

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to: [GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogleroups.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

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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'm running for Mayor because it's time to tell it like it is – the key problem with Oakland is Oakland's city government.

We can be the most vibrant city in the Bay Area. We have the most creative people. We are the true geographic center of the region with the best weather, the best transportation infrastructure and the most vibrant culture. Oakland has what it takes to succeed right now.

But over decades our city government made a series of decisions that did more than squander money – they squandered opportunities. And one lost opportunity after another, year after year, adds up to the challenges we see now – crime is too high, our infrastructure is crumbling and our government isn't up to the challenges ahead.

**As elected city auditor, my job is to look beyond the excuses and focus on the realities. And the reality is we need the mayor to lead the fight for safety every day. If we get safety right – the rest will be easier. We don't need excuses on crime, we need inspired and tough-minded leadership.**

**The hard truth is, if we had more inspired and ethical leaders focused on results, we wouldn't be in so much trouble in so many areas. Our government needs to lead by example. And when politicians hire cronies, give contracts to donors, let costs get out of control, that's setting the wrong example.**

**As auditor, my job was to find problems and fight for solutions. I've gotten under the hood of nearly every part of this city government – and we're helping restore an ethical culture, saving taxpayers millions of dollars and fighting to make sure the people get what they deserve from the people's government.**

**I know the problems. I've fought for solutions. Now I am asking for the opportunity to lead that fight where it matters the very most – in the mayor's office.**

**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?**

**I know what needs to be done – I know if we start with safety, the rest will be easier. We use savings from smarter budgeting to hire more cops. We bring in new businesses to create new opportunities and we support our schools so our kids have a shot at a brighter future.**

**Please take a look at my initiative on Mandatory Management Audits for Oakland:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jzymw85ovmo>**

**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?**

**I'm an auditor – a trained CPA. My whole professional life has been about separating fact from fiction – and getting results. I took a troubled agency, and I helped make it a model of accountability, transparency and results. And we have won back-to-back national awards recognizing our work as some of the best in America.**

**For every \$1 spent by the auditor's office we have identified \$6 in future savings, lost revenue or waste. It's amazing what you can find – if you are willing to open your mind to the plain facts before you.**

**Our police technology audit found \$2 million budgeted for technology that was not being used or was underused. When we ran the numbers on parking tickets, we got refunds for Oaklanders because city overcharged \$2.3 million. I did a performance audit of our Public Works Department and found \$9 million in savings (7.5% of its budget) and 292 ways to make the department more efficient.**

**We focused on the numbers – not the politics. And we made a difference.**

**But my most important job is being a mom. I've got two incredible young boys in Oakland schools – and I want them to grow up to be safe and successful young men in this city.**

**I've lived in Oakland since 1999. I'm completing my eighth year as City Auditor. I am a graduate of American University, a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner. Prior to my service as City Auditor, I served as vice-chair of the Budget Advisory Committee for the City of Oakland and Board Finance Chair for a local nonprofit dedicated to ending the cycle of homelessness.**

**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 have been an invited speaker twice to TOLA, I am a big supporter of Go Public Schools, and last, but not least, I am a mother of 2 adopted boys from foster care in the Oakland Unified School District. I have first hand knowledge of how challenging it is for African-American boys exposed to trauma to learn and excel within the district.**

**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.**

**I was involved in youth ministry prior to the boys moving in with me.**

**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?**

**Oakland got into trouble because our city leaders failed to look at the hard numbers. One of the first things I will do as mayor is to hire an independent budget analyst to make sure that we are making decisions based on real numbers and facts. I will also build in greater transparency and accountability into the implementation of our budget, so that Oaklanders can track our progress in real time. We can make progress if our budget debates are focused on facts and solutions, not excuses and politics.**

**Finally, we need to be very real about the challenges the City faces with a financial and physical infrastructure that has been neglected for years, \$1.5 billion unfunded pension liabilities and the need to deliver core city services successfully to ensure our city retains residents and business and attracts new ones. We must deliver a safe and well-run city and our budget should be a clear reflection of that priority.**

**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?**

**There are so many things that need to be done to fix Oakland, and the conditions facing our youth are at the top of the list. Nationally, we know that more than 60 percent of children have been exposed, directly or indirectly, to violence, crime or abuse in their homes, schools and communities. That number is likely higher in Oakland.**

**Children exposed to violence are also at a higher risk of engaging in criminal behavior later in life. We need to make Oakland safer now – to stop this cycle of violence – and move as quickly as possible to a model of wrap-around services in our schools to help children who have already suffered trauma.**

