



**Democrats of Napa Valley**  
2024 Candidate Questionnaire  
CA State Senator

**RETURN TO DEMOCRATS OF NAPA VALLEY by Friday, Nov. 3, 2024 6pm**

Return to: [napavalleydems1@gmail.com](mailto:napavalleydems1@gmail.com)

*Candidate's Name:* **Christopher Cabaldon** *District:* 3  
*Mailing Address:* 1700 Tribute Road, Suite 201, Sacramento, CA 95815  
*Contact cell #:* 916-397-9297 *E-Mail:* christopher@cabaldon.org  
*Party Affiliation:* Democrat  
*How long have you been a Democrat?* Lifelong! (That's four adult decades)  
*Committee/Campaign ID #:* 1459632  
*Campaign Manager & Contact Info:* Lisa Gasperoni: (916) 803-0433  
*Occupation:* Educator/Mayor in Residence  
*Employer:* Institute for the Future

***Candidate Specific Questions***

1. *Why are you running for office and what have you done to deserve the Democrats of Napa Valley (DONV) endorsement? (100 words maximum).*

I am running to help California live up to its potential. We have made strides to make our state a leader in equity, justice, sustainability, and economic prosperity, but there is much more to do. I know we can, because I've done it—in my city and region, as an appointee of President Obama and four California governors, as an entrepreneur and environmental regulator, as a legislative staffer, as VP of the nation's Democratic mayors, and as a classroom educator. I am a pragmatic champion who works to unleash the power of grassroots activism and creativity to achieve breakthrough solutions.

2. *Provide a bio of your relevant experience/background for this office. (200-word maximum)*

Christopher Cabaldon led West Sacramento as mayor for two decades, transforming a forgotten old-industrial town into what is now cited as "America's most interesting small city", "America's most livable small city" and one of the world's "21 Smart Cities to Watch".

President Obama appointed Christopher to the national College Promise board. An appointee of five governors, Christopher represents California on the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. He has been vice chancellor of the California Community Colleges, director

of the state legislature's higher education committee, and professor of public policy and administration at Sacramento State University.

He was chair of the national LGBTQ Mayors Alliance, national president for Asian and Pacific Americans in Higher Education, and president of the statewide Linked Learning Alliance. At the US Conference of Mayors, he chaired the Jobs, Education & the Workforce Committee. He was vice-president of America's Democratic Mayors.

His pioneering work on integrating transportation, land use, environmental justice, housing, air quality, and climate change has won numerous federal government and other national awards, and became the basis for some of California's most sweeping climate reforms. He has been a state Delta Protection Commissioner, water quality control board member, and statewide advisory committee member for the 30x30 biodiversity conservation effort. Bay Area newspapers recently featured his [commentary on the shadowy Flannery Associates'](#) massive land acquisition in Solano County.

*3. List your key supporters, including campaign volunteers and hired consultants, and endorsements.*

Endorsements (partial list): all of the Democratic clubs in the district which have interviewed and endorsed so far—Progressive Dems of Benicia, Northern Solano Democratic Club, Sacramento Stonewall Democratic Club, Rio Vista Democratic Club; United Domestic Workers, AFSCME Local 3930; CA Legislative LGBTQ Caucus; Equality California; Assemblymember Phil Ting; U.S. Representative Robert Garcia (chair of Freshman Dems); State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara; LGBTQ+ Victory Fund; former Senators Lois Wolk and Darrell Steinberg; 50 local supervisors, mayors, councilmembers, school and college trustees, and other elected officials in the district; Filipino American Association of American Canyon president and past president, and dozens of Fil-Am leaders throughout the district. Campaign: Lisa Gasperoni, general consultant; Elijah Navarro, deputy campaign manager; dozens of volunteers (a mighty team of mostly college students)

*4. Where do you expect to receive your main financial commitments?*

My support is broad-based, with most of my donors contributing \$250 or less. They represent a wide swath of people, from teachers, former constituents, activists, colleagues, and longtime personal friends to entrepreneurs, labor unions, trade groups, and Democratic clubs.

