

# Brynnda Collins for Emeryville City Council

## Green Party of Alameda County Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire 2016

1. What are three major issues in Emeryville that need to be addressed now? What creative ideas do you have to address these issues?

Traffic, public safety as well as respecting the renters of Emeryville are a great concern for me. I also have environmental concerns due to the lack of education offered to the community around recycling. I would like to make Emeryville's issues more transparent to the community. The lack of transparency allows for a lack of involvement and community awareness. My goals are to create and offer awareness programs and community workshops. Educating the community by offering recycling awareness in the languages needed to communicate the importance of recycling and composting. There is a huge need for community gardens throughout the city especially in the Triangle. I work with the EPD often and would like to create programming to connect the community member with the EPD force in order to come up with plans for a safer city. Issues need to be addressed regarding the smell received when traveling the 40<sup>th</sup> Street over past and the Bay Street areas. My intentions are to move forward with that cleanup process.

2. Who has endorsed you so far (groups and individuals of note)? Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races?

Emery Unified School District Trustee, Donn Lee Merriam

Emery Unified School District Trustee, Brittany Collins-Rogers

Cal Stem Academy, Founder and President Daniel Flemming

Community Advocate/Entrepreneur/ Radio Personality Russell Gatewood

Emery Unified School District CSEA President Marsha Pharham

3. How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?

My projected budget is \$5,000. I have raised \$1,100. thus far. I have several fundraisers planned one will take place on September 11, which will be my Campaign Kick-Off Bar-B-Que. I will also get financial support from the Emeryville community, friends, family, previous Emeryville City Council member, Emeryville Business owners in addition to fundraising.

4. Why did you choose to run for this office? What strength/ skills would you bring to the Council?

After 12 years renting in Emeryville and working for our school district and city, I answer a call to action by running for City Council. My character and leadership – both, courageous and strong insure my positive impact on behalf of the citizens of Emeryville. As a proud Emery USD parent and employee, I served as Parent-Teacher Organization President, School Site Council Chairperson, Youth Development Coordinator, member on the Instructional Leadership Team and in the redesign efforts that have built the Center for Community Life. I am passionate about serving our children and elders and building the capacity of others to create positive change.

5. What major Emeryville development of the last 10 years do you least respect and why? Most respect?

I least respect the development that recently erected the new dwelling on Adeline Street near the San Pablo intersection. The small business owners showed up one day to operate on their daily work schedule only to receive a notice resulting to shutting down their lively hood in just a matter of days.

I most respect the ECCL project and what the collaboration of the city and school can bring to the community. The vacant properties will allow for community events and green space projects.

6. How can we attract more families into Emeryville?

We need to make Emeryville affordable and respect our renters. A way to address this issue is to offer a sense of control over the renting market and redefining affordable housing. Creating housing for families in need will make Emeryville attractive to families

7. Traffic is a major problem in Emeryville and with all the development in the pipeline it seems likely to get worse. How would you work to lessen this?

With all the development throughout the city, traffic has increased to an unbearable level for the residence of Emeryville. I participated on the traffic calming committee in Emeryville and would like to see that committee revamp to come up with plans to calm the traffic. I would like to suggest that we the people of Emeryville focus on greener options to developing our city. As a council member I will lead the way to explore creative and innovative resources.

8. The Sherwin Williams project as proposed will mean the demise of the Horton Street Bike Boulevard as defined by the General Plan owing to too much surplus project generated traffic. Additionally the 45th and 53rd Street bike boulevards will also be rendered impossible according to metrics defined by the General Plan because of the excess traffic generated by the Sherwin Williams project. The developers say the project is so good, it's worth destroying these bike facilities to get it. How will amenities from the project more than offset the loss of these critical bike corridors (presuming you agree)?

I don't feel as if I know enough information in regards to the project to agree or disagree. However, in the last couple of weeks, I have been digging for information to familiarize myself. Question? Why aren't the community members aware of the things going on in Emeryville? Another question comes to mind? Just how was this project communicated, in such a way that such an active member of this community such as myself and others know so little or nothing at all? Answer: Lack of transparency. As part of my platform transparency issues are conversations that will develop into an action. I am however, attending the September 6<sup>th</sup> Study session for the Project Development Plan (PDP) and review of the Enviromental Impact Review (EIR).

9. Without the re-development agency, how can small business be encouraged to come to Emeryville?

Again, affordability plays a huge roll in attracting small businesses. Also, making very careful decisions surrounding fair work week.

10. Do you believe that transparency in city decisions has improved in the past five years? Does this still need improvement? What changes would you suggest or support?

I believe transparency is close to non-existing. I will immediately implement the five ways to communicate rule. I will gather from community members data on the best way they would prefer to receive city communications.

11. How do you see the role of the city manager in Emeryville with regard to both connection to the city council and the public? Can you comment on changes in this with our new city manager and your opinion.

In the past there was no direct connection with the city manager or even our council members. These are the issues that lead to my inspiring to run for council. I plan to bridge those gaps.

12. Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics? Have you [Taken the Pledge to Amend](https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend)? (<https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend> )

I am in support to amend and now that you sent me this link I will take the pledge and share the link.

13. What is your current line of work, phone number, e-mail, and website?

I am a Youth Development Coordinator I can be reached at 510.393.1002 [brynndacollins@gmail.com](mailto:brynndacollins@gmail.com) or contact my Facebook page; Brynnda Collins Emeryville Council

14. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?