

Candidate Information Candidate's Full Name: **Danny Wayne Kelley**

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Office Sought / District: **Board Member / Redwood Community College Board of Trustees Area 2**

Date of Primary: **NA**

Date of Election: **November 7, 2017**

Political Affiliation: **Democrat**

General Information

1. What are your key platform issues?

- Build a college sponsored business incubation program that can harness the energy and brilliance of students while plugging them into the local economy.
- Partner with my own district to get higher enrollment in the Academy of the Redwoods high school integration program and to recruit more continuing education adult learners.
- Improve academic counseling services at CR.
- Improve mental health, social, and addiction services at CR.
- Improve service for veteran students.
- Strengthen the technical training program while keeping education options relevant for our own population and geography.
- Improve dialog between the board, administration, faculty, and students. The board has historically been slow to negotiate in good faith with faculty which has only hurt the school and student population.

What are the most important issues facing your district?

The most important issues facing my district honestly impact most districts. Low enrollment rates and weakened technical training programs threaten students throughout Humboldt County including in my district specifically. Low enrollment rates will negatively impact CR's ability to participate in assisted funding programs and will continue to jeopardize a sustainable operations budget into the foreseeable future. The enrollment trends continue to plummet despite the decades of service of the existing board members. We need a change before the issue becomes so critical CR cannot recover.

2. What solutions do you offer?

I can provide commitment throughout the duration of my term. My wife (Katherine Estlin, M.D.) and I relocated from Seattle to Hydesville last year to raise our children near family. She is excited to return to the area she grew up in (Loleta & Fortuna) while providing affordable family medicine to the region as a primary care physician with Open Door. Together we started a small business incubation program (Edge Caliber) and we are committed to continuing to help new business get off the ground. In fact, our first local client (HumbotsDA) will incorporate as an LLC in September 2017 and is comprised of founders from both HSU and CR.

My business experience will be useful while dealing with board decisions impacting CR. As a Sr. Business Analyst and executive coach I have the ability to get up to speed quickly on complex and unfamiliar topics. My communication expertise as a coach will help me bring all parties through difficult conversations and will ensure that the future board has a better working relationship with administration, faculty, and the student body. As a local business owner with family ties to the region I will also be able to leverage networks of contacts to raise money for the college foundation and solve problems using local talent and resources.

It is also my commitment to abstain from the health care & stipend package paid to current board members. I do not need this compensation and the money saved will be better allocated to vital budget items elsewhere.

3. What parts of the NCPA platform (outlined below*) do you feel most closely aligned with?

Healthcare is a human right. We must guarantee healthcare by enacting a single-payer healthcare system, as well as lowering the price for prescription drugs. Furthermore, we must protect reproductive rights.

Being a medical household we absolutely understand the urgency and need for a single payer healthcare system now. Insurance companies are expensive middlemen that do little to improve care or lower cost. Ignoring the

health of the most vulnerable in our population only increases the risk and expense for everyone. Our democracy and power as a nation is only as strong as the way we treat our most vulnerable populations.

We must dismantle the prison industrial complex by demilitarizing our police forces, banning for-profit prisons, turning back from the War on Drugs, eliminating mandatory minimums, and increasing investment in programs that help individuals recover from substance abuse and mental health problems.

CR has a prison education extension program at the Pelican Bay State Prison facility. According to many faculty that have experience working with this program it is not being as well funded and cared for as it should be. I will actively promote expanding the Pelican Bay State Prison extension program as well as investigate other ways CR can partner with more jail programs similar to Humboldt County Corrections to provide instruction to prisoners. Expanding these programs will not only benefit our local communities but will also significantly increase enrollment, giving CR access to assisted funding programs.

We need to support union organizing in both the public and private sectors. We should make it easier for all Americans to join unions and collectively bargain for better wages and benefits. Union jobs provide higher wages, better benefits and a more secure retirement. Increasing union jobs will reduce income and wealth inequality and rebuild the middle class.

Collective bargaining is vital to a strong working class. Corporations, in service to shareholders only, have lost the way when they make drastic cuts to skilled labor in favor of strict quarterly profit targets. This recently impacted CR when conversations between the board, administration, and faculty stalled out leaving the most important resource CR has to impact the community, its teachers, working without a contract for over a year and a half. In fact, the current board's inability to lead and facilitate important conversations like this was the impetus for my run for this seat. I know the importance of collaboration between all interest parties. I understand communication, negotiation, and individual and collective personalities. As a board member I will do what it takes to keep CR running smoothly during crisis negotiations such as this.

Unions aren't the only answer for economic empowerment. The modern technology economy can also provide powerful avenues for anyone to start their own business and remove the constraints of traditional employment. Starting a small business incubation program at CR could be a vital component of building a more vibrant economy in our region. Keeping CR focused on a robust technical training program and focusing on skills that not only benefit local employees but that can be used as a foundation for self-employment is exactly what Humboldt County needs. If elected I will keep a laser sharp focus on issues such as these and will do my best to ensure their success.

Free, quality public education forms the bedrock of democracy, economic mobility and social justice. We support strong K-12 public schools and free tuition at public universities.

Humanity is ingenious and will seek out quality education as necessary as quickly and cheaply as possible. The internet has already made this a reality and today there are 12 year old children, in the heart of Africa, with smart phones getting a quality education denied them by Western economies. At the same time there is tremendous value in having a strong local community college program, especially when that program emphasizes technical skills. Having a strong educational program that provides hands on experience and local expertise will always top distance learning when it comes to skills that require experience AND knowledge. Our regional communities must have access to vibrant technical training that fits the local economy and demographics of students and future business owners/employees.

