

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2016 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to: GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com

In the subject line, please include 'Oakland City Council' and your district number.
Any written correspondence for the Alameda County Green Party should be addressed to:
2022A Blake Street * Berkeley, CA 94704

Please respond by Saturday, August 27.

Name: **DAN KALB**

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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? If you are running against an incumbent, what are your main dis-satisfactions and differences with him or her?

I've been a public interest advocate for nearly 30 years and I saw too many people in elective office not accomplish a whole lot for the people who needed help the most. I am completing my first term and I want to continue working to serve the people of North Oakland and our entire city.

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?

Housing Affordability

Public Safety

Government Transparency and Ethics

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?

http://www.dankalb.net/about_dan_kalb

I took a leadership role in setting aside funds for affordable housing, the Tenant Protection Ordinance, Stopping Coal in Oakland much more. I also authored the pending Police Commission ballot measure.

4. Local groups – Are you affiliated with any of the active Oakland groups? Such as TOLA, Make Oakland Better Now, Oakland Justice Coalition, 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 a member of the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club (WDRC) and the Metropolitan Greater Oakland (MGO) Democratic Club. I am a supporter of Oakland Community Organizations (OCO) and the Block by Block Organizing Network (BBBON). I am also a long-time member of East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO). In general, I am happy to support and be affiliated with progressive organizations.

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 have been involved in a volunteer capacity with various community groups, such as Rebuilding Together Oakland (RTO).

6. Budget – If you were on council for the next budget in 2017 how would you act differently from the council members dealing with the budget in 2015? How much additional revenue should the City aim to take in, and how would you generate it?

The city could do a better job in making the proposed budget documents more user-friendly. I intend to hold at least one budget workshop in my district to gain input and suggestions on specific budget priorities.

I am very open to identifying new revenue sources. One possibility is to increase the real estate transfer tax for high-end (over \$1.1 million) properties.

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?

We may need additional partnerships between OUSD and City Hall. I initiated one such innovative partnership when I contacted OUSD and asked them if they could match funds that I was able to get into the City budget with funds from their budget to hire social workers to work on reduce chronic absenteeism in public elementary schools. I'm proud to say that we now have four social workers working with families in a total of nine elementary schools. I also support increased funding for after-school programs and youth violence intervention services.

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. What are your thoughts about police misconduct and how do you feel Oakland should deal with it?

OPD has a few dozen Community Resource Officers (CROs) (paid for my Measure Z) who are specifically tasked with community policing. Other officers also engage in community policing type work. However, what we need is to have the reality of community policing be infused into almost all of OPD's police work. I will discuss this with our new police chief when one is hired. The current relationship between OPD and our residents is a mixed bag. Some people support and appreciate the difficult work that OPD officers do, other residents are much more skeptical and lack a sense of trust when it comes to OPD. And some residents both appreciate the challenges that OPD officers face AND do not trust many officers in some situations. Overall, I don't believe it's as bad as some people think, but it's also not as good as it should be. I'm hoping that our new Police Commission will help develop policies and programs that can lead to improved relationships. I support restorative justice and am very open to specific ideas on how it could be integrated into the police work conducted by OPD. While I support a well-staffed and well-trained police force, I have no tolerance for serious police misconduct. I support reforms in the discipline process to ensure officers are held accountable. The Police Commission measure re-creates a Community Police Review Agency that has authority equal to OPD's internal affairs department to conduct investigations and propose discipline.

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?

I support the overall Oakland Army Base project, except the proposed Bulk Coal Terminal of course. I support the goal of attracting additional retail and building more housing in the Broadway-Valdez Specific Plan area. I would like to see at least 20% of the new housing units be set aside for low and moderate income housing. Brooklyn Basin (Oak-to-9th) was approved before I became a councilmember. I have mixed feelings about this project. At this point, we have a challenge to actually build the affordable component that was identified in the project. I support additional housing developments in North Oakland; however, I want to make sure we get affordable (below market) units in the mix. I also care about the look of the architectural façade. We need new buildings that fit into the style of Oakland. Unfortunately, some newly approved projects fall short.

10. 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? Do you favor rent control?

I am a strong supporter of rent control and I would like to see the state's Costa-Hawkins law modernized to allow local jurisdictions to impose rent control on condominiums and on units that were constructed more than 20 years ago. I support strong renter protections in Oakland. I was the author of the Tenant Protection Ordinance that passed in 2014. I also support the renters protection

measure on this November's ballot.

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

I have urged the Administration to start a process to update and expand our Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP). This will begin in 2018, and I intend to make sure there is extensive community engagement as part of this process.

I support the city joining in any County-wide Community Choice Energy authority to create more local renewable energy.

I also want the city to identify new funds to plant more trees along our city streets.

