

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to: GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com.
In the subject line, please include "Oakland City Council D2"

If it is not possible for you to email, please mail your responses to:
Oakland City Council D2
c/o Green Party of Alameda County ,
2022A Blake Street * Berkeley, CA 94704

Please respond by Saturday, August 23, 2014

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Note: You may respond to any question with a link to your website or other posted positions. For the yes/no questions, please answer yes or no and if you wish to add to your answer, feel free to do so.

1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office?

I have always worked to serve my community in whatever capacity I can - as a good neighbor, a community college Trustee promoting educational access, career readiness, and a sustainable local economy, and as an advocate of responsive and transparent government. My run for Oakland City Council is much informed as my initial run for Peralta Trustee was; to serve as a voice for broad based constituencies. I am encouraged by the progress Oakland has made and I want all of the people and neighborhoods I represent to benefit from that progress. I am running for Oakland City Council because I want to serve as a voice for the diverse communities in District 2.

2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected? What do you believe are the main priorities for the City?

Public Safety- Oakland's potential is many times eclipsed by our issues with public safety. I would work to identify sustainable solutions to ensure that we have an appropriately staffed police department and residents feel safe in their homes and their neighborhoods. With new development on the horizon, we need to make sure that the City's infrastructure is ready for increased calls for both police and fire.

Financial Responsibility/Economic Stability- Oakland has come a long way in the past few years, we're seeing great economic opportunities and we need to make sure we keep that momentum going. I will work to ensure that we have policies in place to protect workers, ensure strong local hire practices, and protect housing for all Oaklanders while still attracting new developments through incentives and efficient practices.

Community Education- As a Trustee on the Peralta Community College District, I know first hand how access to quality education can affect outcomes for youth and young adults. I also know that the education of our residents directly correlates to jobs and opportunities, which closely affects public safety and crime. As a City Councilmember, I will work to cultivate partnerships with the school district and increase access to education for our residents. I would work to provide pathways to work for local residents, critical job-training and workforce readiness programs.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City. If you are a current City Government

elected official, what issues can you point to in your time as an elected official that have had a positive impact?

I am now serving my second term as a Peralta Community College District Trustee and currently the President of the Board. In this capacity I have negotiated Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), protected and expanded critical job training programs (including more than \$25 million in career education), and improved access to education for local students. My background in public finance uniquely prepares me to understand Oakland finances and will provide me with the necessary tools to analyze and strengthen the City's financial stability. As Vice President of an East Bay school finance firm, I have improved educational opportunities for students across the state. During the last 10 years, I have helped to raise more than \$2.5 billion to build and modernize California's public schools and community colleges.

I have also served as a delegate with the California Democratic Party from 2008-2012 representing the 16th AD (the area's number before redistricting).

4. Local groups -- Are you affiliated with any of the active Oakland groups? Such as TOLA, Make Oakland Better Now, Block by Block, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, GO Public Schools, OCO, or any other. Describe your involvement and why you feel this group is worthy of your support.

I am an active member of several Oakland groups, listed below. I consistently attend meetings, events, and other group functions. I dedicate my time and efforts to these groups because they are aligned with my values, politics and vision. For example, I have always been an advocate for women's rights and reproductive freedom and have worked to further those goals through several of these organizations.

- Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Member
- Diversity in Health Training Institute, Boardmember
- NAACP – Oakland Chapter
- People for the American Way
- California Community College Trustees Association
- MGO Democratic Club
- John George Democratic Club
- Asian Pacific Democratic Club of Alameda County
- Young Elected Officials Network
- Stonewall Democratic Club
- Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
- Human Rights Campaign
- Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
- Cal Alumni Association
- California Latino School Boards Association
- East Bay Young Democrats
- Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
- League of Women Voters

5. Local activities -- Other than local politics, are you involved in any other Oakland based community activities that you would like to share with us? This can range from volunteering in your school to being in your church baseball league.

Currently, in addition to my work as a Peralta Community College Trustee, I am involved in the Oakland Rotary as well as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Alameda County. Both organizations allow me to meet and network with like minded individuals who share a passion to improve Oakland and beyond.

