

NACOLE CANDIDATE ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidates are encouraged to fill out the following questionnaire, to give NACOLE members relevant information when voting for Board members.

Name: George Perezvelez

- 1) Position Sought: Board member at-large
- 2) Geographic Location: Bay Area, California
- 3) Current Oversight Position and Organization: Commissioner (10 years), Past Chairman, Founding Member BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) Police Citizens Review Board (BPCRB). Commissioner (14 years), Senior Member, Past Chair, Berkeley Police Review Commission (PRC)
- 4) Number of Years as a NACOLE Member: Twelve (10) years Institutional, Three (3) years Individual
- 5) Please list Annual Conferences or training opportunities in which you have attended:

2020 NACOLE Virtual Conference
2019 NACOLE Annual Conference in Detroit, MI,
2019 NACOLE Regional Conference in Oakland, CA
2018 NACOLE Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, FL
2018 NACOLE Regional Conference in Cleveland, OH
2018 NACOLE webinar series: Investigating Search & Seizure Allegations,
2017 NACOLE webinar series: Justice Based Policing,
2017 NACOLE Annual Conference in Spokane, WA,
2017 NACOLE Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM,

- 6) Are you currently a member of the NACOLE Board? No

If so, in what capacity:

- President
 Vice President
 Board Member At-Large

For the following questions, please respond in no more than 200 words.

- 1) Why do you want to serve on the NACOLE Board?

I have dedicated 20 years of my oversight practitioner and community advocacy work to improving law enforcement practices, establishing progressive policing standards, expanding transparency within departments, enhancing community participation and holding accountable police officers for their conduct and policy violations. My first NACOLE conference was filled with the excitement of being able to exchange ideas, best practices, acquire resources and make long lasting professional and personal relationships. I remember vividly well all the motivational words from NACOLE founders and practitioners. Their words reinforced the needs of my own community in the pursuit for justice, respect and equal treatment under the law. NACOLE gave me the opportunity to grow, not only as a practitioner but as a civil rights advocate. It has been exciting to see the organization grow not only in membership but in scope while keeping true to its great purpose.

I want to assist NACOLE in expanding its efforts at influencing the creation of effective and sustainable oversight models, the continued education of all stakeholders about civilian oversight practices. Paramount is the establishing of a library of resources for agencies as well as community organizations and civil rights advocates looking to implement and create sustainable oversight agencies. I want to contribute in ensuring NACOLE continues to be a force behind the implementation and expansion of laws that will serve as a catalyst in the creation of progressive policies. In addition, I would like to assist NACOLE with its fundraising efforts. My extensive experience in political fundraising, special events and social functions will help fund and build NACOLE's infrastructure, staff and enhance needed programming and support to the daily operations of agencies, commissions and community groups.

2) What skills/experience/qualities do you bring to the NACOLE Board?

My experience has consisted in reviewing, writing and implementing four hundred plus critical law enforcement policies, lobbying at the state level for the creation of laws that have improved and changed the landscape of police oversight, serving as an informal public safety advisor to elected officials and creating a bridge between communities of color and law enforcement agencies. I have had the honor not only in serving as a founding member of a police oversight agency, but critical to the discussions evaluating and transforming existing ones as well as offering testimony in the creation of others. My work as a policy advisor for the local chapters of the ACLU, NAACP, LGBTQI and Veterans organizations have allowed me to bring the voices of the underrepresented, vulnerable and minority communities to the critical conversations about fair and impartial policing and procedural justice. It is this work that has allowed me to be a voice in the implementation, with the office of the Independent Auditor (OIPA), of fifty-two changes to the BART Police Citizen Review Board (BPCRB) model, the opportunity to serve as the Chair of a subcommittee that successfully wrote and passed through the Berkeley City Council a 2020 ballot initiative improving the 1973 ordinance creating the Berkeley Police Review Commission (PRC), offer testimony on the creation of oversight agencies for the cities of Napa, Alameda, San Leandro and Hayward and be part of the critical discussions on implementing three minimal use of force standard policies in California. As an oversight practitioner, experienced policy writer, public safety advisor, civil rights and community advocate, I believe that I can add not only the voices of marginalized communities reeling from systemic racism but the legislative relationships needed to ensure that NACOLE is an ever-present voice in the room. It is this passion for law enforcement oversight, community representation and policy work that I hope will benefit the board.

