

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

**Our community, like so many others, needs diverse, ethical folks with integrity and honesty to step up and become public servants.**

**I am a mother, a city commissioner, a Mills graduate, and a 35 year member of the West Berkeley community. In my lifetime, I have witnessed the ways in which Berkeley's city government has not represented my friends, my family, and my neighbors in this city which we all love. My family and I have been renters for decades and we know firsthand the challenges that come with displacement and gentrification. Our children attended Berkeley Public Schools and I've been working to make change in our community since my days as treasurer of our local PTA.**

**I am ready to step up and provide principled, accountable leadership at this important time in District 2 and throughout Berkeley.**

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?

**I have a commitment to Environmental Justice, clean air and water, accessible and plentiful wilderness, careful development that reduces our collective impact on the environment, and to addressing climate change effects that will impact our city.**

**In conversation with my neighbors, I hear again and again that city hall is not responsive enough to the needs of the community. I am advocating for the creation of neighborhood assemblies which will support citizens to be organized around citywide issues. Our goals are to keep citizens more engaged and informed of issues and policy discussions, to build community, facilitate environmental stewardship, do disaster preparation, mitigate conflicts, and improve the ethic of civic engagement throughout the city. I want to disrupt the disengaged-citizenship-as-usual. I believe Berkeley can steward a new model of citizenship.**

**I support a neighborhood-friendly, demilitarized police force. Understanding that BPD spends about 35% of its resources on responses to calls for help in dealing with a person in a mental health crisis, we need to direct resources towards hiring more actual mental health professionals. When someone is in crisis, they need a counselor, not a firetruck or police car. Sadly, right now, Berkeley often deploys fire trucks, ambulances and police, but no professionals who can provide needed mental health services. This situation MUST change.**

**Development must be carefully designed to enhance and protect our environment and provide housing that is accessible to all, not just to the wealthiest among us. Through neighborhood assemblies, the community's voice will be at the table whenever new development is proposed, so that together we can assess the impacts on the local ecology and the local community. West Berkeley must achieve beautification *without* gentrification. .**

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

**My family and I have lived in District 2 for thirty five years, raising our two children who attended Berkeley schools. I was active on the PTAs when our children were young, and I have served on the Human Welfare Community Action Commission since 2009. In addition, I bring to the table my varied training and experiences as a professional bookkeeper.**

**I possess a Mills degree in Business Economics, with a minor in dance, and received an academic award, Omicron Delta Epsilon, an international honor society in economics. I achieved my degree while working full-time over nine years, taking one class per semester: one year taking business economics and the next year taking dance. I have endurance, patience, am honest and will NOT be bought or sold.**

**My life experience, professional skills, and dedication to my community make me an excellent candidate to help steward our city through the challenges we face.**

4. **Land Use: What do you think are the most important land use issues facing the city today?**

**I am concerned about the fast paced development of the San Pablo and Adeline corridors. Outside developers target these areas since property values are low, forcing out the diversity and equity from our city. Gentrification is the result. I support zoning that restricts new business ownership to local community members, and city sponsored loan programs that make it possible for local entrepreneurs to benefit from rising wealth in their neighborhoods, rather than be displaced by it.**

**Housing is at a crisis point, both for buyers and for renters. Let's begin building low and moderate-income housing in those areas in Berkeley that don't see development, building in the hills and in the vibrant neighborhoods near campus and in North Berkeley. New development doesn't include adequate affordable or low income housing. Let's insure all**

**new development includes affordable and low income units, and excellent community benefits for existing neighbors. Let's give the low income and affordable housing residents an opportunity to live in the areas they have been shut out of. Let's unite the flatlands with the hills. I believe in Beautification *without* gentrification.**

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?

**UCB should build enough housing to support their students so they don't have to pile into units like sardines. People's Park should be protected: enhanced but not used for development. I have compiled a list of precious places - parks, small businesses, and other institutions - that are at risk of displacement as a result of rampant gentrification. I will work to protect these community resources. People's Park is one of the precious places in Berkeley and should remain a park for the people.**

**Each time the University plans to develop land, changing the character of our city, they should be required to make a compelling case to the community and the public about the benefits that they will offer to community members to offset the disruption that their development will cause.**

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?

