

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY  
Berkeley Mayor and City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2016

**Ben Bartlett for Berkeley City Council**

**<benbartlett2016@gmail.com>**

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

**To defend and promote progressive values**

2. Priorities -What do you believe are the major issues facing your district? The City? What are some specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, et.) you intend to accomplish while in office?

**The lack of affordable housing and the closure of Alta Bates Hospital. I intend to leverage market rate development to fund the acquisition of "naturally occurring affordable housing"**

3. Qualifications - Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for being a City Council-member

**I am a multi-generational South Berkeley native and environmental attorney. I represent South Berkeley on the Planning Commission. I serve on the capital committee for the Berkeley Food and Housing Project. Prior commissions include, the Zero Waste Commission, Transportation Commission, Loan Advisory Board. I am an activist and member of the Friends of Adeline.**

4. Land Use: What do you think are the most important land use issues facing the city today? The City and the University have different missions: what conflicts/challenges do you foresee on land use policy, and how would you address these? What should happen to People's Park?

5. Automobiles - What policies should the city take to reduce automobile use and make the city friendlier to pedestrians and other non-automobile transportation? Should the city promote electric car use, and what policy and infrastructure changes would you support, if any?

6. Safety - What are the most important public safety issues facing the residents of Berkeley? What kinds of programs are useful for creating a safe environment for all people?
7. Affordable housing- What is your position on building market-rate housing versus affordable housing? Does building mostly market-rate help or hinder affordability in Berkeley? What affirmative steps would you take to increase the availability of new or refurbished affordable housing in Berkeley? Are there any particular demographics that you would target for this housing? Are there any particular neighborhoods that you would target for this housing?
8. Rent Control- How important is it to keep Berkeley's form of strong rent control and eviction protections? How important is keeping an elected rent board? What is your position on the effects of Costa-Hawkins ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costa-Hawkins\\_Rental\\_Housing\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costa-Hawkins_Rental_Housing_Act)) on the affordability of Berkeley units? Is it an overall good or an overall bad law, looking back over the 20 years since it was passed? What can or should be done to roll back the massive rent increases new tenants face because of vacancy decontrol?
9. Homelessness- Berkeley Greens agree with, but don't necessarily believe, the Democratic Party Platform where it states, "we will fight for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investments to provide the necessary outreach, social services, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness." What do you think can and should be done about the "Homeless problem" here in Berkeley?
10. Food Policy- What policies would you support to re-localize our food system? Do you support labeling of GMO foods, similar to Vermont's law?
11. Should the City Council take positions on national and international issues?
12. The trend in recent years has been for state and local law-enforcement agencies to procure military-grade weapons as well as high-tech surveillance equipment (drones, among others), and to adopt military-style tactics and training. This is generally but not exclusively under the aegis of Urban Shield. What do you think the Berkeley Police Department's and City's stance should be on this issue, as well as what you think the City's policy and practices

should be? What would you do or not do as an elected official?

13. Do you support The Movement for Black Lives Platform?

14. What specifically will do you think Berkeley needs to do locally to fight climate change? To make Berkeley a zero carbon city?

15. What are your positions on the any or all of the eleven Berkeley Ballot Measures? Specifically, what is your position on the competing ballot measures on both the minimum wage and on increasing the business license tax on rental properties?

16. Are there particular statewide initiatives you support? Proposition 59, if passed, would commit California officials to overturning the Citizens United case and getting money out of politics. Will you take the following pledge: "I support amending the U.S. Constitution to make clear that corporations and other artificial entities do not have Constitutional rights and that money is not speech and campaign spending should be limited through regulation."?

17. Endorsements :

a. Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races?

b. Are you endorsing anyone else in your own race, considering that we have instant run off voting?

c. Who has endorsed you?

d. Who do you expect to endorse you?

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

Thank you!

