

## **Al Murray for Berkeley City Council, District 3**

### Green Party of Alameda County Endorsement Questionnaire 2016

1. Motivation - When I heard that my friend and mentor Councilmember Max Anderson was not seeking re-election for his seat in District 3, I was a disappointed yet understood. Councilmember Anderson has appointed me to 4 Berkeley City Commissions, Fair Campaign Practice Commission/Open Government, Energy Commission and the Commission on Disability. Councilmember Anderson had confidence in my experiences for me to represent District 3 and the City of Berkeley. It is always a difficult decision, but there come a time in your political life when you have done many things for your District and the citizens of Berkeley. You open up the political process so others may either continue what you have started or create new methods towards resolving issues and problems. This is what Councilmember Anderson has done and I want to thank him for all of his efforts and dedication to his District and the City of Berkeley. I am motivated to continue many of the things he has done for District 3 and I want to propose new methods toward solving problems and matters which effect the citizens of Berkeley.

2. Priorities - One of the major issue affecting District 3 and the City of Berkeley is affordable housing. The city is becoming out of the income level of low to moderate, seniors and disabled citizens. This is not a District 3 problem, what must occur if for a review of the General Plan (all Councilmembers) to look at any open lands, blighted structures and contract only developers who will implement a percentage plan in housing construction which incorporates low to moderate housing start out with percentages to ensure that the city is dedicate in the process that any and everyone can live and seeking a range of housing in the City of Berkeley.

If elected to the City Council, I will retain the ability to maintain safe streets and neighborhoods throughout the city. My ambiguous agenda will be to the best my of ability to encourage more businesses, implement the City's Climate Action Plan, implement renewable energy to power our home and our buildings, enhance sustainable transportation models in Public transit, walking, cycling; shift to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind for homes and businesses, the enforcement of city codes especially for apartments, accessibility of housing for Seniors and Disabled, Fair and Impartial Policing, Public Financing of Campaigns and implementation of recommendations from the Mason-Tillman Report. The effort to recruit and hire the best qualified city employees that are proficient, responsible and sensitive in their duty who respond immediately to citizens issues and complaints effectively.

3. Qualifications - I come to the City of Berkeley with extensive experience in city, county, state and Federal government. In 2001, I was Chief of Staff to and Oakland City Councilmember for two years. Councilmember Anderson appointed me to 4 City Commission, I was elected Vice-Chair, Fair Campaign Practice/Open Government in 2016(Term May 2012-July 2016). Commissioner, Energy Commission, elected Chair of the Energy Commission 2014-2015 (Term February 2013 to Present). Commissioner, Commission on Disability

In January 2013 Mayor Tom Bates appointed me to the Berkeley Personnel Board, I was Vice-Chair from 2014-2015 and elected Chair in 2016.

I have worked for 18 years as an Poll Inspector, Alameda County Voter of Registrar for the City of Berkeley and Oakland. In October 2014, I was appointed by Councilmember Laurie Capitelli to

represent the City of Berkeley on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, Citizen Advisory Committee for a 2 year term (10/2012-10/2014); In May 2013, I was appointed by Mayor Tom Bates to represent the City of Berkeley on the Measure A Citizen Oversight Committee which approves and review health care programs for everyone with a budget of over \$130 million annually. In 2015, I served as Vice-Chair and in 2016, I was elected Chair of Oversight Committee.

I have worked 27 years and retired (1999) with the State of California in the Department(s) of Education, Park & Recreation, Corrections, Employment and Development, Social Services, Development Services and Social Services. In 1976, I worked as Special Assistant to Governor Jerry Brown for a year, left the administration as a result of becoming a Brown Delegate, 4th Congressional District working the on the Presidential Committee. I was elected a Delegate, 3rd Congressional District representing President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

In 1975, I was an Assistant Professor at CSU, Sonoma, teaching class at the School of Environmental Studies and Planning for one semester transferred to the Governor's Office in Sacramento.

In 2004, I received a call to become employed at the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 9. The Agency was seeking an individual with environmental and legal background. I worked for two years conducting legal research in the Office of Regional Counsel. I transferred to the Office of the Director, Waste Management Division (now Land Division), USEPA as Administrative Support for 8 years. I retired early from the USEPA under the Family and Medical Leave.

I believe that my vast experiences in all aspects of government, city, county, state and federal equips me and makes me capable to lead and guide the City of Berkeley into a model city for the nation and moves us forward as progressives to deal with the issues and make decisions that confront us in the 21st Century with effective resolutions. I have demonstrated and express my accomplishments with election as a Chair or Vice-Chair of City Commissions understanding and analyzing issues and concerns to making effective decisions for the improvement of the city. My ultimate goal is to win the hearts and minds of the voters of District 3 asking and being worthy of their vote for me to be elected on November 8, 2016 to the Berkeley City Council.