**I look forward to creating new policy in conversation with groups like the Green Party. I am committed to an open door policy with groups that have been working on these issues far longer than I, so that we can craft the best possible policies.**

**I support increased infrastructure for electric cars, including dedicated parking and greater proliferation of public charging stations.**

**The city has taken steps in the right direction regarding bike friendliness, but there is further to go - connecting the bike boulevards to each other and to public transit, encouraging neighboring cities to connect their bike boulevards to ours, and providing incentives to city and BUSD workers to commute on foot or by bicycle.**

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?

**As I speak with constituents throughout Berkeley, there are several issues of safety they are concerned about. Bicyclists and pedestrians are concerned for their safety in Berkeley. We need safer and green bike lanes. Pedestrians need safer crosswalks with flashing lights, and more traffic calming measures implemented.**

**We need to end BPD participation in Urban Shield, which serves to further militarize our police department and is out of step with the needs of our community. We need de-militarized police that are neighborhood friendly, eliminating racial profiling, and know the community in which they serve. This will make our streets safer.**

**I will champion the reinstatement of the Mental Health Crisis Teams, under the purview of the Health and Human Services department. These teams should be fully funded to operate at all times, and they should be the first responders in a mental health crisis.**

**Through neighborhood assemblies we will assess, prioritize and address the concerns for safety. As your Councilwoman, I will fight tirelessly to insure safety on our streets.**

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?

**Berkeley has a variety of proposals for increasing housing stock in our urban core and in our neighborhoods. I am dedicated to increasing new affordable housing stock in creative and sustainable ways.**

**There are several pending projects in district 2 and neighboring districts, most of which are market rate housing, and the inclusionary units are being omitted by paying the fees in lieu of the affordable units. This should be discouraged, we need to increase the percentage of inclusionary units for new development. Using funds from developers who elect to pay the fees, we must quickly and efficiently build new affordable units which are comfortable and are distributed evenly throughout the city. Rents in affordable units should be capped at 30% of residents' income.**

**Let's look at the property development in the hills, which has been untouched and omitted from development.**

**Repealing Costa-Hawkins should be on every municipalities agenda. We cannot effectively address our affordable housing and gentrification crises without repealing Costa-Hawkins and bringing back fair and thoughtful vacancy control. As Councilwoman, I will lead this charge.**

8. Rent Control- How important is it to keep Berkeley's form of strong rent control and eviction protections?

**My family has lived in a rent controlled apartment since 1979, in District 2. Rent control is the only reason we are able to live in Berkeley. We truly appreciate, understand and know how important rent control is. The rent board conducts hearings and issues decisions, enacts legislation, provides, services for tenants and landlords. I will fight to bolster and maintain these protections for our residents.**

How important is keeping an elected rent board?

**The rent board is vital to maintaining the structure, personnel to serve tenants and landlords. I would fight against any move to change this structure.**

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?

**Costa-Hawkins should be repealed. As councilwoman, I would lead that charge. Vacancy controls are among the very few tools that cities like Berkeley can use to address out-of-control housing costs.**

Is it an overall good or an overall bad law, looking back over the 20 years since it was passed?

**Costa-Hawkins has allowed rents to skyrocket, forcing long term residents to move out of Berkeley and other neighboring cities, causing displacement and gentrification.**

What can or should be done to roll back the massive rent increases new tenants face because of vacancy decontrol?

**I will fight to repeal Costa-Hawkins by reaching out to other elected officials across the state and contributing to a statewide education and repeal movement. Canvassing throughout district 2 has lead to many**

**conversations regarding displacement and gentrification. District 2 tenants are being forced out, harassed and threatened by landlords, who want the units to turn over in order to increase their bottom line. As district 2's Councilwoman, I would work to increase affordable & low income housing, capped at 30% of income while creating beautification *without* gentrification.**

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?

**Housing is a human right. Berkeley's homelessness infrastructure, while excellent in many ways, needs increases in funding and innovation in approaches. I will support these changes in conversation with homeless community members and service providers.**

**Berkeley needs mental health mobile crisis units. A mobile crisis unit with a social worker & psychologist that has been trained to address a mental health crisis should be the first responder in a mental health crisis, not the police.**

10. Food Policy- What policies would you support to re-localize our food system?

**Re-localizing our food system is not a new concept, and I'm pleased it's making a comeback. Re-localizing our food system provides equity, keeping dollars within the community, and can reduce a food carbon footprint, reducing our impact on the environment and increase sustainability and economy.**

Do you support labeling of GMO foods, similar to Vermont's law?