6. Budget -- If you were on council for the next budget in 2015 how would you act differently from the council members dealing with the budget in 2013? What do you think is the cause of the current budget crisis?

First, I want to re-think the way we approach the budget. Though we are facing many difficult decisions and budgetary challenges I do not want to go as far as calling this a crisis. During a crisis, we may make decisions that do not consider the long-term impact on our communities. I feel that the city has not been proactive in addressing its debt and unfunded liabilities and has taken the "kick the can down the road" approach. In addition, in times when the city anticipated an influx of funds, our leaders committed those extra funds to ongoing expenses instead of saving them in a rainy day fund. Taken together, our budget approach has had to be re-active instead of proactively planning for our community's future.

For the next budget, I would encourage the rest of the council to look closely at where we can save money now and down the road while continuing to fund essential city services. For example, if we were to take a proactive approach and make payments to our unfunded pension liabilities we would have a \$3.00 return for every \$1.00 we paid. This would serve Oakland both in the short term and long term.

At the end of the day, the city's budget is reflective of the values and priorities of the council and community. As a leader, it is my responsibility to identify those values and priorities, keep track of changes that impact them, communicate them clearly to City staff and residents, and secure funding for them. Overall I think that a lack of consensus within the city council has created a majority of the governance issues that we see. As a council member I would strive for consensus and make sure that all stakeholders are involved in the budget process from the beginning.

7. Youth -- Describe the condition of youth in Oakland? What would your priorities for youth be for Oakland government and how would they get implemented and paid for?

As a Peralta Trustee I have seen first hand many of the challenges and obstacles that our youth face when it comes to success in school, work and life.

I will work to make sure that every child is able to read by the 3rd grade through literacy programs in our schools, libraries and rec centers. I will partner with OUSD to ensure that every school uses proven restorative justice practices as the primary approach and not just an optional alternative. I will work to ensure that our children are kept safe from drugs and sex traffic in their neighborhoods. Unfortunately 1 out of 4 residents in Alameda County suffer from food insecurity - this is unacceptable. I will find creative ways to ensure that our youth have access to quality and affordable meals both at school and away from school. I will advocate for adequate federal funding for school meals and ensure we protect Measure K, which sets aside 3% of the city budget to support youth in Oakland. I will also engage the current Joint Powers Authority between the City, County, and school district to better coordinate county and city social service providers and to ensure that funding is going to youth and not

administrative overhead. I will work with youth leadership organizations to ensure that young people have more opportunities to bring ideas and feedback to city leaders as we take on decisions that impact their future. Youth in Oakland are our most precious resource and we are responsible for ensuring they are capable of leading our city now and in the future.

8. Police -- How do you think our community policing is going and what are the next steps? Describe the current relationship between the residents and the Oakland Police. Do you suggest any changes? Do you support Restorative Justice programs and how should the city be involved, if at all.

Although many positive relationships between residents and OPD have been created through community policing, we still have a long way to go. We need increased neighborhood involvement and we need to foster a system that is not only residents bringing issues to police but police proactively engaged in the communities that they serve. The relationship between Oakland residents and the police today is centered around mistrust and misunderstanding. Officers need to be more engaged with community members, organizations, churches, and residents in order to gain the trust and to be responsive to needs. The police department must recruit more officers from Oakland communities and all officers must have the cultural understanding needed to work with our diverse neighborhoods. I fully support restorative justice programs that prevent youth and adults from entering the prison system.

9. Development Projects -- What are your thoughts and views about the West Oakland Army Base, The upper Broadway-Valdez Triangle, Oak to 9th and other projects?

Oakland has a variety of projects on the books and overall I feel that many are headed in the right direction. This of course does not mean that

residents and businesses affected by these projects should remain quiet until they are complete. We need to ensure that all projects within our city have a clearly defined and enforceable community benefits agreement that is informed and created by residents most affected. Whenever we think about development in our city we need to think about the cost-effectiveness, in addition to how it will affect growth, traffic, pollution and residents.