3) What challenges does NACOLE face as a rapidly growing membership organization?

NACOLE's challenges are continued visibility, growth and the accessibility and capacity of its services. As seen by the outcry and demonstrations after the death of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor and so many others, the demand continues to grow. It is via these voices and the BLM movement that we have seen greater changes and efforts for accountability and transparency in the last three years. NACOLE needs to continue to be and grow as a voice in educating community organizations, elected and non-elected government officials at all levels, oversight agencies and news organizations through the enhancement of its training, consulting and lobbying infrastructure. This will prove critical in the proactive work of providing established standards for the creation, implementation and enhancement of sustainable and effective civilian oversight practices. This increased visibility and advocacy will need monetary resources for implementation. Hence the critical aspect of growing the organization via focused fundraising plans, state and nonprofit organizations grants as well as the enhancement of individual donor support. There must be a dedicated internal position whose mission is the matching of our outstanding training program with the necessary resources to ensure our delivery capacity and visibility continues to grow.

4) How have you contributed to NACOLE's work? Please include all committees you have served on or led, as well as any other NACOLE volunteer efforts.

2020- NACOLE Annual Conference Committee Member.

2019- Member of both participating oversight agencies during in the Oakland, CA regional training

2019- NACOLE Annual Conference Committee member. Shepherd and monitor for the "BWC and Law Enforcement Oversight: Three case studies on accessibility, implementation, and implications for the field" with the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board, the D.C. Office of Police Complaints and the Office of the Independent Auditor for the Bay Area Rapid Transit.

2018- NACOLE Annual Conference Committee member. Shepherd and monitor for the "How to Positively Impact Agency Culture by Influencing Training" presentation by the Los Angeles Office of the Inspector General.

5) Please share highlights of your background/experience in law enforcement oversight.

I have spent 20 years in police oversight as a public safety advisor, community advocate and board commissioner. I have had the honor to serve in two police oversight boards as the Chair during critical events. One as a founding member and one as the current longest serving commissioner after 14 years of continued service. During my oversight tenure I have helped review, write and implement 400 plus policies dealing with use of force, parole violations, body worn cameras, bias policing, crowd control and management among others. I was part of the partial meet and confer conversations with the police union on the implementation of a conflict resolution and mediation program for the Berkeley police department. I was the Chair of two subcommittees and an informal advisor to one other on the implementation of Minimal Use of Force policies in the Bay Area. The one in Berkeley establishes a stricter review and an

“objectively reasonable, objectively necessary, proportional with a minimal reliance on the use of force” standard.

I worked on the after-action report as the result of the Berkeley Black Lives Matter protests in 2014 titled “Investigation into the Police Department Response to Protest on December 6th” resulting on a reassessment of the crowd control and management policy. I was the Chair of the “Berkeley Police Review Commission Ordinance Review Subcommittee” charged with assessing changes to the second oldest police oversight agency in the Continental United States. The end result is a 2020 ballot measure enhancing the powers of the oversight agency. I have also had the privilege of giving testimony and advising on three critical use of force related laws that have changed the landscape of oversight in Californian, AB392 which expanded the reasonable standard to a stricter necessary standard, SB230 which implements obligatory elements in all use of force policies and SB1421 which increased transparency and disclosure on police officer’s records.

6) If elected/re-elected, what would you most like to accomplish as a Board member?

- Assisting in the implementation of a sustainable and ongoing fundraising program
- Increasing its infrastructure via paid staff as a critical way of meeting the ever-growing demands
- Enhancing its education and training program and member support inherent to its sustainability
- Increase its national profile via advocacy and lobbying efforts geared at changing the laws affecting transparency, accountability, and the oversight process.

7) Additional information for voters to consider:

Police oversight is my passion and has always been about adding the voice of the marginalized, underserved and vulnerable populations to the discussion on how all communities must have a voice in how they are policed and how dignity, respect and equal treatment under the law are the tenets of a healthy community and a necessary starting point to all interactions with members of law enforcement. It is when we have those tough but critical conversations that our humanity and common interests shine through. This makes for solid sustainable practices, effective policies, enhanced accountability, transparency and the safety of all community members. This passion for advocacy and public policy guides me every time I walk into a commission meeting, public safety hearing, legislative review forum or community advocacy group. I hope I can have the trust of your vote and add this passion, commitment to the work and policy knowledge to the Board.