

**Green Party of Alameda
2014 Endorsement Decision
Questionnaire
Oakland Auditor**

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1. Motivations – Why are you running for City Auditor? Please include any comments about the performance of the incumbent that led you to speak to replace her.

I want to use my talents as an auditor to give back to the community that has given me so much. I have over 20 years of experience as a CPA, Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Fraud Examiner working with national firms KPMG and Deloitte. I have performed audits for agencies including Fortune 500 companies, U.S. Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Labor, and the City/County of San Francisco.

Oakland is where I built my life and raised my three daughters. As Auditor I'll protect Oakland's taxpayers from waste, fraud and mismanagement by ensuring responsible, transparent financial practices. I have the credentials to move Oakland forward: driving for more cost savings, and accountability on every level to restore citizen's trust in City Hall again.

2. Qualifications – Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City Auditor. 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?

As mentioned above I have more than 2 decades of experience as a CPA, Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Fraud Examiner working with national firms KPMG and Deloitte. I have performed audits for agencies including Fortune 500 companies, U.S. Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Labor, and City/County of San Francisco.

I have received many accolades for professional excellence including: Knighton Award – Gold from the National Local Government Association (2006), Exceptional Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Labor (2005) and the Significant Achievement Award from Deloitte & Touche, LLP (2000).

I have also shown leadership in my field having served on the Board of Governors for the Institute of Internal Auditors Northern CA – East Bay Chapter for almost a decade, including as President and currently as a member of its International Committee.

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I have over 20 years of experience working in internal audit departments in government and non-government organizations. As a CPA and auditor, I bring the knowledge and values necessary to have more transparency and accountability in Oakland.

3. 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 for Mayor, Council seats, School Board seats and City Auditor.

I have been very honored to be endorsed by City and Community leaders, including: Councilmember Patricia Kernighan, Former Chair, Alameda County Central Democratic Committee Melanie Sweeney-Griffith, Former City Councilmember at-Large, Henry Chang Jr., Melissa Russo, Chabot Space and Science Center, Director of Development, Michael Colbruno Oakland Port Commissioner, Karen Friedman, co-President of Peralta Community Colleges Foundation, John Bliss, Board member, Oakland Parks Coalition and many other community members.

I am expecting other endorsements as my campaign progresses. As a candidate for City Auditor, I have chosen not endorse other candidates running for City positions. I have made this choice to prevent any appearance of conflicts of interest or favoritism, as the City Auditor must be independent, objective and unbiased.

4. What do you feel needs an audit or a re-audit in the next year?

Without a full in-depth review of the City departments, budget and programs, I could not state that I am aware of a specific area or function that should be included in the annual or multi-year audit plan at this time. However, if I am elected, I would conduct a general review of the City functions and financial results, and a review of the audits that have been conducted and then determine the areas that would require an audit, based on criticality to the City operations and significance of the funding amounts to the City budget.

5. There have been a string of audits of the practices and policies of the city government. Does that go far enough? Is t the right focus? What would you think the focus should be of the next audits?

Audits focusing on practices and policies of city government are a great initial step toward a more efficient government. We need more accountability and transparency in Oakland government to establish more trust in City Hall and drive for more cost savings.

6. What is your opinion of Measure Y and what does the public need to know?

Measure Y was a great step towards reducing crime rates and preventing new crimes. However, implementation and accountability in Measure Y could be better monitored to ensure its objectives are

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being met. The Measure Y awards process needs to be improved making sure each recipient is thoroughly evaluated.

7. Same question for Hiring Practices audit.

Oakland citizen's poor perception of City Hall prompted this audit which revealed some truth to the perceived lack of accountability and leadership in Oakland City Hall. As Auditor I too will run audits that will address citizen's concerns and will use my experience to bring more accountability and transparency to the Oakland.

8. What is and should be the relationship between the Auditor and the other branches of City government? Do you propose any changes in the structure or the practices of the Auditors' Office?

The City Auditor acts as an impartial body that ensures citizens' tax dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. This impartiality is important and helps to ensure that the City Auditor can act as the citizens' watchdog, asking the tough questions and working towards cost savings and efficiency.

9. What is your opinion of the contracts and contract performance of Redevelopment and post Redevelopment projects and as the Oakland Army Base and the Upper Broadway plan? How should Oakland Audit and oversee compliance on this kind of development?

We need to make sure as a city we are awarding contracts to entities that are best suited for the job. Clear codes of conduct and standards need to be put in place for city contracts and City Hall needs to be held accountable for the contracts they enter into. Redevelopment is important to Oakland right now and we need to make sure the city is entering into and honoring the most competitive contract offers. These large community projects should be subject to routine review best practices are being used when entering into contracts, honoring them for contract compliance, and ending them.

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