

## MODESTO BEE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

### **What is your full, legal name?**

Norman Vernon Lee

### **What name do you prefer be used in print?**

Norman V. Lee

### **What office do you seek?**

Stanislaus County Office of Education Board Member, Area 3

### **What is the primary reason you are running for this office?**

It is because of my varied background in education that I am running for the Stanislaus County Board of Education. I am well prepared for this challenge and ready to provide service to the districts in Area 3.

School districts have had a very difficult time operating over the past few years due to the status of our economy. Layoffs and school closures have been especially difficult for the educational community, students and their parents. It is possible there will be additional cuts to school district budgets in the coming years. I stand ready to face these challenges in the future. With my intimate knowledge of the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) and my background as a volunteer, School Board member, and educational and administrative background, I bring unique skills and experience to the Stanislaus County Board of Education. I AM READY TO GO TO WORK!

I have over 40 years of experience in education from volunteer to top level administrator. After 25 years of service with the SCOE, I retired in 2004 as the Deputy Superintendent of Student Services and Human Resources. I was responsible for a number of SCOE educational programs during my tenure including Special Education, Community Schools, Juvenile Hall, Charter Schools, Outdoor Education and Prevention Services to name a few. During my tenure, I established and monitored multi-million dollar budgets. In addition, I hired and evaluated over 500 employees in those programs. Furthermore, I negotiated with the teachers and classified unions for over 20 years. As administrator of Human Resources, I was in charge of Credentials, Internal Payroll, Benefits and Chief Recruiter and Compliance Officer and much more.

Since I retired, I have kept very busy. I am finishing my four year term on the Stanislaus Union School District's Board of Education. I am currently the President and have served as the Clerk. I continue to volunteer my services to school districts and community organizations such as Gallo's Center for the Arts. I have been a charter school consultant to SCOE, Interim Superintendent with Keyes Union and Valley Home School Districts and Director of Special Education for River Delta School District in Rio Vista. I served on the 2005-2006 Civil Grand Jury as Chair of the Finance Committee and member of the City and Government Planning Committee. I was a tutor at University Charter School, a booster club and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) committee member at Central Catholic High School as well as chair of both local and state educational organizations. As a result I have public, charter and private school experience.

### **What will be your single most important priority if you get elected?**

I want to be visible, responsive and support districts in Area 3. I will function as a liaison between the districts and the County Office of Education. This will give me the opportunity to support programs and services thus meeting the districts varied needs as requested. I believe working together, districts and the County Office of Education can have an open dialogue and

foster a collaborative and working spirit. In these hard times, the more we work together, the more fiscal, practical and efficient we can be to meet the needs of students in Stanislaus County now and in to the future.

**What sets you apart from the other candidates?**

My extensive background in education--specifically with the programs and services offered by SCOE--gives me unique knowledge and skill in the field of education. During my 40 years as an educator, I served as a teacher, administrator and Board Member. This rich background, supplies me with a thorough knowledge and understanding of the educational programs, services, function and role of the County Office of Education and the Board that oversees these operations. It is this background that sets me apart from others.

**Where do you work and what is your job title?**

Retired as Deputy Superintendent from the Stanislaus County Office of Education.

**What date were you born and where?**

February 14, 1944 in Sacramento, CA

**What is your spouse's name, if any?**

Debi Lee

**What are the names and ages of your children, if any?**

Sara Gilmore, 27, and Kevin Lee, 18.

**Please list the schools and colleges you attended, the degrees you attained and when.**

Education:

- 1976 Master of Arts Degree,  
California State University, Sacramento, Learning Disabilities
- 1968 Bachelor of Arts Degree,  
California State University, Fresno, Graphic Arts/Business
- 1966 Associates Arts Degree,  
Sacramento City College, Architectural Design

Credentials:

- 1979 Administrative Credential (Life), California State University, Stanislaus
- 1972 Elementary, Secondary, Learning & Severely Disabled (Life). California State University, Sacramento

**Have you ever held an elected or appointed public office?**

Yes. I currently serve as the President of the Stanislaus Union School District Board. I was elected to the Board in November 2007. My current term began in January of 2008.

**Have you run before for an elected public office?**

Yes. (See above)

**Approximately how much money do you expect to spend on your campaign?**

Less than \$1,000

**Have you ever been convicted or charged with a crime other than a minor traffic violation?**

No

**Have you or a business you owned or had principal interest in ever filed bankruptcy?**

No

**Do any of your immediate family members work for the organization/agency you are running to represent?**

No

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Campaign Web site address, Facebook page, Twitter account:**

None

**Please list the campaign contact information you want made available to the general public in print and online, including a phone number, address and e-mail:**

Norman Lee

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