



EAST BAY YOUNG DEMS Questionnaire for Candidates Seeking National Office

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot: Adriel Hampton
2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number)
House of Representatives, CA District 10
3. Are you the incumbent? Yes **No**
4. How long have you resided in this district? I've lived two miles outside district for the last two years, after eight years in District
5. Is the office you seek partisan or nonpartisan? **Partisan** Nonpartisan
6. If partisan, please indicate party: Democr

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:	Adriel Hampton for Congres
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Please limit each answer to 250 words or less.

1. Young adults entering the workforce seem to have an especially hard time finding employment in this economy, let alone a good job with fair pay and benefits. Trickle-down from the stimulus is moving slowly, and the government has spent much more bailing out financial institutions than

creating jobs or building infrastructure. What kind of economic policies must we adopt to get out of this recession and feeling prosperous as a nation? How will you work to advance your goals at the national level and within your district?

I will fight to fund and promote credit unions, not big bank bailouts. I will work to cap interest rates, especially on existing balances, and will vigorously investigate the failures of the Treasury and its abdication of responsibility. I support passage of Senate Bill 582, capping interest rates on credit cards. President Obama and Congress should also consider student loan forgiveness as a way for young people to stimulate the economy. And finally, the right national approach, co-created with states and localities, will spark a boom in our conversion from fossil fuels to green energy, offering a potentially unlimited number of new jobs in an important new industry.

2. How would you use your elected office to improve public education and make higher education affordable and accessible? Specifically, how would you improve federal student aid policies to reduce the reliance on personal debt to finance higher education?

The gap in education in the United States between the haves and have-nots is historically unprecedented. It crushes individual progress and undermines our economy and social stability. Tuition costs continue to soar while real incomes are flat and aid programs in constant jeopardy. I believe a college education should be available to everyone. I support new legislation pending in congress to eliminate direct lending between higher-education institutions and banks, instead utilizing the federal government to administer direct aid. Such a policy would free around \$87 billion in financial aid, according to the Congressional Budget Office. I support other pending legislation to modernize community colleges, increase Pell Grant ceilings, and make the process of applying for financial aid easier by simplifying the FAFSA. But while these changes are laudable, they do not go far enough. If the GI Bill works for veterans, other versions of such assistance would also work. Everyone benefits when we invest in education. I believe we should seek ways to make higher education virtually free for any American who chooses to attend a public college or university. Finally, I will fight to repeal Section 484(r) of the Higher Education Act, suspending financial aid eligibility for those convicted of drug crimes. This is a ridiculous, counterproductive law. It means murderers can get federal funding for college, while those convicted of possession cannot. It is unnecessarily punitive, and should be eliminated.

3. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have claimed the lives of too many young adults. Money spent on the war is needed for healthcare and education programs for young people at home. While there seems to be overt movement towards withdrawing combat troops from Iraq, the war in Afghanistan is escalating How do you see the US's involvement in the future of Iraq and Afghanistan? Please be specific.

Although it is difficult, in the face of the debacle that is the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq, to support any continued U.S. troop presence there, the reality of the situation demands some residual force. Thus, I propose that such a force be modeled on the successful maintenance of a small military presence in Kosovo. There are currently 1,400 American troops in Kosovo, who share their peacekeeping responsibilities with a multinational, NATO-led security force. The American troops work with other NATO units to ensure stability as Kosovo works out its political challenges; the troops patrol the country and maintain peace there. This should be the model upon which to base whatever limited troop presence we decide to keep in Iraq. The United States, and the international community, should emphasize constructive, non-military solutions to help in the ongoing democratization of Iraq.

Afghanistan once had a strong tradition of democracy and development relative to other countries in its region. Unfortunately, decades of foreign intervention have unraveled that tradition, and a heavy-handed military approach will only exacerbate the problem. U.S. and allied military

presence in Afghanistan has not only failed to stabilize the regime or help the effort to build a post-Taliban democracy; our military presence has actually destabilized large regions of the country, and the propensity of aerial bombardment to kill innocent civilians there guarantees a recruiting tool for the Taliban and other terrorist organizations. Non-military solutions, and an emphasis on “shovels over boots,” with a *limited* security force, can include support for democratic movements, the facilitation of nongovernmental development organizations and capacity-building projects.

Terrorism flourishes because violent non-state actors have become the de facto social services providers for a wide swath of the region’s poor. I would fight to dramatically increase social services funding in unstable areas.

4. Young adults face special challenges to obtaining health care and many go without. How would you use your office to promote universal health care and move us towards a single-payer system?

