

**Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights
School Board Questionnaire - 2026**



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Did you include the requested Additional Materials? Yes ☒ or No ☐

Please email completed Questionnaire and Additional Materials to
smrrinfo@gmail.com

Please note: For transparency and accuracy, I do answer similar questions regarding my candidacy and thinking on issues with similar or same language. I do also answer each question in every questionnaire with the specific ways questions were asked in mind, and based on the information I have at the time of response. As more time spent hearing from all sources and learning more on the campaign occurs, natural shifts and adaptations may emerge. To that end, you may see both similarities and differences in my responses to different organizations over time. I am intentionally using my own words and thoughts on multiple forms with slight variations based on situational factors.

Thank you, Stacy

Your Candidacy

1. What is your understanding of the role of a Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board member?

The role of a board member is to provide vision and direction to the district, community input and involvement, oversee the Superintendent (including ongoing support and conversation, annual review, and hiring and firing), oversee processes like budgetary/fiscal and accountability measures, and create, manage, and oversee policies. This is in collaboration with the superintendent as the superintendent and the district employees are responsible for operations and implementation. I take these responsibilities and the work with the district and the communities of Santa Monica and Malibu very seriously.

2. Why are you running to be a SMMUSD board member?

I am running for re-election to serve on the school board for four primary reasons.

- I want to continue to contribute to the vision-making and the decision-making for our district.
- I would like to keep being engaged as a direct part of decisions including the current move to change educational practices, budgetary practices, and focus and to bring improved methods of local representation, not just for Malibu, but across the district and on pressing matters including our English language learners,

special education, and technology. I continue to be committed to represent unheard or misheard voices within our district. I have seen some shifts in these areas in the last four years. At the same time, we are always adapting and learning to what our students need most so the work continues.

- I want to continue to be a representative specifically for Malibu schools and Malibu community as we forge ahead with a joint plan for Unification to create SMUSD and MUSD - both communities agree this is best for all students in both cities and are committed to finding a way forward. While I am not serving on the SM-MUSD subcommittee for unification, I strive to be a presence for both the district and city of Malibu subcommittee members and help provide feedback and perspective.
- I bring with me practices of healthy conflict engagement, strong collaboration skills, warmth and empathy, and good communication skills; these have been valuable in the work our Board carries out and I want to continue them.

3. What skills, background, and experience do you possess that prepare you for this office? *Note - this reply is drawn from a similar question asked by Santa Monica Democratic Club.*

I am a deeply rooted member of the Malibu community. I have many years working with the district from the Malibu community before running for school board in 2022. I bring knowledge and care of education, with specific work experience in early education and higher education. I have expertise and passion for good communication that is informed and reinforced by healthy conflict and socio-emotional techniques.

I have a strong commitment to public education. I grew up attending public schools and my two children were part of the Malibu Pathway in SMMUSD from Kindergarten to graduation. My kids are successful young adults. I believe access to a high-quality and free education is the key for people to grow in opportunity and, ultimately, success for their families. I am committed to the power and potential of public education.

I am demonstrably committed to this district. From 2012 to 2022 I engaged in various ways including participating at the local level in my children's schools, working closely with the larger district as a whole, paraschool organizations like the Malibu Boys and Girls Club, Webster's PTA President in 2012, part of the Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAG) and many Board of Education meetings making public comments to request that the district and the board take a different approach to the implementation of the needed changes.

I have leadership, service, and education experience in SMMUSD in the following ways:

- SMMUSD Malibu Pathway Parent, 2004-2021 (children attended Webster Elementary, Malibu Middle School, and Malibu High School)
- Parent Classroom Volunteer, Webster School 2004-2010
- Webster PTA Board, VP of Administration 2010-2012
- Webster PTA Board, President 2012-2013
- Webster School Site Council, member 2011-2012
- Superintendent's Advisory Council, member 2012-2015
- Malibu FDAC, member 2016-2022, applied and approved by the SMMUSD Board of Education
- Malibu Schools Leadership Council, president 2016-2022
- Level One Restorative Justice Training, participant February 2018
- Superintendent's Feasibility Committee, member March-July 2018
- Measure M Co-Chair July-November 2018
- Malibu Middle and High Steering Committee, member August 2018-present,
- Malibu Middle and High Planning Committee, member August 2018-present
- Level Two Restorative Justice Training, participant February 2019
- Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee, member January 2020-2021
- SM-MUSD School Board, member, 2022-present
 - Liaison, Malibu Facilities District Advisory Committee, 2022-present
 - Liaison, Early Childhood Education District Advisory Committee, 2022-present
 - Liaison, Special Education District Advisory Committee, 2022-2024