*5. What do you see as the major issues and their possible solutions in this campaign?*

Too many residents of our district cannot afford safe, secure housing in the communities where they work. As the mayor of one of California's first ProHousing-designated cities, I know that it is both urgent and possible to increase the supply of housing—you shouldn't have to move out of your community when your hours get cut or you get laid off. Housing is the

foundation for so many health and social outcomes. At the same time, the housing challenge isn't solely about supply—Californians need the wages, benefits, and economic security to afford quality housing. Protecting our land, water, and air while we grow housing—in particular, protecting farmland and habitats, precious natural resources—is crucial to both our economic future and the preservation of our community identity, and I've proven in my city that housing production doesn't have to mean bulldozing the land around us. Senate District 3 is comprised of diverse communities—rural, urban, with rivers, the Delta, and families across the socioeconomic spectrum. As Delta Protection Commissioner, air/water quality regulator, and member of the state's 30x30 biodiversity committee, I've fought to protect the land, waters, and habitat of our district and beyond. Finally, I'm a classroom educator who believes that California owes its success to its world-class education system, promising universal access to learning and economic mobility, a vibrant citizenry, and ideas and innovation. Learning beyond high school—whether a degree, certificate, or apprenticeship—is as essential as high school itself had become by 1900. But while we responded to the industrial revolution by making high school universal, public, and free, we haven't done the same with postsecondary education. I'll fight not just for incremental budget increases, but rather to restore the California promise of education for prosperity and democracy by a new financing strategy for our schools, colleges, universities, and apprenticeship programs, with particular attention to declining enrollment which threatens educational opportunities in Napa Valley and throughout the district.

*6. What distinguishes your candidacy and campaign from the other candidates for this office?*

I'm the candidate with a record of getting the right things done in a wide array of policy areas. The job of a senator is twofold: (1) chart an ambitious, transformative policy vision for California, helping to inspire and lead movements and coalitions for change and, just as important, (2) deliver results using the complex, often-obscured tools of lawmaking, oversight, budgeting, and connecting to convert both big ideas and day-to-day local concerns into tangible action and progress. Unique in the field, I'm experienced in both roles, and I'm ready to hit the ground running. Too often, state policies, budget formulas, and grant criteria are tilted against communities like Napa Valley and others in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, and I'll be Napa's strongest champion to secure resources, fix unfair formulas, and make the State of California a real partner in contributing to local solutions and initiatives. That's my record in my own city, which has secured proportionally more state and federal funds than almost any other city in the region.

*7. Do you believe that California has a role in addressing climate change? Yes !!!! No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, as a Senator, what main policy or two would you champion?*

California is a global leader in prioritizing climate change response and justice. And it isn't enough. We need to do much, much more. Climate change is an urgent, existential threat that requires immediate action as we are already seeing devastating effects throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, especially in Napa Valley.

First, I would prioritize investing in renewable energy infrastructure and promoting clean energy adoption throughout the state. This includes funding for solar and wind energy projects, as well as supporting research and development of innovative clean technologies. By transitioning to cleaner energy sources, we can reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate the effects of climate change. It also means dealing with the massive backlog at PG&E so that users signing for electrification can actually connect to the grid.

Secondly, I would focus on dramatically strengthening transportation options, including transit, electric vehicles, biking, and walking. That means continued investments in incentives, infrastructure, and operating support. Just as important, California must insist on sustainable land use development that makes these choices viable and scalable. I helped pioneer this approach, leading the groundbreaking Sacramento Region Blueprint that inspired SB 375 and the regional allocations for climate emission reductions in transportation plans. Fidelity has been uneven, however, and I would work to ensure that this important element of our strategy to reduce transportation sector emissions fulfills the promise. With California set to phase out the sale of gas-powered vehicles by 2035, the use of fossil fuels will and should diminish.

Thirdly, I would press for increased funding for climate resiliency and adaptation measures, married with tougher state policies. As climate change continues to impact our state with extreme weather events, it is crucial to invest in infrastructure that can withstand these challenges. This includes measures like sea-level rise protection and managed retreat, wildfire prevention, and water conservation initiatives. As the environment policy facilitator for the California Legislative Staff Education Institute, I've seen first-hand the patchwork of approaches and sometimes counterproductive policies in places throughout the state. I served on the statewide advisory committee for California's sweeping new 30x30 strategy, which will protect 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030, using conservation of natural areas to protect biodiversity and combat climate change. I'll be a leader in the Senate to get this done.

*8. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?*

Thank you for powering our party and our future!

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

11/3/23  
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Date