10. Police Misconduct. What are your thoughts and how do you feel Oakland should deal with it? How would they get the Oakland Police past the current oversight under Judge Henderson?

We need to ensure that police supervisors are held responsible for the conduct of officers in their command. The chain of command should be respected and followed. Many of the NSA requirements have been met and I will work for more oversight and monitoring of the OPD to ensure that goals are met quickly and effectively.

11. Housing & Gentrification -- Increasing rents, dislocation, and gentrification have been in the news. What policies do you advocate to assure that Oakland tenants are protected and that Oakland remains an economically and racially diverse city?

Oakland should take another look at inclusionary zoning practices which would ensure that mixed income and affordable housing units are created in the city. Mixed income housing and transit oriented development are the ways that our city must move forward. Both options provide housing in a way that makes sense for a city and for people from all income demographics. In light of the recent and ongoing foreclosure crisis we need to ensure that tenants, homeowners who have been scammed, seniors, young families, and other at-risk residents are protected, remain in their homes and are given the rights and resources to maintain a quality and affordable home.

12. Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment?

Oakland has been named on the top ten greenest cities but we can do much more. Overall we need to preserve the Oakland's existing open space and commons and seek out creative ways to make environmental sustainability a key part of how we measure our progress as a city. The Oakland Energy and Climate Action Plan should be fully implemented, funded and enforced. Oakland must play a critical role in the development of green building standards for both the region and the state. We should look to opportunities such as solar roof tops and other sustainable and renewable resources that can be implemented at a municipal level. Working with Oakland residents, we must strive to weatherize homes, support urban agriculture, and work with AC Transit and BART to promote public transit as an option over driving.

13. Satisfaction of Residents -- How do you think the average resident feels about city government? How would you rate the satisfaction level?

I've walked neighborhoods and have spoken with voters and they have varying levels of feelings and thoughts about city government. Overall, everyone agrees that we can do more and do better. I hear that people want to see the police respond when called, want to see public works respond in a timely fashion to neighborhood needs, and see their elected leaders engaged in good government and promoting transparency in the city. I hear people express a significant amount of pride in the history and future of our city. I share these perspectives. Overall as a city, our leaders have not been meeting the needs of our residents as they should and I am excited for the opportunity to change that perception

14. Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland?

As a Peralta Trustee I have always maintained an open door policy and have always made myself available to my constituents. I regularly host community coffees where anyone can come and discuss their issues with me in person. I respond to constituent complaints and requests for information promptly and respectfully. I would continue these practices as a city council member.

15. Do we need an Oakland Progressive Alliance akin to the one in Richmond, and if so, who should be members?

Yes, and this effort must be led by the community as a whole, not just elected leaders. Richmond has been successful in electing members to the city council that are reflective of the needs of the community there. I would rely on a consensus-driven process to nominate members to ensure diversity and accountability.

16. Governance -- What kind of relationship could you have with other office holders? Who do you see as a working majority on council and who can you work with?

As I mentioned previously, I pride myself on my ability to collaborate for results in my work with the Peralta Board of Trustees and other community organizations. I think an elected board has responsibility to govern as a whole, and to encourage each other to find common ground between constituencies. The current council's work as a collaborative body is emerging and I look forward to working with each of my colleagues to make good policy and lead our city, issue by issue.

17. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you? Who do you endorse in the other City races? Include your #2 and 3 choices for your own race and note that this year the City races are Mayor, Council seats, School Board seats and City Auditor.

In addition to the endorsements below and the endorsements on my website: www.abelforoakland.com/endorsements. I expect to continue to garner endorsements from community leaders throughout district 2.

I am closely watching the races across Oakland, especially district 4 City Council. I have been and will continue to focus my efforts on my race and have not made any formal endorsements for local races. For my own race I would encourage voters to consider Andrew Park for their #2 and #3 slots on the ballot.