**GMO labeling should be mandatory. The consumer must know when the ingredients have been genetically altered, period. Throughout our recent history, consumers have been harmed by lack of information. We must work to eliminate these harms.**

11. Should the City Council take positions on national and international issues?

**Berkeley has been a leader among American cities in addressing national and international issues in a way that reflects the shared values of our community members. Berkeley was one of the first municipalities to divest**

**from South African Apartheid. Yes, City Council has an obligation to address national and international issues that are important to Berkeley's residents. Berkeley's population is diverse, we hail from all around the world and are affected by various issues. The council must be responsive to the community in this way. Neighborhood assemblies would give the constituents the opportunity to address such issues and bring to the attention of the Council. I will also work to bolster commissions such as the Peace and Justice commission which provides invaluable advice to Council on these issues. We must stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world: we are all human beings, and we live in this world together.**

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?

**Berkeley should have neighborhood-friendly demilitarized police, that are involved with the community. As a commissioner on the Human Welfare & Community Action Commission, I insisted that we take up the issue of Urban Shield and increasingly militarized policing. Last month, I invited Stop Urban Shield to our meeting to speak to this issue. The City staff invited the Berkeley Police Department to the meeting as well. BPD painted Urban Shield as a lovely training opportunity. However, the HWCAC will continue this discussion next this month. I will advocate for BPD not to participate in urban shield, and as a councilwoman I will fight to demilitarize our community's police. We need to STOP Urban Shield.**

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

**Of course. Black Lives have been marginalized, criminalized, incarcerated at a extremely high rate, murdered for decades, experienced centuries of slavery, we need to change the systemic racism that exists in Black day-to-day lives. Shared struggles unite us in solidarity. Specifically, the recently released platform is an impressive articulation of the needs of the community. Yes, I 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?

**I have a commitment to Environmental Justice, clean air and water, accessible and plentiful wilderness, careful development that reduces our**

collective impact on the environment, and a constant eye to addressing climate change.

**Berkeley's Zero Net Energy Working Group put forward a Deep Green Building plan for residential areas with a plan to incentivize and eventually mandate water conservation, reduced toxicity, reduced embodied energy, sustainably produced materials and zero net energy. This is exactly the kind of citizen engagement and environmental planning I want to see and would support in the city.**

**New construction in Berkeley should achieve very low carbon footprints, this could be achieved by banning natural gas in future residential development. Housing near transit hubs should not carry the same parking space requirements as housing further from transit, and efforts should be made by the city to encourage residents to forego individual vehicles for transit, ridesharing and biking.**

**Berkeley's Climate Action Plan sets appropriately ambitious goals and does a good job of laying out focus areas and setting achievable standards. I was disappointed to see in last year's update to council that we were nearly 20% above target levels in 2013. With a plan in place and city staff monitoring progress, it can be easy for councilmembers to forget about the issue or put it out-of-mind. I would support more frequent updates to council, and a process by which impacts to the CAP could be considered in each budget cycle, and when considering other types of legislation at the council level.**

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?

**The minimum wage needs to reach \$15/hr, ASAP. Multiple measures on the ballot for a single issue, may cause the ballot measures to fail, unfortunately. \$15/ hr isn't enough, a living wage is more appropriate. Once elected, I will fight for a living wage that is tied to real cost of living in our communities.**

**I support the increase in the business license tax and I know that this will only take us part of the way towards our goal of a fully funded affordable housing program. Developers need to play a larger role in financing affordable housing.**

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."?

**Definitely. Corporations are not people and should not be treated as such. Citizens united was a catastrophe for our nation and I look forward to supporting the fight to overturn it.**

17. Endorsements :

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

**Never would I vote for Trump, and I cannot support Hillary either. I believe in Dr. Jill Stein. I support candidates to oppose the current machine in Berkeley, so I oppose Councilman Capitelli's bid for Mayor.**

b. Are you endorsing anyone else in your own race, considering that we have instant runoff voting? c. Who has endorsed you?