**I strongly support the Restorative Justice initiative in OUSD and will commit the resources of the mayor's office to make the pilot projects a success and hopefully implement RJ programs district-wide in the future. This is an urgent need, especially given that 40 percent of African American OUSD students do not graduate from high school and 60% of African American dropouts have had contact with the criminal justice system.**

**We need to continue to focus on reentry services, including providing our young adults returning from incarceration with case management, employment skills and placement and housing.**

**Last but not at all least, we need to continue our recommitment to Ceasefire – which, after too long, is only now beginning to be treated as a priority. I was particularly struck by Chip Johnson's characterization of Ceasefire in his column earlier this year: "It's a do-over for people who started life at a disadvantage." I**

**will make Ceasefire a top priority of my administration – and will work to make sure it gets the funds it needs.**

**As stated earlier, I am the mother of two traumatized boys. The majority of Oakland's youth is traumatized. We as a city must get serious about the systemic issues affecting our youth and how we work locally, regionally and at a federal level to drive long-term solutions. We must do better, and when we show leadership in youth development, we will attract more money and establish long-term working relationships that produce long-term solutions.**

**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.**

**The key is for Oakland's next mayor to lead a comprehensive effort, driven by outcomes and accountability, that can account for all influences on young people, and can achieve a more effective coordination between police, various levels/ branches of government (including courts), nonprofits, and other community partners. Oakland has a long history of strained relations between the community and the police force. We must increase accountability in the police force by having a well managed and trained police force that operates technology effectively and drives results.**

**We don't need to reinvent the wheel. Many parts of the solution are operating in our community right now. Recommitting to Ceasefire and related violence prevention strategies funded by Measure Y is the right idea – but Oakland needs a mayor who will see it through, not just in an election year, but for the long term. The Bratton report showed that Oakland has not effectively implemented community policing since 1990. We should fully implement community policing programs and tie police promotions to measured goals and standards of community policing. As stated earlier, Restorative Justice, is a critical component to addressing community justice and as Mayor I will be supporting its expansion.**

**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?**

**Accountability is what matters. A big part of the problem in Oakland government is a failure in leadership that has squandered opportunities by bouncing from crisis to crisis, always looking for a political solution, instead of implementing sound decisions by focusing on results. My 2011 Performance Audit of the Fox Theater Renovation outlined issues involved its budget going over \$60 million and showed some easily adopted management principles that would have saved Oakland millions of dollars.**

**Development projects need to pencil out for the taxpayer, and the Mayor needs to hold the developer accountable to their development agreements. For example, the hard-fought local hire provisions of the Oakland Army Base agreement represent a great opportunity to get Oaklanders back to work. As mayor, I will work to enforce both the letter and the spirit of the law.**

**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?**

**There is perhaps no greater example of the failure of City Hall leadership than its management of our police department. Our revolving door of police chiefs – caused by micromanagement and mismanagement – has resulted in low officer morale, decreased trust by the community, increased crime and the delay or outright abandonment of strategic plans that we have invested in to make our city safer. As mayor, I will give the police chief the tools he needs to do his job and hold him accountable to demonstrated results. We can and must comply with the consent decree and be firmly committed to constitutional policing.**

**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?**

**Oakland can be a national model for a livable city. We need equitable development that provides housing for a range of economic levels to ensure the development of thriving, vibrant, complete communities. Oakland is facing gentrification forces that could change its soul. I believe we will keep Oakland's character intact by being proactive, preserving our open space, and ensuring that we have affordable housing.**

**Currently, the city has a *voluntary* development benefits and incentives program. I believe the time has come for this voluntary program to be mandatory. We need equitable development that provides housing for a range of economic levels to ensure the development of thriving, vibrant, complete communities. We need programs for acquisition and land banking opportunity for sites in desirable development areas to make ensure affordable housing takes place within these developments, and doesn't just generate fee revenue to build affordable housing elsewhere.**

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

**I believe that environmental policies should be integrated throughout government and not treated as a stand-alone afterthought. Being environmentally smart protects the health and welfare of Oakland's citizens right now and can save money in the long run.**

**It is time to tell it like it is - if we want to continue Oakland's strong record on the environment, we need to start by fixing our broken government. There is much to be done at the basic management level. As I said above, I did a performance audit of our Public Works Department and found \$9 million in savings (7.5% of its budget) and 292 ways to make the department more efficient and cut waste, fraud and abuse. Those recommendations are not done at the expense of our environmental health - they are there to enhance it.**

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

**We have always heard that Oakland has great potential, yet we never realize it. That leaves people dissatisfied. Oakland's economy has been growing, yet we all feel that we are being held back. As I have said, the key problem is Oakland's broken city government. Over decades our city government made a series of decisions that squandered opportunities. And one lost opportunity after another, year after year, adds up to the challenges we see now – crime is too high, our infrastructure is crumbling and our government isn't up to the challenges ahead.**

