ideas for further implementing the a commitment to the idea of "no room for racism"? If so, how would this be done?

Donning a turban on my head, I and my family have put up with enough. Encouraging minorities to come out of the shells and become a part of the public dialogue.May everyone prosper, is a part of my daily prayers.

11. Would you take a stand against for-profit charter schools, even if doing so were to contradict federal policy?

Being an elected official, I am bound to follow laws. Together, we need to ask to have more stringent policy language at the legislature level for these education shops.

12. Finally, is there anything else you would like the electorate to know about you, your campaign, or your qualifications?

In 2010, Union City/New Haven Community created a new chapter in its history by electing a first ever Sikh-American woman elected to any public office in United States. I am humbled, honored and grateful.

I bring unique analytical abilities and unmatched leadership experiences to board, because of my life journey. Working together, we will help make Union City a city of choice.

Thanks.