What parts do you disagree with, if any?

I do not disagree with any of the NCPA platform issues as outlined below.

Are there parts you would improve upon and how?

I would not improve on any of the NCPA platform issues as described. My own platform issues for this local race include my "improvements" in how those ideals could be implemented at CR should I win election as a member of the Board of Trustees for Area 2.

4. Do you support collaboration between progressives across party lines?

Yes I do. I think traditional partisanship damages progress from which the term 'progressive' is derived. I welcome conversation and collaboration from all interested parties.

Would you feel comfortable being included on a slate card another candidate for office registered to a different political party than you?

Yes I would. My positions speak for themselves.

5. What in your background qualifies you to be a credible candidate?

- Successfully led multi-year projects for multi-national companies using multiple teams with varied backgrounds, cultures, and agendas.
- I am a father of 4 who understands the strain of affordable education like many constituents in my area.
- I am a lifelong learner who is familiar with CR issues and history and my wife is a native here.
- Successfully started new businesses with students from both CR and HSU.
- I have the strongest work ethic of anyone I know.
- Associate in Arts: Business Degree
- Bachelors: Cross Cultural Studies
- Board experience with the International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA): VP Technology
- Bi-Lingual (Spanish) social worker that helped street kids & widows throughout Mexico and Latin America.
- ICP-ACC and ICP-ATF Certified Coach giving me powerful communication, facilitation, coaching, and teaching tools for collaboration with the board, administration, faculty and students of CR.
- I was an enrollment manager for Bethany College (MN) and have a background in college enrollment services.

Do you currently hold or have you ever held elected office?

I was the VP of Technology on the Seattle Board of the International Institute of Business Analysis.

What volunteer or professional work have you done that makes our world a better, fairer place?

- I was a community organizer, street services coordinator and case worker for many years who worked with street kids in Mexico and other countries in Latin America including a year as an English teacher in an orphanage in Mexico City.
- My company, Edge Caliber, currently helps young entrepreneurs build businesses that respect the world and human beings as public benefit corporations or LLCs with specific public benefit protections that promote values before exclusive shareholder value.
- Member of the International Coaching Federation.
- Experience building consensus & holocratic governance models for active participation and engagement by all employees of the companies I help create.
- Helped build emergency relief structures and manage food & water deliveries during Hurricane Katrina emergency.

6. Have you filed as a campaign committee with the Federal Elections Commission and if so, what is your campaign identification number?

I have filed. The campaign identification number is pending.

Do you have a campaign bank account and treasurer?

Yes and yes.

Do you have a campaign website?

Yes (dan-kelley.com, [facebook](https://www.facebook.com), edgecaliber.com)

* Platform Information

Below are positions strongly supported by the North Coast People's Alliance. Please indicate your position and explain in the space provided below each statement. In particular, please tell how you might be able to address these issues at a local level.

1. Today, we live in the richest country in the history of the world, but that reality means little because much of that wealth is controlled by a tiny handful of individuals. To address income inequality, we support living wages and insist that the wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share in taxes.

XAgree Disagree

Tell us more about your position:

2. We must ensure that all Americans are guaranteed an effective right to vote. We must also reject the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United and other related cases, and move to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.

X Agree Disagree

Tell us more about your position:

3. Healthcare is a human right. We must guarantee healthcare by enacting a single-payer healthcare system, as well as lowering the price for prescription drugs. Furthermore, we must protect reproductive rights.

X Agree Disagree

Tell us more about your position:

4. Humboldt County and California must continue to be leaders in aggressively tackling climate change if we are to keep this planet habitable for our children and grandchildren. We must rebuild our crumbling infrastructure in ways that transform our energy system away from polluting fossil fuels, and towards energy efficiency and sustainability. We must also plan now to adapt to the impacts of climate change locally.

X Agree Disagree

Tell us more about your position:

5. We must dismantle the prison industrial complex by demilitarizing our police forces, banning for-profit prisons, turning back from the War on Drugs, eliminating mandatory minimums, and increasing investment in programs that help individuals recover from substance abuse and mental health problems.

X Agree Disagree

Tell us more about your position:

6. Inhumane deportations must be stopped by ending deportation programs, closing down private detention centers, offering humane treatment and asylum to victims of violence and minors fleeing from dangerous circumstances

X Agree Disagree

Tell us more about your position:

7. We need to support union organizing in both the public and private sectors. We should make it easier for all Americans to join unions and collectively bargain for better wages and benefits. Union jobs provide higher wages, better benefits and a more secure retirement. Increasing union jobs will reduce income and wealth inequality and rebuild the middle class.

X Agree Disagree

Tell us more about your position: impetus and motivation for running is that the current board has been anti labor, anti faculty, and do not listen to the people doing the work. We will change this. Whole reason this campaign started is bc of labor issues.

8. Free, quality public education forms the bedrock of democracy, economic mobility and social justice. We support strong K-12 public schools and free tuition at public universities.

X Agree Disagree

Tell us more about your position:

By typing or signing my name below, I hereby certify that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement may disqualify this application from consideration.

Name: **Danny W Kelley**

Date: **8-11-2017**

You may email this completed form to hello@NorthCoastPeoplesAlliance.org.