

**SAN DIEGO ALLIANCE for ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS  
& FILIPINO AMERICAN CAUCUS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

**2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Thank you for your interest in the San Diego Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino American community.  
Please answer each question in 250 words or less. Brief answers are satisfactory.

Please note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for members to review.

**CANDIDATE/CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

Candidate name: **STEPHEN WHITBURN**

Campaign address: 2260 El Cajon Boulevard, #201 San Diego, CA 92104

Office sought: **SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL**

Legislative district, if appropriate: **District Three**

Are you the incumbent: No. This is an open seat

Campaign website: [www.stephenwhitburn.com](http://www.stephenwhitburn.com)

Campaign email: [stephen@stephenwhitburn.com](mailto:stephen@stephenwhitburn.com)

Campaign phone: 619-528-1438

Campaign manager: B.D. Howard

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

9.) Are you a member of an Asian, Pacific Islander and/or Filipino organization? **No.**

10.) If yes, please list your affiliations: **N.A.**

Please limit your answers to no more than 250 words:

**11.) What makes you the most qualified person for office?**

As a journalist, I spent years covering city government. I saw when City government worked well and when it did not work so well. I know how to ask the tough questions and to demand answers and accountability from our elected officials. When officials told us in North Park that crime was down, I showed them otherwise and helped document the impacts that the reduction of police forces had on

our communities. I have a diversity of experience – in the private sector as well as in the non-profit world where I work now, for the American Red Cross Blood Services.

I will work to restore a City government that works for the people, and not the big developers who too often hold sway at City Hall. I will build partnerships to help improve our schools, increase affordable housing, protect open space, and revitalize our neighborhood business districts.

**12.) Why seek support from the Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino community?**

The API and Filipino communities play such a vital role in our city, and an especially important role in Council District Three, where we take pride in the diversity of languages and cultures that make up the mosaic of Mid City. In addition to residents, we have a good number of small businesses District Three that are owned or operated by members of the API and Filipino communities and/or cater to the API and Filipino community. I am also dedicated to the political empowerment of all communities in San Diego. As a member of the San Diego Democratic Club, I worked with others from our Club to assist the API community's efforts to gain an additional voice at City Hall through the redistricting process, and that is an effort I expect to support again in 2012. I am committed to coalition building to make San Diego a better place to live for all our residents.

**13.) If elected, what are your top priorities during your term?**

- Combatting crime, including gang activity in District 3. Making our streets safer.
- Assuring that the older communities of Mid City receive their fair share of resources to improve our infrastructure.
- Making sure new development pays its fair share for the impacts it creates in our communities and assuring that any new development complements the existing community character.
- Continuing the fight to assure more fiscal discipline at City Hall to help us restore from our pension and fiscal crisis.

**14.) What distinguishes your priorities and goals from the other candidates?**

My focus is on creating stronger neighborhoods in District Three. I've taken stands the powerful Downtown power brokers and development interests don't like – like calling for the dissolution of CCDC and SEDC after what I've called their Summer of Scandal. CCDC has accomplished much of its purpose and the goals of redevelopment in Downtown can be narrowed significantly. We can bring greater government oversight and accountability to redevelopment in San Diego by folding both SEDC and CCDC back into the City's Redevelopment Agency. I will bring the strength, maturity and diversity of experience I've gained in an almost 25 year history working as a journalist and a non-profit health care professional to my work as District 3's next Councilmember.

**15.) How have you in the past and how will you in the future used your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Islanders and Filipinos in public policy and politics?**

Please see my answer to number 12 above. As a Councilmember, I will constantly seek to open public policy discussions and the political world to input from API and Filipino community members. I will fight to assure that API community members and Filipino community members have opportunities at effective appointed and elective leadership.

**16.) What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino interests (and if you have not contributed, please discuss any area(s) you may have made a contribution &/or improve the current condition)?**

Please see answers to number 12 and number 15 once again. Thank you.

