



Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region
104 N. Belmont St., Suite 200, Glendale, CA 91206 | 818.500.1918 | www.ancawr.org

2021-2022 STATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region requests candidates who wish to participate in the candidate evaluation process to submit a completed background information form and questionnaire.

The ANCA-WR will provide a copy of this form to each member of the Candidate Evaluation Committee in preparation for the endorsement decision. Candidate responses may also be made available to the general public before elections.

The Candidate Background Information Form and Questionnaire must be submitted by email to **edward@ancawr.org** and **ruben@ancawr.org** or by mail to: **ANCA WESTERN REGION, 104 N. Belmont St., Suite 200, Glendale, CA 91206**. Only candidates who submit a completed questionnaire or have a proven track record on issues of importance to the Armenian-American community will be eligible for consideration of an endorsement by the ANCA-WR. At its discretion, the ANCA-WR may invite those candidates who submit a completed questionnaire for an in-person interview before making an endorsement decision.

Candidate's Name as it will appear on ballot: _____

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Campaign Name:

Campaign Manager:

Campaign Address:

City/State/Zip:

Campaign Phone:

Campaign Twitter/Facebook:

Campaign Email:

Campaign Website:



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Elected Office Candidate is Seeking Endorsement For (e.g. [State Senate/State Assembly] District [Number])

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ARMENIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

The Armenian-American community has had a significant presence in the United States since the 19th century. Armenian-Americans are civically engaged and contribute to the overall success of the United States.

The Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region (ANCA-WR) is the largest and most influential non-partisan Armenian-American grassroots advocacy organization in the western United States. For nearly a century, the ANCA-WR has educated, motivated, and activated the Armenian-American community in the western United States on a wide range of issues, ensuring that the voice of the Armenian-American community is heard. Our current priorities include 1) securing the Republic of Artsakh's right to self-determination; 2) providing vital aid to Artsakh and Armenia; 3) ensuring the unconditional release of Armenian POWs and civilian captives illegally detained by Azerbaijan; 4) seeking justice for the still unpunished Armenian Genocide; 5) putting an end to its ongoing denial of genocide and state-sponsored Armenophobia of Turkey and Azerbaijan; and 5) ending all US assistance to Azerbaijan consistent with Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act.

- 1) What has been your experience with the Armenian-American community, and what do you perceive to be some of the issues of most significant importance to the Armenian-American community?

- 2) What steps would you take to recruit more Armenians for staff positions and increase the level of Armenian presence on the state's various boards, commissions, and committees?



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- 3) In light of recent events, including the 2020 Artsakh War, there has been a dramatic increase in hate crimes against Armenian-Americans, including shootings, arson, and vandalism with racial slurs. The hate crimes targeted schools, community centers, and places of worship. Will you support legislation that tackles Armenophobia as a hate crime? (*Armenophobia: Hostility to or discrimination against Armenians as a religious, ethnic, or racial group; hatred, expressed either physically or verbally, towards any Armenian person or institution.*)

- 4) What will you do to assist Armenian-American cultural institutions and service organizations (e.g., Armenian-American Museum, Armenian Relief Society, etc.)

- 5) Would you stand firm against genocide denial and other Armenophobic propaganda disseminated by the Turkish and Azerbaijani governments and their agents in the US?



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6) Are you a member of or are you willing to join the Armenian Legislative Caucus?

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Turkey and Azerbaijan both deny the Armenian Genocide and obstruct justice for this international crime. Between 1915-1923, the Ottoman Turkish government engaged in the systematic and deliberate annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians and over a million other indigenous Christian minorities, including Greeks and Assyrians. Both Congress and the President of the United States have recognized the Armenian Genocide. Many Armenian-Americans can trace their roots to survivors of the Genocide, shaping their communities and worldview. The Genocide and its consequences continue to this day, with Armenians continuing to combat genocide denial and renewed attempts at Genocide by successor governments.

1) How will you ensure that the express intent of Congress' recognition of the Armenian Genocide via H.Res. 296 and S.Res.150 is implemented to ending U.S. complicity in Turkey's ongoing Genocide denial campaign?



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- 5) How would you encourage California educators to develop and implement the Armenian Genocide in the state curriculum?

REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH

The people of the Republic of Artsakh have been committed to building a democratic society since their independence. They have overcome the brutal legacy of Stalin's illegal and arbitrary decision to place Artsakh under Soviet Azerbaijan's administration and, more recently, the brutal invasion by Azerbaijan, Turkey, and terror-linked mercenaries from Syria in 2020. The people of Artsakh face an existential crisis, one that threatens their most basic and fundamental right to self-determination. The United States has provided safe haven for a sizable refugee population of Armenians who escaped the murderous pogroms by the Azerbaijani government in the late 1980s and early 1990s - many of whom still have family in Artsakh - who are represented in the United States by the Permanent Representative of the Artsakh Republic in Washington, DC.

- 1) Do you support the self-determination of the Republic of Artsakh?



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3) How will you advocate for the security and human rights of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia?

Candidate Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Campaign Manager: _____ **Tel:** _____