

## 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 Mayor"

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

Please respond by Saturday, August 23, 2014

Name: Bryan Parker

Phone:

Email: bryan@bryanparker.org  
Website: www.bryanparker.org

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 love Oakland and it is where I want to raise my kids. As a brother who lost his sister to murder, our crime problem is very personal and I want to address. I have the skills—legal, finance and operating to get our city growing and capably lead it forward. I have completed three turnarounds, an IPO, raised capital, both equity and debt, both public and private. I am been able to help drive growth both organically and through acquisition; and I feel it is my calling to help lead before it's too late and we lose another generation of our kids. I also view it as an extension of my service as the former Chair of Oakland's Workforce Investment Board and current Port Commissioner.**

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?

**We must reduce our robbery and murder rates and improve police response times to make people safe again. As mayor, I would focus city spending on more police and anti-violence programs that are proven to combat crime. Investment in school activities would increase graduation rates leading to good paying jobs. More police are needed, but we also need to keep kids in school and off the streets so they can achieve a better future. Also growing the economy and adding jobs.**

**As an Oakland Port Commissioner, I understand how to leverage our port to grow jobs and our economy. As an experienced businessman and entrepreneur, I know that expanding our healthcare, technology and retail sectors will also increase investment and drive job growth in Oakland. Economic growth must be enjoyed by all Oaklanders if we are to make real change in our city.**

**I would work closely with the school district to protect and nurture our children. I would focus on safety at schools and using school sites as community centers where kids can learn, grow and lead happy lives. I would partner with the school district and teachers to make sure we are innovating and using new technologies to better educate our children.**

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?

**Port of Oakland Commissioner. Refinance of our debt saves us \$50m/year. Helped find new ED for the Port. Helping drive us in a growth direction by participating in OAB project. Healthcare company Executive. Grew to \$800M in revenues. Provided vital life-saving services, education and jobs in the healthcare space.**

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 affiliated with the following groups: Alpha Phi Alpha (member), Executive Leadership Council (member), 100 Black Men (board), Allen Temple Baptist Church (member), Boys and Girls Club (member) and Board member at Holy Names University.**

I am supportive of the aforementioned groups and believe that these groups exist to hold all stakeholders accountable and especially civic leadership. It is my intention to listen to their concerns.

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.

See Answer to #4

In addition, I held a series of park activities in order to reach out to various communities called Parker in the Park to hear their concerns about Oakland and foster a family friendly activity in neighborhoods often hit by crime and experience the daily stressors that risk their public safety.

The Parker in the Park series consisted of free public events aimed at bringing community members together, uniting around the many strengths of Oakland (natural beauty, music, food, and a passion for social justice to name just a few) to confront some of our long-standing frustrations (crime, unemployment, and struggling schools). The first three events in the series focused on youth development and education, kicking off with a Father's Day book giveaway. The following three events focused on improving our unemployment rate. The final two events in the Parker in the Park series focused on making Oakland safe. I believe that creating a safe and prosperous city, and fighting the persistent problem of poverty in our city, consists of a unified approach to education, employment and safety.

<http://bryanparker.org/announcing-parker-in-the-park/>

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?

**Budget – Answer does not apply as I am seeking office as mayor. And, as mayor, it is imperative to assess the entire city budget and determine where the greatest priorities are and what resources are needed and then decide where to allocate funding.**

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?

Safety impacts us in every way. Some of our children fear violence so much so that they are not coming to school or are not fully present and miss out on material parts of the learning process. Others, including very young children, are showing up with trauma they have experienced witnessing acts of violence in their neighborhoods. Still for others, the reality of having no (or very little) economic opportunities, leaves them to less desirable, and dangerous choices outside of the classroom to make money for themselves and their families. We must make feeling safe, mentally and physically, a top priority if our children are to maximize their education experience.

Our 10 and 15 year-olds of today, are going to be our young professionals of tomorrow. We need to immediately start getting them prepared for the time when they are needed.

As an example, I will be insisting on computer science being taught as early as the 5th grade. This will open up an opportunity set to the next generation of our youth as well as starting to address the digital divide.

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.

Crime levels and sense of safety. Grow our economy and engage in public /private partnerships so that we have more resources and can hire up to 800 officers. With more officers, we can improve our response times to businesses and residents and allow our officers to engage in more proactive work. Comply with the NSA, so that we may rebuild the culture of OPD and promote community policing. I would address the morale issue so that we are not losing so many officers a year. I would

like to work on healing in certain of our communities and the police and foster an environment where good working relationships can ensure. I support restorative justice programs like those provided for in measure why. While adding police is an important part of our safety plan, it can not be the only part. We must address mental health and job training to name two. I would also address the issues of blight and dumping, education and economic opportunities. Lastly, I would leverage technology as well.