**17.) In a difficult budget year, how would prioritize raising taxes and cutting public services?**

Almost every year is a difficult budget year in the City of San Diego. I believe that too often, we have acquiesced to the “simple” solutions proposed by City bureaucrats –to cut pool and library hours, to eliminate community relations officers in our police department and cut back on cops on our streets, to reduce maintenance in our parks. As a Councilmember, I will focus on preserving vital basic City services. We can direct more money to these services if we end the backroom deals that result in wasteful subsidies to large developers and expensive, improper political favors. The City must do a much better job of managing our taxpayer dollars and directing them to City services. I would also support exploring an infrastructure bond to pay for much-needed repairs to our streets, sidewalks, and sewers that would benefit our generation and the next.

**18.) Due to periods of drought, the impending water shortages will have a drastic affect on small business and San Diego residents’ quality of life. What are your plans to help meet the demand for water resources?**

I have supported the Council’s efforts to push a serious study of Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) of our waste water. It has been troubling that the Mayor’s office has been so resistant to study of such a basic measure to preserve our precious water resources. It is also abundantly clear that our efforts to conserve water thus far have not been as successful as they need to be. I support aggressive efforts to assure San Diegans conserve through voluntary measures. I also believe the City should be implementing common-sense mandatory restrictions, like lawn watering in the cooler morning or evening hours only.

**19.) Foreclosures affect the whole community, as a consequence of lack of property tax contribution, displaced families and potential blight. What solutions do you propose to address the housing crisis?**

The number of foreclosed homes, especially in the Mid City communities of District 3 is alarming. That's why I have been active working with Congressman Filner on the foreclosure issue for months now. I proposed a Stronger Neighborhoods Initiative which will force banks foreclosing on property to maintain the property up to neighborhood municipal code standards. I've also advocated convening a task force of mortgage experts and community leaders to assess how we can best assist residents faced with foreclosure. I want to see the City move aggressively to use the funds recently made available by the federal government to help financially stabilize the conditions of families facing potential foreclosure, as well as working to implement neighborhood preservation strategies for communities plagued by a high rate of foreclosures.

**20.) What is your position on constructing a new Charger stadium in San Diego?**

While I certainly support the Chargers remaining in San Diego, I cannot accept any proposals that would obligate the City to either paying for a new stadium, selling the land upon which Qualcomm stadium now sits, or obligating the City to provide financial assistance through infrastructure upgrades.

**21.) Have you failed to vote in any national, state, legislative general elections or statewide ballot proposition elections in the past five years? If yes, why?**

No

**22.) Do you have plans to seek higher office? If so, what office and when do you plan to run?**

I have no other plans regarding elected office.

**Please list any endorsements you have received:**  
(partial listing)

U.S. Congressman Bob Filner  
San Diego City Councilmember Donna Frye  
California State Senator (ret.) Lucy Killea  
Chula Vista City Councilmember Rudy Ramirez  
San Diego Unified School Board Member (incoming) Richard Barrera  
Lemon Grove School Board President George Gastil  
Escondido Union High School Board President Tina Pope  
San Diego Unified School Board Member (ret.) Frances Zimmerman  
Chula Vista Mayor (ret.) Tim Nader  
San Diego County Democratic Party Chair Jess Durfee  
San Diego Union-Tribune "Teacher of the Year" Brian van de Mark  
Young Democrats of America President David Hardt  
Mission Bay VFW Commander (ret.) Robert Marma

**Organizations: (partial list)**

California Democratic Party  
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees - Local 127  
Black Mountain Democratic Club  
Democracy for America, San Diego  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Democratic Club  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers of America – Local 1125  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers – Local 569  
Lavender Lens  
Legacy 106, Inc.  
Mexican-American Political Association  
Neighborhood Leaders Alliance  
Planned Parenthood Action Fund of San Diego & Riverside Counties  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Progressive Majority  
Progressive San Diego  
San Diego County Democratic Party  
San Diego County National Organization for Women Chapter PAC  
San Diego Democratic Club  
San Diego Democrats for Disability Rights  
San Diego For Democracy  
San Diego Renters Union  
San Diego Unity League  
Sierra Club  
Stonewall Young Democrats of San Diego  
Uptown Democratic Club  
Zenger's Newsmagazine