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

**I built my reputation as City Auditor on holding myself accountable and transparently reporting results. Accessibility is the hallmark of my auditor's administration, and I intend to carry that into the Mayor's office. As Mayor, there will be no raises for top managers without performance tied to results. And we will send every large city contract out to bid - with local hiring and living wage requirements - to increase efficiency.**

**As a public servant you elect me to a job, and I am accountable to delivering on that promise.**

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

**I am a big believer in the active participation of residents at all levels of government – but especially in local government. I pledge to work with any Oaklander or group of Oaklanders to fix our broken city government.**

**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 Mayor's office needs to supply something we have lacked: leadership. I have built good relationships with elected officials, city managers and rank and file employees because they trust me to tell it like it is. They know I lead an agency grounded in accountability, transparency and results – and when voters begin to see ethical leaders focused on building a safe and well run city, they will reward council members with their votes.**

**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.**

**Ken Berrick, Seneca Center  
Debra Barnes, Alameda Health System Foundation  
Jeff Cheung, Gateway Bank  
Wayne Goodroe, former Port Commissioner  
Jim Keefe, Gateway Bank  
Anthony Marshack, Small Business Owner  
Jack McAboy, Sylvan Learning  
Albert Perkins, Alameda Health (ret.)  
Sharon Runner, California State Senate (ret.)  
Benjamin Scott, Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission (fmr)**

**As the elected City Auditor, it is my professional responsibility to audit not only the city finances, but ballot measures and elected officials. In order to keep my impartiality, I must follow generally accepted government auditing standards and ensure I conduct my work objectively and independently. Therefore, I have decided not to endorse elected officials in general to avoid any appearance of conflict.**

**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).**

**Our campaign has raised \$103,060.39 and we plan to raise to the limit of \$405,000. I am proud to have a diverse group of contributors that are committed to work together to change Oakland's broken city government.**

**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?**

**People elect me to tell it like it is – and the hard truth is, if we had more inspired and ethical leaders focused on results, we wouldn't be in so much trouble in so many areas. Our government needs to lead by example. And when politicians hire cronies, give contracts to donors, let costs get out of control, that's setting the wrong example.**

**As auditor, my job was to find problems and fight for solutions. I've gotten under the hood of nearly every part of this city government – and we're helping restore an ethical culture, saving taxpayers millions of dollars and fighting to make sure the people get what they deserve from the people's government.**

**My leadership style is: I find out the problems. I fight for solutions. I hold people accountable. And I get results. And I expect nothing less during my mayoral administration.**

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

**I have accepted the voluntary spending limits and believe they are appropriate. I am concerned, however, about the power of independent expenditure campaigns to spend large amounts of money and disproportionately impact the process.**

**Yes or No questions (follow with an explanation if you want to add one)**

**-- Do you support the renewal of Measure Y? N/A**

**[As City Auditor, I am responsible for creating the impartial financial ballot analysis for the renewal of Measure Y. In order to keep my independence, I cannot comment on my position regarding any ballot measure. Please note, I generally support increasing funding in any way possible for violence prevention and other programs that address the root causes of crime, as well as funding to bring our police department up to adequate staffing levels.]**

**-- Do you support the minimum wage proposal? N/A**

**[As City Auditor, I am responsible for creating the impartial financial ballot analysis for the Lift Up Oakland ballot measure. In order to keep my independence, I cannot comment on my position regarding any ballot measure. Please note, I generally support increasing the minimum wage.]**

**-- Are you in favor of a police commission? I understand the push to transfer much of the power of for a police commission, in particular because of the failure of leadership at City Hall around public safety. I look forward to monitoring the debate on this issue – but I believe there is much room for improvement with a change of leadership at City Hall.**

**-- Do you support Dan Kalb's proposal on oversight and transparency? [As City Auditor, I am responsible for creating the impartial financial ballot analysis for Dan Kalb's proposed ballot measure. In order to keep my independence, I cannot comment on my position regarding any ballot measure. Please note, I generally support increasing oversight and transparency.]**

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

**Given the veto of this proposal by the federal oversight compliance manager, I believe we need to whatever we can to satisfy the consent decree, regain local control over the department and then move forward with a reasonable debate on how best to improve police oversight.**

**-- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? NO**

**-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? It's too early to evaluate the success or failure of ranked choice voting.**

**-- Would you support Proportional Representation? YES**

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

**-- Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? I know that politicians like to make promises before they do the numbers – and can be aspirational – but this one is easy for me. I'm going to run the numbers and make sure any proposal pencils out for the people of Oakland. If it's good for the people then I will support it.**

**-- 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](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com) by Saturday, August 23 ).