I am trained in public service and view this position as a public servant who serves the entire community, not just those in my neighborhood or town or demographics. I also have training and experience and the ability to create trust-building, empathy building, and a new set of conflict engagement skills to the forefront of how the board operates. I bring collaborative processes to change how decisions are made and bring experience with the facilitation of stakeholder groups that will increase positive and meaningful interfaces with constituents (children, families/caregivers, employees, staff, administration, and contract and MOU holders, etc.), and the public (residents and businesses within SMMUSD who are not part of SMMUSD, city governments, etc.).

My educational experiences demonstrate a life-long interest in and commitment to communication, education, and the power of collective/collaborative efforts in communities. My Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism honed my communication skills including listening, making meaning from hearing different perspectives, verbal and writing skills. Additionally, with a minor in Public Service, I was exposed to how political systems are built, maintained, sustained, and changed.

My pursuit and completion of my Master's degree in Dispute Resolution was wholly informed by my work in the school system. While my interests and skills led me to love the idea of this line of study, I was reluctant to pursue a degree solely out of a desire to learn. Through working with the people and systems of SMMUSD, over and over again I observed a system of silos that operate independently. I also found a sincere desire on everyone's part to be heard and their perspective and their work to be better be integrated as part of the whole. I took on graduate school with a full-time job after 20 years of being out of formal education. I did so because I saw the practical applications this type of work could provide me in the various roles I play throughout my other work as well as those I hold in SMMUSD. Dispute Resolution skills can be used anywhere, but I see their particular strength in working within a school district.

4. What sets you apart from the others running to be a SMMUSD board member?

Two things in particular that set me apart are: (1) I am an involved Malibu resident with nine years of experience working with the district as a Malibu community member and schools leader before running for school board in 2022, so I uniquely understand those dynamics and history. And (2) My expertise and training in communication, deep listening, coalition building, facilitation of large group conversations, and community building.

5. List each organization other than SMRR whose endorsement you have sought and whether or not you completed a questionnaire for that organization. Provide a copy of any questionnaire(s) you submitted to any other organization(s). **Note - both are attached**

- Santa Monica Democratic Club (SMDC) - questionnaire completed
- Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) - questionnaire completed

6. Please list your main funders, endorsers, and supporters, and provide an overview of your campaign's financial progress to date.

None at this time. My official campaign kick-off will be in the next four weeks. My current fundraising is \$0. For endorsement, none are completed at this time; the two listed above are still in process. I will seek endorsements throughout the process, especially once it's officially open to file. I will apply for endorsements that have deadlines prior to that date, but for fairness to all who choose to run, my personal preference would be that all endorsements happen after filing dates. In 2022 I didn't begin my campaign until late July/early August and I was afforded the opportunity to apply and participate in all endorsements. I would like any potential candidate to be afforded the same.

7. Will you accept donations from developers and/or their paid lobbyists for your campaign?

No. Since the school district does a lot of business with construction companies, I also would not accept funding or endorsement from those organizations solely to keep things away from the appearance of impropriety. That's tough because over time you do come to know people well, especially with Malibu projects, but for me personally this is important.

8. Please provide a list of all organizations with which you are a member, along with a description of leadership positions held, whether related to your civic, community or professional endeavors.

- International Ombuds Association 2020-present
- Stonewall Democrats 2022-present
- Malibu Democratic Club 2022-present
- Santa Monica Democratic Club 2022-2023, 2026-present
- SMRR 2022, 2026
- University Church of Christ 1998-present (member of Pastoral Care and Oversight Council 2021-2025)

SMRR

1. How long have you been a member of SMRR? Please outline the extent of your relationship and engagement with SMRR.

I placed membership in 2022 and again in 2026. I have been friendly but limited in my relationship and engagement with SMRR since 2022. I did not continue active participation with SMRR for the intervening years for two primary reasons: (1) When I did not receive endorsement I was not on rotation to provide updates from the board to SMRR, the other six board members are all endorsed and members so coverage was sufficient; (2) I work full-time and by not attending I could better use my time for other board-related duties, civic activities, and my family and personal life.

2. Do you pledge, if elected, to attend SMRR's monthly Steering Committee meetings to provide the School Board report (in rotation with other SMRR supported School Board members)?

I do pledge this.

3. Do you pledge, if elected, to discuss major policy issues related to your office with SMRR leaders prior to making decisions?