I also think having our police force reflect the diversity and values of Oakland is critical. I would strengthen cadet programs and start them in junior high. I would try to find ways in which there could be an entry class of officer that could be trained and work into full officer. Over time, the police ranks would better reflect Oakland's diversity, both ethnic and geographic. Additionally, I would work to get back control of our police force so we could better establish the culture and hiring patterns we want. I would also make sure we have rigorous diversity and sensitivity training, so that our officers and community work together to achieve true community policing and that community members are interacted in a way that values everyone's civil liberties.

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's economic development plans must be inclusive of all residents of our city. Having unemployment rates of nearly 30% in east and west Oakland is unacceptable. The level of African American contractor participation on large projects like the Oakland Army base is similarly unacceptable. Economic development starts with skills, training and education.

As Mayor, I would make sure all of our schools, no matter where they are located in our city, were funded and performing

equally. Second, I would set up apprentice programs with our unions, and partnerships with our workforce development providers and community colleges to that the focus on skills building and development with adults (including re-entry). Third, I would make sure there were real metrics and goals on the number of Oaklander's hired and minority firms that are invited to participate in big opportunities. Under my jobs plan, we would strive to create 20,000 jobs by the year 2020. My administration would make sure that traditionally underserved communities receive opportunities such that unemployment rates in these communities come in line with national, state and Oakland wide figures. Lastly, we will create support for small businesses who focus on hiring Oaklanders.

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?

See answer #8. We should appeal NSA to the appeals court.

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?

The term "gentrification" immediately emerges in virtually all discussions of Oakland as a tech hub. Gentrification has become such a loaded and divisive word, that I'd actually like to unpack it into its component parts, and then retire the word itself from our collective discourse.

When people use the term gentrification in the Oakland context, I believe they are bundling four primary concerns:

- 1) Inflation – prices will rise as new businesses and residents move into Oakland.
- 2) Displacement – existing communities and residents will be marginalized and eventually forced out of their current neighborhoods.

- 3) Inequality – economic gains will disproportionately go to a few at the expense of many.
- 4) Homogenization – the diversity which makes Oakland such a dynamic place will erode.

These are legitimate concerns and they will be woven into all of my discussion of technology and economic development in Oakland. To be clear, I'm working towards a better Oakland, not a different Oakland.

<http://bryanparker.org/a-better-oakland-not-a-different-oakland/>

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

The State of California has set a goal to achieve a minimum of 33% of its energy from renewable sources. In support of this objective, I envision the following:

- Establishing partnerships with local solar companies to promote the use of solar energy in businesses and residences for consumption and generation.
- Establishing relationship with PG&E to promote a higher proportion of renewable energy sources
- Supporting the exploration of establishing an Alameda County CCA to increase the proportion of renewable energy supplying the City of Oakland residents and businesses.
- Developing of a strategic renewable energy plan that expands upon the actions identified in the City of Oakland's Energy & Climate Action Plan (ECAP).

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

I think the average resident is disappointed with city leadership.

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

Put out a set of metrics by which to judge my and the city's performance. report out on those twice a year.

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

I think we can work with the existing groups. Leadership will help us work better together.

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?

**The ultimate goal would be to foster positive relationships with other office holders in an effort to achieve consensus building through mayoral leadership.**

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.

Oakland Firefighters Local 55 and WON

We have not made any decisions in the other races mentioned

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).

We have reported \$277k raised and \$140k on hand.

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?

We need to work and communicate better at all levels of city government

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

No, however, we can study if further.

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

No.

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?

Economics, the desire to fight poverty, and basic principles of fairness, all support raising the minimum wage in Oakland. On July 1, 2014, the minimum wage in California rose from \$8 to \$9, a 12.5% increase. While a nice increase, many, including me, support an even greater increase. Historically, the minimum wage — dubbed by Edward Kennedy “one of the best antipoverty programs” available to the government — has been an extremely popular political provision. It has been some time since we revisited the minimum wage as a city. The minimum wage has not kept up with the rate of inflation, therefore, many that are already poor, have seen their buying power further eroded. The time is right to revisit this issue. The minimum wage should be further increased. However, this increase must not only be viewed through a political lens, but also an economic one.

Raising the minimum wage to \$13 an hour, or some similar number *immediately*, as some of the proposals floating around on minimum wage set forth, while helping some workers, fails to consider the impact on Oakland’s growing, but still fragile, economy. Some businesses, particularly smaller businesses, in Oakland may struggle to survive an approximate 40% increase. For example, take a business that has 40-60% of its costs in labor. Increase those costs by approximately 40%, and there is a high likelihood that those business will cease to exist. Economic studies that I have seen suggest as many as 20% of our small businesses could go under as the result of such an immediate increase. In this case, many jobs would be lost.

<http://bryanparker.org/better-wages-for-oakland/>

-- Are you in favor of a police commission?

I do not favor the proposal that was brought forward.

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

In theory. I would fund safety and service prior to this.

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

Not sure how this differs from the first question, but see above

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

There are many tools we can use

-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?

There are better systems to elect leaders, especially Mayor

-- Would you support Proportional Representation?

Yes

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

depends on the crime, but generally, 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 ).