**I have not endorsed anyone else in the District 2 race. However, I am encouraging folks to refrain from marking the incumbent on their ballots, in order to change the machine in Berkeley City Council.**

**James Reagan who suspended his campaign in District 2 has endorsed me, as have Max Anderson, the city councilman, and a variety of other community members.**

### **Key Endorsements**

**Max Anderson**, Berkeley City Council; **Hatem A. Bazian, Ph.D**, Near Eastern Studies and Asian American Studies Departments, University of California, Berkeley; **Carol Denny**, Human Rights Editor / Advisory Board Member, Street Spirit Newspaper, an American Friends Service Committee publication; **Kanchan Dawn Hunter**, Spiral Gardens and California Women of Color Herbal Symposium; **Katherine M. Harr**, Vice Chair Rent Board; **Kathryn Horsley, DrPH**, Community Health Assessment Specialist and West Berkeley Neighbor; **Mansour Id-Deen**, Berkeley Neighbor, **Ying Lee**, Former Berkeley City Council, **Barbara Lubin**, Former School Board Member (BUSD); **Steve Martinot**, Writer, Member of All of Us or None and Berkeley Neighborhoods Council; **Dan McMullan**, Commissioner, Human Welfare Community Action Commission; **Beth Guadalupe Montano**, Oceanview Neighborhood Association Member; **Henry Norr**, Retired Berkeley Neighbor; **Krystel Olivieri**, Former Commissioner, Human Welfare Community Action Commission (Representative of the Poor) and West Berkeley neighbor; **Michael Paranti, PhD**, Author and Lecturer; **Willie Phillips**, Former Chair, West Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corp; **Andrea Prichett**, Middle School Teacher, Berkeley Copwatch, Co-Founder and

West Berkeley neighbor; **Carol Sanders**, Retired Legal Services Attorney, Legal Author, and West Berkeley neighbor; **Noah Sochet**, Former Chair, Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission; **Belen Trigueros**, Vice Chair, Human Welfare Community Action Commission (Representative of the Poor) and Community Organizer; **Gloria A. Woodson**, Former Commissioner, Human Welfare Community Action Commission (Representative of the Poor)

**Endorsements:**

**Bruce Ackerman**, Berkeley Neighbor; **Phil Allen**, District 1 Resident; **Rosetta Breland**, Berkeley Neighbor; **Lynda Campfield**, Teacher, San Leandro High School; **Joann Consiglieri**, Bay Area Neighbor; **Eve Decker**, Buddhist teacher, singer, songwriter, song leader, Berkeley neighbor; **Fred Dodsworth**, Journalist and Berkeley Neighbor; **Jena Maya Ezzeddine**, Berkeley Neighbors **Bilal Ezzeddine**; **Farrah Lynn Ezzeddine**, Berkeley Neighbors; **John & Barbara Erickson**, Berkeley Neighbors; **Hassan Fouda**, Retired Scientist and Manager, Pfizer, Inc. Global Research and Development; **Andrew Gutierrez**, PhD Retired Professor and bay area neighbor; **Marina Gutierrez**, Retired Biologist and bay area neighbor; **Alice Diane Kisch**, Teacher/ Tutor and bay area neighbor **David Levinson, MD**, District 2 resident; **Ann Martinez**, Teacher; **Jim McFadden**, Psychotherapist; **Theresa Mughannan-Walrath**, Retired; **Sandra Nasser**, Bay Area Neighbor; **Linda Olivenbaum**, Berkeley Neighbor **Cathy Orozco**, Retired Attorney at Law, Berkeley neighbor; **José-Luis Orozco**; **Luis Orozco**; **Elena Prakovra**, Speech Therapist, District 2 neighbor; **Jasmine Ross**, Berkeley neighbor; **Katharine Samway**, Retired Professor; **Cindy Shamban**, Berkeley Neighbor; **Matt Silas**, Berkeley Neighbor; **Beverly Stapin**, Education Activist, District 2 resident; **Marge Sussman**, Berkeley Neighbor; **Russell Ward**, Bay Area Neighbor; **Mario & Vivian Zelaya**, Berkeley Neighbors

d. Who do you expect to endorse you?

**Interviews & decisions are pending, I hope to be endorsed by a variety of other individuals and groups.**

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

**With the help of a vibrant campaign committee made up of longtime Berkeley residents and campaign manager, we are engaged in a serious campaign. We are canvassing strategically, preparing communications, databasing information about interested voters, and working hard to make contact with every voter in District 2 repeatedly.**

**We have a formidable campaign committee with representatives of various local groups and neighborhoods and we are all dedicated to electing new leadership for the District. I'm in it to win it, pounding the pavement with the help of many dedicated volunteers, and I intend to meet every voter in the district. I'm attending and leafleting at local events including block parties, soon to be handing out yard signs, currently collecting more**

**endorsements, and campaigning all over the district and beyond, as the Council serves not just District 2, but the entire city. I've raised over \$8,100 and our fundraising is ongoing.**

**I look forward to serving as Councilwoman.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**