

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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

In the subject line, please include "Oakland City Council D6"

If it is not possible for you to email, please mail your responses to:
Oakland City Council D6
c/o Green Party of Alameda County ,
2022A Blake Street * Berkeley, CA 94704

Please respond by Saturday, August 23, 2014

Name: DESLEY BROOKS

Phone: 510 908-0389

Email: DESLEYB@GMAIL.COM

Website: <http://www.democracy.com/Desley-Brooks/default.aspx>

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?
DISTRICT 6 DESERVES AN EXPERIENCED, TIRELESS, AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE WHO PASSIONATELY ADVOCATES ON BEHALF OF ITS RESIDENTS; I AM THAT PERSON. I HAVE MANY SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT AND CITY AS A WHOLE, AND I WANT TO CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE CITY THAT I LOVE.

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? THE MAIN PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY ARE PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; BUDGET/FINANCE. UNDER COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT I WOULD ADDRESS THE LACK OF MODERATE TO LOW INCOME HOUSING; AS WELL AS DISPLACEMENT STRATEGIES. UNDER PUBLIC SAFETY I WOULD ADDRESS ACCREDITATION FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE THROUGH THIS PROCESS THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUALLY ASSESS THEIR POLICIES AND STRIVE FOR BEST STRATEGIES.

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 HAVE DEDICATED MY ENERGIES TO IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY, INCREASING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF DISTRICT 6, AND ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH. I HAVE WORKED TO REVITALIZE THE DISTRICT'S NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS. I CHAMPIONED THE INTERESTS OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESSES BY AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PROMPT PAYMENT ORDINANCE; BY SECURING FUNDING FOR AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY'S ONE STOP CONTRACTING SOFTWARE; AND ADVOCATING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT PROGRAM. I HAVE BEEN A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR OAKLAND CONTRACTORS AND HIRE OAKLAND. SHE AUTHORED THE GROUND BREAKING OAKLAND ARMY BASE \$10 MILLION REMEDIATION PROGRAM WHICH SPECIFICALLY PROVIDES OAKLAND CONTRACTORS THE ABILITY TO SERVE AS THE PRIME CONTRACTOR ON THOSE REMEDIATION CONTRACTS.

I PROVIDED LEADERSHIP ON A NUMBER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

INITIATIVES. I INITIATED AND FUNDED OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT'S (OPD) CRIME ANALYSIS AND MAPPING PROJECT; I SECURED FUNDS FOR CRIME ANALYSTS POSITIONS WITHIN OPD; I SUCCESSFULLY GOT SHOT SPOTTER REACTIVATED IN OAKLAND AND THEN SECURED FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM'S EXPANSION THROUGHOUT THE FLATLANDS OF OAKLAND; I INITIATED THE SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP OF OPD AND THE OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY POLICE DEPARTMENT ON SHOT SPOTTER -- THE FIRST SUCH PARTNERSHIP IN THE COUNTRY; I INITIATED AND SUCCESSFULLY SECURED COUNCIL APPROVAL WHICH ESTABLISHED THE LED LIGHTING PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM HAS IMPROVED PUBLIC SAFETY BY CHANGING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF 30,000 STREET LIGHTS ACROSS THE CITY.

I HAVE WORKED TO HELP OAKLAND RESIDENTS ACHIEVE SELF SUFFICIENCY. TO THAT END, I CHAMPIONED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OAKLAND COMMUNITY LAND TRUST WHICH PROVIDES PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING; AND I HELPED TO ESTABLISH THE OAKLAND INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (IDA) PROGRAM WHICH IS A MATCHING SAVINGS PROGRAM FOR HOUSING/EDUCATIONAL/TRANSPORTATION GOALS OF LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS. I ALSO AUTHORED THE VACANT PROPERTY ORDINANCE AND THE NON-OWNER REGISTRY ORDINANCE. THIS LEGISLATION LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR HOLDING BANKS ACCOUNTABLE, FOR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING BLIGHT, GENERATING MORE THAN \$3 MILLION DOLLARS IN FEES, AND FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES THREATENED WITH FORECLOSURE.