I will engage in community updates about policy decisions through the committee

meeting updates, as I do as liaison with FOC, Malibu Facilities District Advisory Committee, Early Childhood DAC, and other local bodies. Community engagement, understanding, and conversation are important. I have always been available for any conversation SMRR would wish to have and will continue to do so.

Issues Relating to the School District

1. What are the top 3 goals you want to achieve during your term on the SMMUSD Board? How do you think you can achieve these goals?

My three top goals during my term are as follows. First, continue to bring practices of healthy conflict engagement, strong collaboration skills, warmth and empathy, and good communication skills; these have been valuable in the work our Board carries out and I want to continue them. Second, I want to continue to be a representative specifically for Malibu schools and Malibu community in all things and also, crucially, as we forge ahead with a joint plan for Unification to create SMUSD and MUSD - both communities agree this is best for all students in both cities and are committed to finding a way forward. While I am not serving on the SM-MUSD subcommittee for unification, I strive to be a presence for both the district and city of Malibu subcommittee members and help provide feedback and perspective. Third, I want to continue to support and grow, adjusting our educational practices, sharpening our district focus.

2. What do you think SMMUSD has done well over the last few years, if anything?

Some things SM-MUSD has done well in my time on the board include:

- Adaptation to LCAP goals of local funding and community engagement groups
- Unprecedented progress and now enacting joint action for SM-MUSD unification process
- Adoption of budget reserves policy to reflect more accurately our basic aid status while still maintaining flexibility for employee raises and deferred maintenance costs.
- Adoption of the three-year plan model for district goals. It's going well and has given us much needed focus and shared language and goals.

What do you think SMMUSD has done poorly, if anything, and what would you propose to change to address what you view as shortcomings?

Communication in such an established system that is making changes within a changing climate continues to be a challenge. While much communication takes place, finding a consistent way to engage, to access information, to have deep conversations, to grow shared language with the community not just internally is very difficult and time consuming.

While the district has many mechanisms for this type of engagement, and are continuing to make it better (through LCAP, through meeting with neighborhoods for construction plans, through stories in our local papers, through the monthly SMMUSD Wave, etc), we still need to find more ways to do this as outreach rather than having places for people to come for the information. It's very tough to navigate.

One area I have wanted personally to improve, that I think will help this in a small way, is my communication and planned accessibility as a board member to the public. I have always been open to people reaching out and have tried to be responsive and accessible. However, I would like to develop a more sustained and regular manner to communicate and be present to the community. Whether that is some type of periodic written update on social media or public coffees, or a combination. With a full-time job and a recent difficult personal transition, I will need structure and planning to implement but that is a goal for development and implementation if I am re-elected. This would be individual, not as a group, due to brown act considerations.

3. With all of the stress and strife in the world and on school campuses today, what will you do if elected to help alleviate tensions that may arise and keep our public schools from being a hostile environment? Please address the issue in general, as well as address specifically the needs of our Black students, our Latino students, our LGBTQ+ students, our Jewish students, our Muslim students, our students from immigrant families, and students from any other groups targeted in the world with hate.

As I have done, I will continue to advocate for respect and acceptance of all in teaching, on our campuses, and with each other. When students are seen and taught as a whole person, when strengths and differences are valued, when bullying is not allowed, when health and safety and basic needs are prioritized, learning is in a better place to thrive.

4. What specific steps will you take to reduce achievement gaps of students from socio economically challenged backgrounds (or otherwise)?

I support centering student learning, well-being, and development through budgets that support STEM and arts education, sports programs, and mental and emotional supports; access to professional development and supports for teachers and staff members; funding for keeping our schools repaired and maintained; policies that protect safety and promote respect, community, and autonomy; providing venues for community transparency and engagement and feedback and response.

5. What can you point to in order to assure SMRR that you are truly committed to reducing achievement gaps for students from socio-economically challenged backgrounds (or otherwise)?

My record is clear. I support centering student learning, well-being, and development through budgets that support STEM and arts education, sports programs, and mental and emotional supports; access to professional development and supports for teachers and staff members; funding for keeping our schools repaired and maintained; policies that protect safety and promote respect, community, and autonomy; providing venues for community transparency and engagement and feedback and response.

6. Do you pledge to support continuing SMMUSD's policy of admitting students whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are employed in the district, even if they do not live in the district? Why or why not?

Yes, it's helpful to our community.