Organizations

Alameda Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Building and Construction Trades of Alameda County
Construction and General Laborers Local 304
East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club
IBEW Local 595
IFPTE, Local 21
Northern California Carpenters Regional Council
Oakland Firefighters, IAFF Local 55
SEIU Local 1021
Teamsters Joint Council 7
Operating Engineers Local 3
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
League of Conservation Voters East Bay

Elected and Appointed Officials

Assemblymember Rob Bonta
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan
Board of Equalization Member Betty Yee
Oakland City Council President Pat Kernighan
Oakland Mayor Jean Quan
Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb
Oakland Deputy Mayor Sandre Swanson
Oakland School Board Member Roseann Torres
Oakland Port Commissioner Michael Colbruno, Rose Garden Neighbor
Oakland Planning Commissioner Jahaziel Bonilla, Lake Merritt Neighbor
Peralta Colleges Trustee Dr. William "Bill" Riley, Crocker Highlands Neighbor
Peralta Colleges Trustee Nicky Gonzalez Yuen
Peralta Colleges Trustee Cy Gulassa
AC Transit Director Chris Peeples
BART Board Director Rebecca Saltzman

East Bay Regional Parks District Boardmember John Sutter
Alameda City Councilmember Lena Tam
Berkeley City Councilmember Darryl Moore
Berkeley City Councilmember Kriss Worthington
San Leandro City Councilmember Pauline Cutter
Berkeley School Board President Josh Daniels
San Leandro Unified School Boardmember Diana Prola
San Leandro Unified School Boardmember Corina Lopez
Alameda Health Care District Board President J. Michael McCormick
Alameda County Democratic Central Committee Member Michael Barnett
Alameda County Democratic Central Committee Member Ginny DeMartini
Alameda County Democratic Central Committee Member Howard Eggerman
Fmr. CA Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin
Oakland City Council Member Henry Chang Jr. (Ret.)
Oakland Unified School Boardmember Bob Spencer (Ret.)
Fmr. BART Board Director Bob Franklin
Fmr. BART Board Director Carol Ward Allen
Fmr. Oakland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair Jonathan Bair
Fmr. Landmarks Preservation Advisory Boardmember Daniel Schulman

18. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

I plan to raise the voluntary expenditure limit for my District which is \$127,000. As of the June 30 filing deadline, I have raised \$51,630, the most of any District 2 candidate. My campaign also has the most total contributors at 162 and garnered more grassroots donations, with 66 donors who gave \$100 or less. I have a broad base of support for future fundraising.

19. Checks and balances -- How do you view current the relationship between the Council and Mayor? Any comments on the same question for the Auditor and City Attorney? Are there any changes they would propose to the city charter?

There is no doubt that the current relationship between the City Council and the Mayor can be improved and the same can be said for the

relationships between the Council and the Auditor and the City Attorney. We need our government to work, bottom line. This means a government that is transparent and responsive to residents. It also means that we need to foster relationships within city hall that are consensus driven, which requires a process where the Council, Mayor and other departments consult with each other regularly.

20. Money in elections. -- Does Oakland need campaign finance reform? If so, what kind?

Yes. Publicly financed campaigns is a goal that we should be working towards as well as working to prohibit corporate money from influencing elections. The Oakland Campaign Reform Act and the work of the Public Ethics Commission was a start to this reform and I look forward to further progress.

21. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Just that I would like to thank the party for this opportunity to gain your endorsement.

Yes or No questions (follow with an explanation if you want to add one)

-- Do you support the renewal of Measure Y? Yes

-- Do you support the minimum wage proposal? Yes

-- Are you in favor of a police commission? Yes

-- Do you support Dan Kalb's proposal on oversight and transparency?
Yes

-- Are you in favor of receiving public complaints against police officers at the Civilian Police Review Board? Yes

-- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? Yes

-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? Yes

-- Would you support Proportional Representation? Yes (in theory)

-- Do you support diverting people from prosecution if they participate in a restorative justice program? Yes

-- Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? Yes

-- Would you vote to allow more grey water systems? Yes

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Greg Jan
Green Party of Alameda County

(Please reply to: GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com by Saturday, August 23).