I SERVE AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE; AND AM A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE. I SERVE AS MEMBER OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY LEAD DISTRICT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY. I AM THE ASSISTANT CALIFORNIA STATE DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS. I AM ALSO AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY

AREA GOVERNMENTS (ABAG); AND A MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE, THE LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND THE FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE OF ABAG. I AM A MEMBER OF ABAG'S REGIONAL AIRPORT PLANNING COMMITTEE, AND THE REGIONAL HOUSING NEED ALLOCATION (RHNA) APPEAL COMMITTEE. I AM A MEMBER OF PATTEN UNIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARD. I FORMERLY SERVED AS: AN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER FOR THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY. I ALSO SERVED AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE OAKLAND ALAMEDA COUNTY COLISEUM JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY WHERE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE ACHIEVED THROUGH MY LEADERSHIP.

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 WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH ACCE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND ACTIONS. I CHAMPIONED MOST OF THE CITY'S EFFORTS AROUND THE FORECLOSURE CRISIS. I WROTE THE VACANT PROPERTY LEGISLATION WHICH HELD BANKS ACCOUNTABLE, HELPED TO REDUCE BLIGHT, AND GENERATED MORE THAN \$3 MILLION DOLLARS IN FEES. I WROTE THE LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHED THE FUND THAT PROVIDED FUNDING FOR ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES THREATENED WITH FORECLOSURE. I WORKED WITH THE COALITION IN SUPPORT OF LIFT UP OAKLAND.

I WORKED WITH FAITH LEADERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ESTABLISH THE LED LIGHTING PROGRAM WHICH IMPROVED LIGHTING ACROSS THE CITY.

I BELIEVE THESE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE WORTHY OF MY SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY, LIKE ME, ARE SEEKING TO IMPROVE THIS CITY.

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 AM VERY ACTIVE IN MY CHURCH – I SIT ON THE STEWARD BOARD (THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH); FIVE YEARS AGO I STARTED THE “DINNER AT 5:00” FEEDING PROGRAM – EVERY WEDNESDAY WE PROVIDE A HOT MEAL FOR HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS. EVERY WEDNESDAY I PERSONALLY SERVE THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

NO OTHER COUNCIL MEMBER HAS COMPLETED 6 KABOOM BUILDS – BRINGING NEW PLAY STRUCTURES, A POCKET PARK, A SKATEBOARD PARK AND BALL FIELD TO THEIR DISTRICT. I HOST COMMUNITY CONCERTS, AN EASTER EGG HUNT, THANKSGIVING GIVEAWAY, CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR KIDS, 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL COMPETITION; MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION; AND A JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL – ALL WHILE CARRYING OUT MY COUNCIL DUTIES.

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? I WOULD NOT VOTE FOR A BUDGET THAT PAID FOR ONGOING EXPENSES WITH ONE TIME MONIES.

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? I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT WE MUST MAKE YOUNG PEOPLE A PRIORITY IN OUR CITY. TO THAT END, I HAVE MADE THEM A PRIORITY DURING MY TENURE ON THE COUNCIL. I HOST A NUMBER OF EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. I HAVE CONSIDERED THEM IN LEGISLATION BEFORE THE COUNCIL. I HAVE SUPPORTED EXPOSING YOUNG PEOPLE TO A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES. I HAVE SUPPORTED INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR ELDERS. I HAVE COLLABORATED WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO CARRY OUT THESE ACTIVITIES.

8. Police -- How do you think our community policing is going and what are the next steps? I BELIEVE THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE ON TRUE COMMUNITY POLICING.

Describe the current relationship between the residents and the Oakland Police. CURRENTLY THERE IS A DISCONNECT BETWEEN SEGMENTS OF RESIDENTS OF THE CITY AND THEIR POLICE FORCE. Do you suggest any changes? I BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS BY BECOMING ACCREDITED THROUGH THE CALEA PROCESS. Do you support Restorative Justice programs and how should the city be involved, if at all. YES, I SUPPORT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS. WE COULD PROVIDE GREATER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAMS. WE USED TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR AT LEAST 8 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS. WE SHOULD EXPAND PROGRAMS THROUGH OUSD HIGH SCHOOLS. MOREOVER, WE SHOULD TRAIN MORE LEADERS AND THROUGH THEM INCORPORATE THE CONCEPT IN THE NON-PROFIT PROGRAMS WE FUND WITH OFCY AND MEASURE Y.