7. Education in California (and beyond) is changing a lot. What does the future of education at SMMUSD look like to you? What will you do if elected to facilitate your vision for the future of education at SMMUSD?

Continuing to promote education that is hands-on, community based and interest driven is vital. Project learning, individualized education, and student centered learning is a deep part of that.

8. Do you support SMMUSD building housing affordable to its workforce, including both teachers and non-teachers (such as maintenance workers, food services workers, crossing guards, etc.)? If so, what will you do if elected to assure that it happens?

Yes, I will support well written, fiscally sound, and implementable housing based on models that work in other communities, adjusted for our realities in Santa Monica and Malibu

9. Do you support the citizens' initiative Parcel Tax measure that will appear on the November ballot? If not, why not? If so, what do believe is/are the strongest argument/s in favor of the Measure?

As a Malibu resident I can't vote on this measure. I understand the reason for the ask and it isn't frivolous from my perspective, but this is a matter for Santa Monica voters to speak to.

Should it be voted in, I will continue to advocate for transparency in sharing how monies are spent and continued call for sound fiscal practices including reducing deficit spending year, building up reserves to cover for employee raises, rising health benefits and supplies costs, and to protect solvency in the event of financial downturns.

Should the measure not be voted in *and* the City not renew the Joint Use MOU upon its expiration in 2027, it will be I will be part of helping to find funding lost for our district and prioritizing what is kept should we lose such a significant portion of our general budget.

10. Voter approved 2022 Measure GS contemplated that an additional 5% transfer tax on sales of properties for \$8 million or more would go to providing additional funds for our public schools, for emergency and ongoing income support programs, for the preservation or creation of deed-restricted affordable housing, for right to counsel, and other programs aimed at preserving existing tenancies of and units serving lower and moderate income households. The first \$10 million collected goes to our public schools, as does 20% of anything collected above \$50 million. But on June 22, in Sacramento AB-736 was gutted and amended so that, if passed, it would cap the total transfer tax rate for all commercial and multi-family property in such a way that only 0.9% would go into the purposes outlined in 2022 Measure GS. Given that a City Council commissioned report in 2022 found that 93.4% of the total value of all transfers of \$8 million or more during the prior decade came from commercial and multi-family properties, AB-736 if passed will decimate the funding for homelessness prevention and affordable housing that 2022 Measure GS otherwise could provide, and will preclude the potential for the public schools to receive more than \$10 million per year (and could threaten even that in some years).

a. Do you support AB-736? Why or why not? I do not support overturning past ballot measures for taxes that have already been voted in across the state. If voters in their communities wish to change current voter-backed taxes, they would need to participate in the process of another initiative to call for a change instead of retroactively ending all that didn't meet requirements.

b. Do you support any other changes to Measure GS (if so, specify the changes)? Why or why not? I have no changes.

c. Can SMRR count on you as an ally to oppose efforts that threaten continued funding of the homelessness prevention and affordable housing programs contemplated by Measure GS, even if funding to the public schools would remain unaffected? If so, what can you point to assure SMRR that you truly are such an ally?

State Ballot Measures

1. Do you support the Howard Jarvis measure (or any substitute for that measure) to

require a two-thirds vote on any and every form of new local tax? Why or why not? Will you actively encourage your supporters to vote the same way as you on this measure?

As currently written, I do not support the proposed initiative. I am not against considering something that keeps all passage rates at two-thirds vote rather than simply majority. Although that is a higher bar and makes passage of vital funds more difficult, it does provide motivation to carefully consider measures and to show what is being asked for and why. Beyond the voter threshold, however, I do not agree with overturning past ballot measures for taxes that have already been voted in across the state. If voters in their communities wish to change current voter-backed taxes, they would need to participate in the process of another initiative to call for a change instead of retroactively ending all that didn't meet requirements.

2. Do you support the measure to require that any ballot measure imposing a new super-majority vote requirement must itself pass by that same super-majority in order to become effective? Why or why not? Will you actively encourage your supporters to vote the same way as you on this measure (assuming it appears on the ballot)?

I think this is just (as in justice) and how it should be. However if that is not a current legal requirement, imposing that is not likely to pass legal structures.

3. Do you support the measure to condition the right to vote on new voter identification requirements? Why or why not? Will you actively encourage your supporters to vote the same way as you on this measure?

No. There are already processes and protections in place for accurate and valid votes. Requiring presenting identification is an unnecessary hurdle for citizens to participate in the right and privilege each one is afforded by the US and each state that outweighs the low instances of actual fraud or the fear of fraud.