4. Land Use - The wise use of Land in Berkeley is an ultimate concern for all. The Mayor and City Councilmembers must review the General Plan, revise it, if necessary and as a Council systemically develop a comprehensive plan for housing, future development of constructions and Parks to ensure an effective positive plan that benefits all elements of our city. The City of Berkeley and the University of California, Berkeley must develop a comprehensive program to deals with conflicting matters and Agendas and forge with a mutual Plan whereby each entity is able to progress without jeopardizing major goals and objectives. Both parities must develop a joint venture towards satisfaction and agreement what can and cannot be done without the destruction of both of their perspectives.

People's Park is an International landmark in Berkeley which should don't be forgotten. If all else fails, a portion of Parkland can be developed to commemorate (signs & Placards) the historical aspect of the Park and what it represented.

5. Automobiles - As a former Committee member on the County Citizens Advisory Committee, I made a compassionate effort to limit Automobile usage, particularly in the Downtown area. As a

Commissioner, Commission on Disability a effort by the Commission for pedestrians in friendly Downtown area is in progress and affects all persons. There has been more effort towards the implementation of bike cycle lanes on city streets. There have been and will be efforts towards automobile usage by Council and other entities.

6. Safety - The most important public safety issues is the retention and continuation of safe streets and neighborhoods in the City of Berkeley. The ability of citizens to walk their animals, walk in their neighborhoods and parks and feel safe in a number of Districts is a major achievement for city officials and the police department. For a citizen to feel safe in a low crime or no crime environment is ideal and significant.

7. Affordable Housing - The ability to provide affordable housing is critical for those who seek to live in Berkeley and essential for those who wish to remain as citizens but lack the income or cannot affordable housing for the or their families. It is going to take a Citywide effort upon all parties to ensure that Developers and Contractors establish either ranges or percentages from low to moderate housing to meet the needs of everyone. The crisis of affordable housing is crucial since it affects those who are seniors and those who have a Disability. This is a major issue that everyone must participate for resolutions in a land lock city. There must be efforts to review the General Plan and modify or adopt new strategies which locate open areas or blighted home and apartments as opportunities for new or refurbished housing. Districts that are deficient in low income homes would have priority for building and construction. The same strategies could be used with the development of housing for seniors and those with disabilities.

8. Rent Control - It is paramount for the city to continue its strong rent control efforts along with powerful eviction procedures. Those who are elected to the Rent Board should be fair and impartial focusing only on the evidence that is presented to them and not outside pressure from associations and advocate's. The decisions that are render from the Rent Board must be fair and in the bounds of current law. Any law as Costa-Hawkins that has been utilized for 20 years is always subjected to review, modifications or change. However, it is going to take a major effort for revisions with the probably approval or rejections from the voters. There must be some type of moratorium established to prevent massive rent increases new tenants face because of vacancy decontrol. Until there is a comprehensive review and documentation of these procedures with substantive evidence the moratorium should remain and modification and new policies implemented for fairness with rent increases.

9. Homelessness - This is an complex problem with many aspects involved to resolve. The City of Berkeley has made a tremendous efforts in an attempt to deal and resolve the homelessness problem which exist. However, resources are limited and there is so much the city can do for eradication. I see at least two elements of the problem, first , there is the problem of homeless and services to the population. The second issue, is addressing the mental health matters which affect those who are homeless by not having medication to deal with their mental illness or no resources for them to obtain medication. If elected to the City Council, I want to investigate cities like San Francisco and Palo Alto that have made major efforts towards limiting the homelessness population or elimination the problem totally with support of the mental health community. What is needed is various

strategies which are effective and can be implemented by the City of Berkeley to assist in our homelessness problems and issues.

10 Food Policy - I need more information to adequately decide the merits of re-localize our food system. However, I am strongly in favor and support efforts labeling of GMO foods in California. There has not been enough studies and accurate documentation of the dangers of GMO foods to the human body and its adverse effects. Citizens need the knowledge and information to make wise decision in the purchase of food items for human consumption.

11. Positions on National and International Issues - The City of Berkeley is a progressive city and attempts to pave the State and Nation in progressive values and statements. It is not a detriment for elected leaders to make their positions known either as an individual or as a City Council. The City of Berkeley has had a long history of either making statements or positions that who have an effect on the Nation or around the world. This is one of our strengths as a City and leaders in the world.

I thank the Green Party of Alameda County to give me the opportunity to express policies and positions and hope you are comfortable with my responses and answers for an endorsement. Thank you so much.

Al Murray  
Candidate, Berkeley City Council, District 3