

Emeryville City Council Questionnaire
c/o Green Party of Alameda County
2022A Blake Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Please respond by Saturday, August 27, 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?

The issues facing Emeryville are the same facing the entire Bay Area. Housing is first and foremost. In Emeryville, we need more owner occupancy, affordable units, and family housing. The next issue is employment. The cost of housing has outpaced wages. Finally, Emeryville needs to focus locally on the issue of sustainability. Green energy, bike lanes, and quality transit need to be expanded.

These issues need to be addressed not creatively but pragmatically. The City has been on a people first trajectory, but they have compromised too much with businesses and developers. If I am elected, I will hold developers accountable to what the city needs not what is most profitable. Emeryville currently has about 11% affordable house, which is well below our neighboring cities. Any new development will have to greatly increase that percentage.

Emeryville has enacted a liveable wage, but that is just the first step. We are now working on predictable scheduling. This is a critical next step because any adult making minimum wage needs to be working multiple jobs to pay rent. Add the cost of childcare and transportation to the cost of housing and people are forced to move to places as far away as Stockton and commute to Emeryville. A just economy has to include more than a minimum wage, it has to include predictable scheduling, affordable childcare, and reliable transit. Services the City of Emeryville can provide.

Emeryville has expansive parking lots in front of multiple big box stores. None of the builders of the parking lots was required to put in solar panels which not only generate electricity but reduce heat absorption of the asphalt. Currently the Emeryville transit system does not go down San Pablo nor go to West Oakland BART, two heavily trafficked areas. By adding them to the system, traffic will be calmed.

Again, these are not creative solutions, but simple, pragmatic ones that can be implemented easily and will have an immediate impact. I will champion policies in other areas to address the needs of the community. This includes Emeryville's lack of green space, failing education, and low level of civic engagement.

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?

I have been endorsed by the Labor Council. All of the other endorsements I am seeking from groups have not yet announced who they are supporting.

I have been endorsed by Mayor Dianne Martinez, Vice-Mayor Scott Donahue, and Council Member Jac Asher.

I am endorsing Hillary Clinton for President, Barbara Lee for Congress, Kamila Harris for Senate, Nancy Skinner and Tony Thurmond for State Offices.

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?

I have raised about 20% of my goal of \$10,000. I am holding my first fundraiser on September 1st, where I will raise money from individuals. I have pledges from several groups and organizations for additional funding.

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

I have been an active member of the Emeryville community and have seen the positive changes that have occurred in the time I have lived here. I decided to run when the most progressive member of the council told me she was not seeking reelection. Emeryville currently has a progressive majority on the board and I am running to ensure it stays that way.

As an elected official, I have a track record of demanding transparency, holding people and companies accountable, and standing firm in my convictions.

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

The Emeryville Center for Community Life was a bad plan poorly executed. It was sold to the city and school district as a panacea and has become an albatross. The design was severely flawed and included multiple environmentally unfriendly choices. The construction, which was done with a lease leaseback, a method used to skirt transparency laws, ran over budget and took a year longer than it was scheduled. The project is still not finished, but open. The facilities are too small and are preparing children for prison not college.

The development I most respect is the Ambassador Apartments for purely personal reasons. When we moved into our house, it came with neighbors that rented a small basement apartment. The family represented how my family experienced the American Dream, they immigrated to find work and provide an opportunity for their child. Working in what remained of Oakland's garment industry, the small apartment was all they could afford. The new owner of the house evicted the family to convert their apartment into an AirBnB unit. Had it not been for the Ambassador, they would have had to move their daughter out of school and themselves away from their place of employment, adding hours to their commute. Their daughter (my son's babysitter) is about to graduate from SFSU in nursing because the Ambassador offered below market rate housing.

6. How can we attract more families into Emeryville?

Require developers to build more family housing, not single units or double masters. Promote ownership over renters. Improve the public schools and continue to fund community services; senior center, recreation, and child development center.

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?

It is a threefold process. The first step is to increase the free transit system. The Emeryground does not go round enough. By adding a stop at the West Oakland BART, more commuters would utilize the service. The next step would be to build upon the bike boulevards currently in place. Emeryville has plans to grow the bikeability in town and should work with its neighbors to connect the region. Finally, it is past time that Emeryville develop a comprehensive parking plan. We need to hold or reduce the amount of parking and begin charging for the parking we have.

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)?

They are wrong.

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

I do not buy the premise. People try to label Emeryville as unfriendly to business because we care about people first. Businesses will come to Emeryville because that is where its customers and or employees are. The city should focus on partnering with the right business, like it has with Arizmendi and Pixar. Companies that have a track record of success and positive impacts on employees and customers.

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?

Transparency has greatly improved in town. There is more to be done. It is important that council members question the information staff brings to meetings. I watched as survey data was presented about the fair work week. The way the data was presented was flawed and misleading. City staff failed to be objective and present a true accounting of how employees are treated.

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. The city manager's job is to implement the will of the council. She is responsible for the day to day operations of the city. Every department in the city reports to her and it is her job to make sure they report to the public.

I do not feel it is appropriate for me to discuss the performance of an employee, especially since I do not yet have all of the information I would need to judge.

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 not a pledge taker but I think Citizens United ruling is one of the worst decisions in the last fifty years. I support Hillary Clinton because we need to make the next several appointments to the court. We can not risk having a Republican in office as the justices retire. Once the court has shifted, I look forward to them revisiting Citizens United.

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

I am a special education administrator for an art school. I can be reached at 510-938-6917, crpatz@gmail.com, and www.ccrpatz.com

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

I agree with a majority of the Green Party's platform. From the concept of a Green New Deal to Economic Justice we share much common ground. It would be an honor to once again have your endorsement. I was proud to have when I ran for school board and hope I have lived up to your expectations. I have fought hard for important issue, be it my victories of using cork instead virgin plastic on the athletic field or my symbolic votes against wasting taxpayer funds.

(Please respond to: GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com by Saturday, August 27).