Many people are complaining, and rightly so, that the President and the Democrats in Congress have failed to fight vigorously enough for health care reform. I will be a fighter for universal coverage in Congress. I personally support a single-payer system, and certainly would not have taken single-payer off the table like the President did early on in the health care discussion. Universal and portable health care for all Americans is necessary for resuscitating our economy, as more workers seek independent careers as freelancers and small business owners, and fewer each year see a single career as a viable or attractive life choice. Health care reform will claw back billions of dollars for care instead of insurance systems. It’s a matter of survival for young families and individuals, on many levels, and I won’t forget this when I go to Washington.

5. The next generation’s health and well-being depends on our choices regarding energy, development, and environmental stewardship. How will you use your office to promote sustainable energy, building, and environmental policies?

Our current economic crisis presents an unprecedented opportunity to make long-needed changes in our nation’s energy policy. We need intelligent, progressive legislation that provides incentives, training, and investment opportunities for a transition to a softer energy path and a more peaceful and productive world. Utilities, green building sectors, and clean technology companies are all experiencing a shortage of qualified workers at a time when the national unemployment rate is nearly ten percent. Policies which build on existing state and local workforce development systems, and innovative postsecondary education programs, can lead the way to a new sustainable energy workforce. Unfortunately, the current effort at a transition to renewables is hindered by the patchwork approach taken by individual states, who lack resources and coordination. Tax credits for a shift to renewable energy, currently extended to businesses and consumers, should be expanded. We need to monitor the direction of the economic stimulus money so that it continues to be directed towards renewable energy production. Congress should pass, and the President should sign into law, the Investments for Manufacturing Progress and Clean Technology (IMPACT) Act of 2009, which will provide \$30 billion for factories to adjust their operations to meet the growing demand for clean technology products, including hybrid and electric cars. This bill facilitates the development of domestic clean energy manufacturing and production. Congress should also pass the Smart Grid Advancement Act, designed to incorporate smart grid capability into the existing electricity grid, so that when it is forced to switch electricity sources, it does so efficiently.

6. How will you use your campaign and position to defend the rights of GLBT families, promote marriage equality in California and other states, protect domestic partnership laws, and end Don’t Ask Don’t Tell?

I will fight vigorously to ensure that the rights guaranteed to every citizen under the 14th Amendment are not undermined by arbitrary and capricious state or federal laws. Equal rights

inherit to the citizen, not to a particular family structure. We have wrongly developed varied laws based on family units that discriminate against gays and their families, single-parent families and others. Returning to the Constitutional roots of citizens' rights will end the conflict between protected religious rites and the rights of all citizens. I do not support the Defense of Marriage Act or Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

7. Women's right to choose is under attack in our country. How would you use your office to protect a woman's right to choose in all 50 states?

By voting against any legislation whose intent or effect was to limit the protections established in *Roe v Wade* and affirmed in *Planned Parenthood v Casey*. I am unconditionally pro-choice, and while I also believe in religious freedom (not using the club of federal funds to force religious charities to perform elective abortions), I would never allow support for religious freedoms to infringe on women's rights--if a pharmacist or a doctor has an issue of conscience, they cannot be the only provider in a locality. Choice and access come first. I believe good policy on choice doesn't mean a confusing patchwork of state laws, but rather education and access to, as the Clintons said, make abortion "safe, legal, and rare" by reducing unwanted pregnancies.

8. If you could choose, what committee(s) would you sit on in the House of Representatives, and why?

The committees I would most like to sit on would be Transportation, because East Bay needs funding for better in-neighborhood transit services; Energy and Commerce, because clean energy is key to our new economy and the survival of the planet; and Oversight and Reform, since reforming our broken bureaucracy is key to recruiting and retaining a new generation of talented federal workers, and my experience as a journalist and licensed private investigator will serve that committee well.

EXPERIENCE

Please list or describe your current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement includes many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life. You may include a list of endorsements here as well.

- 1998 - Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the Delta College student newspaper, leading a staff of 30 in production of weekly publication
- 2000-2005 Led staff in various editorial roles at ANG Newspapers and the SF Examiner, including: news editor, asst. news editor, city editor, and political editor
- 2005-2009 Assisting in major investigations for large San Francisco city departments, including successfully defending multi-million-dollar lawsuits, and leading complex employee misconduct cases resulting in resignations of targets
- 2005-2006 Founded Save Civic Park to successfully shape plans for a new downtown Walnut Creek library
- 2007-present Served as a Dublin families group leader in the Bay Area Christian Church
- 2007-2009 Served as Treasurer of Elan at Dublin Station condo association
- 2009-present Founded and hosted Government 2.0 Radio, a podcast focusing on government reform through technology and featuring guests such as Tim O'Reilly, Craig Newmark, and EPA webmaster Jeffrey Levy