



Central Valley Progressive- Political Action Committee

Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire for Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

CANDIDATE PROFILE:

Name: Dr Daren A Miller	District Seeking: Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
Name of Campaign Committee: Elect Dr Daren Miller Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, 2022	FPPC#: 1445195
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CVPPAC CORE VALUES REGARDING EDUCATION

Please answer “YES” or “NO” if you agree or disagree with the following 3 questions.

1. There is value in having diversity in students, staff, educators, and administrators.

YES

2. All children are entitled to a quality education to prepare them for the 21st century

YES

3. All students are capable of learning and being productive members of society.

YES

4. Students should be taught based on the truth and facts.

YES

5. Government should enact and/or support increased corporate taxes, increased income taxes on wealthy individuals, taxes on global wealth, and commercial property taxes based on market values to adequately fund services such as childcare, public education, and public health.

YES

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please limit your responses to the following questions to no more than 200 words per question.

1. What are your educational qualifications, experience and training for the position?

I have worked in public education for the past 33 years as a counselor, vice principal, principal, director, and adjunct instructor. My career includes positions at Washington Union, Fresno Unified, Clovis Unified, Madera Unified, Fresno City College, and Madera Center. I served as a Trustee on the Fresno County Board of Education for 2-years. After graduating from Roosevelt HS, I earned five college degrees concluding with a doctoral degree from Fresno State University in Educational Leadership. I have been active participant with the Fresno County Democratic Party since 2010. Within the state party, I am an elected delegate for the 31st Assembly District and a Regional Director for the CA Dem Party- Black Caucus.

2. Why do you want to be Fresno County Superintendent of Schools?
The gaps in educational funds

I believe that the combination of my professional career, personal educational pursuits, and active political participation, make me the perfect person to be the next Superintendent of Schools for Fresno County. My personal desire for seeking the position is to improve educational outcomes for all students and communities in Fresno County. I will do this by (1) ensuring that every child receives challenging, on-grade level instruction from highly qualified and engaged teachers, (2) ensuring that all schools are safe and inviting to all students; (3) providing the needed and requested resources to each district, (4) certifying that every school district is fiscally solvent, (5) increasing co & extra-curricular options such as Career Tech Ed (CTE), dual enrollment, arts, music, and athletics, and (6) work to increase the number of local students becoming educators (teachers, counselor, and administrators).

3. What are your priorities regarding educating the children of Fresno County so they are prepared for the 21st century? How will you achieve those goals?

I spoke to some of my priorities in question #2. I will elaborate on how I will achieve these goals. First, I will rely of the numerous relationships I have developed throughout the county. Engaging school district and communities

where they are. This will include physical appearances, conducting meetings in non-traditional locations, and hearing from the public in specific areas of service. Secondly, I will ensure that superintendents and other educational leaders have the requisite knowledge to effectively execute their jobs. This will include training, developing peer cohorts, and be actively involved with local colleges engaged in the creation of educators. Lastly, I will have to address the educational gap created by the Corona Virus Pandemic. In some cases, students have encountered a two-year learning interruption. And although, educators can only speculate to quantify caused damage, we

4. How will you address the financial gaps in education funding?

The gaps in educational funding are rooted in the marriage of school funding and property taxes. Areas that have higher homes values, unfortunately, receive higher revenues from collected property taxes. This problem is a CA Board of Education issue. With that said, as the next superintendent I will advocate and lobby for changes to school funding policies. There are a myriad of options that can be explored to create a fair and equitable way to fund schools throughout the state and nation.

5. How do you balance the different **philosophies of education**

- Teacher-centered education to teach basic skills teachers think are needed in society;

I do believe that ALL educators have a professional responsibility to teach real-life lessons. I refer to this as teachable moments. I am not saying that parenting is a teacher's job, however in many cases, we are the only real-parent figure in a student's daily life. Sharing, being cooperative, respecting people, places, and property are all societal lessons that can be taught and/or reinforced in the educational setting. For me, being an educator is a calling, not a job. As such, I welcome every opportunity to work with young people and supports others to do the same. I will bring those attributes with as the next Superintendent of Schools for Fresno County.

- Student-centered education to develop the student's moral compass and allow each student to develop to their fullest potential;

I kind of answered this question with my previous response, but I will add this. A person's moral compass is developed by their surroundings as a child. That's why I believe it is imperative that children are exposed to a variety of cultures, foods, events, languages, news, teachers, leaders, and more. Mono-ideologies are dangerous in the world we live. It reinforces all the negative history our memories can offer. I am committed to exposing, involving, and

engaging children to the world through various culturally competent means. I will bring that to the Superintendent's office.

- Society-centered education to develop students ability to solve social problems and to develop behaviors that benefit society:

I will work to reinstate Civics Education back into schools. I believe the removal of mandated Civics instruction in schools, by then Secretary of Education William Bennett, was the single most detrimental act negatively impacting society. Civics Education was where students learned the history and operations of our government. Basic understanding such as voting, what elected officials do, and who they work for (Us, the public) have all been lost. For the past 3 summers, I have conducted an online community-based course entitled "Politics 101". This is my attempt to educate my sphere of influence about civic practices. As Superintendent, I can be expand the practice and advocate for the restoration of Civic Education in the classroom.