12. Public Banking – Will you introduce, co-sponsor and/or support an ordinance or charter amendment to create a Public Bank of Oakland, inspired by the Bank of North Dakota [i] (BND), a 100 year old public institution? The Public Bank of Oakland would hold the city's deposits – in contrast to having them held by Wall Street Banks as currently done. It would make fiscally responsible loans in the best interest of the residents of Oakland – in contrast to Wall Street banks' record of risk and ruin. Profits made by the Public Bank of Oakland would be returned to the General Fund of the City of Oakland, or used to further buttress the loan capabilities of the bank, much as the BND does (the BND has returned over \$400,000,000 to the General Fund of the State of North Dakota over the last 21 years, [ii] while substantially increasing its capitalization and its loan outreach)

[i] <https://bnd.nd.gov/> [ii] <https://ilsr.org/rule/bank-of-north-dakota-2/>

I am open to considering this proposal. We would first need to commission a feasibility study to determine how to get this started and how to make the transition.

13. Local Payday Lenders – Oakland is awash with for-profit Check Cashing and PayDay Loan emporiums (a simple Google query [i] shows 20). These outfits provide emergency cash and other financial products to those who cannot obtain it otherwise - at outrageously high interest rates and/or extremely high fees. Professor Mehra Baradaran, in her book *How the Other Half Banks*, [ii] quotes the astounding statistic that those who use these services spend on average over \$2000 per household per year.

It is not widely known but Oakland is home to the only non-profit check cashing and payday lending storefront in the country - Community Check Cashing [iii] (CCC) in Fruitvale Plaza. It provides the same services for-profit operators do at 33% - 50% of the cost, while paying its employees a living wage. Will you support build-out and capitalization loans by the City of Oakland to expand CCC to other storefronts around Oakland (much as the City Council gave a 50-year, \$3,300,000 interest-free loan to the E 12th St. developers [iv])?

[i] Type 'Oakland Payday lenders' into Google Search and click on the resulting map.

[ii] NALC.org "Author makes the case for postal banking" <http://tinyurl.com/h9e6a2p>

Baradaran noted that the average unbanked family with an income of around \$25,000 spends about \$2,400 per year on financial transactions like these, even more than it spends on food.

[iii] <http://communitycheckcashing.org/>

[iv] Oakland City Council agenda, June 15th, 2016 <http://tinyurl.com/jzy398p>

I was not aware of the nonprofit check-cashing store. I think that is great. If there is anything that we can do (including low-interest loans) to facilitate the nonprofits and crack down on the greedy, for-profit check-cashing stores, that would be great. We need stronger consumer protection laws at the state level as well.

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

It varies tremendously. Some people are mostly satisfied with city services; however, I would say that most residents are somewhat critical of the level of service they receive for some things.

We need to improve our customer service procedures at City Hall.

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

I hold Community Office Hours twice a month in addition to being available at City Hall. Generally, the 1st Saturday at rotating cafes and the 3rd Sunday at the Temescal Farmers' Market. I also have periodic town hall meetings in North Oakland throughout the year.

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?

It is important to be able to work with one's colleagues on the City Council in order to get things done. Without five votes, you can't really do much. I get along with almost all my colleagues and will continue to pursue productive working relationships.

17. Endorsements – Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you? Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races? Include your #2 and 3 choices (if applicable) for your own race and note that this year the City races are Council seats, School Board seats and City Attorney.

www.dankalb.net/endorsements

I voted for Bernie Sanders in the June Primary and will be voting for Hillary Clinton in the November election for President. I also support Kamala Harris for U.S. Senate.

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).

I plan to raise approximately \$100,000—I'm more than half-way there. Funds mostly coming from long-time friends, relatives, and former colleagues—including a lot of environmentalists. I have a good mix of smaller, mid-size and large contributions. I do not solicit donations from special interests who have business before the Council—especially polluters.

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?

I would make sure that the intent of allowing the Mayor to break a tie vote at the Council is not thwarted by abstentions.

I think most Councilmembers get along with the Mayor—although I am not necessarily privy to those details. I get along with the Mayor fine and I get along with most of my Council colleagues fine as well.

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

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

I would be honored to receive the Green Party endorsement! Thank you for your consideration.

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

- Do you support raising the minimum wage to a living wage? YES
- Are you in favor of a Police Commission?
YES; I am one of the lead authors of the Police Commission measure (LL) on the Oakland ballot.
- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? I am open to that as long as our city attorney says it can be done legally.
- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? YES!
- Would you support Proportional Representation?
YES; for example, in multi-seat races, I would be open to a cumulative voting system.
- Do you support diverting people from prosecution if they participate in a restorative justice program?
YES; Restorative Justice would be part of the required participation; but I would also require at least one other service relevant to the perpetrator. For example, did he graduate from high school? If not, enrolling in a high school diploma program would be part of the diversion requirement. Or maybe he needs some anger-management course. You get the idea.
- Do you support Community Choice Aggregation?
YES; I am the City of Oakland's representative on the County's

Community Choice Energy Advisory Committee. Strong supporter of CCAs.

- 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