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? THESE 3 PROJECTS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. EACH HAS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE LIVING WAGE JOBS FOR A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OUR RESIDENTS. THEY COULD ALSO HELP TO GROW SOME OF OUR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH THE CONTRACTING PROCESS.

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? POLICE MUST NOT BE PERCEIVED AS AN OCCUPYING FORCE. WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE INEGRATED INTO THE COMMUNITY. WE CAN DO THIS BY ADOPTING PRACTICES LIKE THE CITY OF RICHMOND WHERE THEY PLACE EMPHASIS ON OFFICER COMMUNITY SERVICE OUTSIDE THEIR JOB. THIS

IS CONSIDERED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS. THIS PROMOTES OFFICERS BEING INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITIES THAT THEY SERVE. I WOULD HOST EVENTS, WHICH WOULD ENGAGE OFFICERS AND DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY IN SOCIAL SETTINGS SO AS TO HUMANIZE BOTH. SEATTLE HAS A PROGRAM CALLED LIVING ROOM CONVERSATIONS – THEY ARE INFORMAL MEETINGS, IN SOMEONE’S HOME, WITH POLICE. I WOULD USE THE CALEA ACCREDITATION PROCESS TO BRING THE DEPARTMENT OUT OF THE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

I WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH OPD ON MY THANKSGIVING, EASTER, CHRISTMAS, AND 3 ON 3 PROGRAMS SO THAT THEY CAN ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY CAN ENGAGE THEM IN A SOCIAL SETTING.

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?

I WOULD IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES LIKE THE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST; INCREASE FIRST TIME HOME BUYER ASSISTANCE; WORK WITH THE BANKS TO PURCHASE THEIR FORECLOSED PROPERTY PORTFOLIO AND SELL THE PROPERTY TO MODERATE AND LOW-INCOME PERSONS. IMPACT FEES AND INCLUSIONARY ZONING. I WOULD WORK WITH MORTGAGE HOLDERS IN DISTRESS TO STAY IN PLACE.

12. Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment? OAKLAND SHOULD FULLY IMPLEMENT ITS ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. OAKLAND SHOULD ALSO JOIN THE EFFORTS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY IN ITS COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PLANS.

THE LED LIGHTING PROGRAM THAT I HELPED TO ESTABLISHED REDUCED THE CITY’S CARBON FOOTPRINT WHILE PROVIDING BETTER QUALITY LIGHTING FOR OUR RESIDENTS.

13. Satisfaction of Residents -- How do you think the average resident feels about city government? How would you rate the satisfaction level? THERE IS DISSATISFACTION. FOR EXAMPLE, MEASURE Y. PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE THEY RECEIVED ALL THE SERVICES THEY'VE PAID FOR. PEOPLE

14. Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland? FOR THE 12 YEARS I'VE BEEN IN OFFICE I'VE ANSWERED MY OWN PHONE. I ALSO FORWARDED MY OFFICE PHONE TO MY CELL PHONE SO MY CONSTITUENTS CAN REACH ME 24 HOURS A DAY. I READ AND ANSWER MY OWN EMAILS. EITHER I, OR A STAFF MEMBER, ATTENDS MONTHLY NCPC MEETINGS TO EXPLAIN WHATS GOING ON AT THE COUNCIL AND MY VOTE ON THE SAME.

I STARTED THE EMPOWERMENT NETWORK SO RESIDENTS COULD LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE CITY AND THEN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITY. THE NETWORK HAS 3 STANDING COMMITTEES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ARTS CULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS.

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

16. Governance -- What kind of relationship could you have with other office holders? PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP. Who do you see as a working majority on council and who can you work with? I HAVE WORKED WITH ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. ON THE RECENT GARBAGE CONTRACT I REACHED OUT TO LIBBY SCHAAF; I'VE WORKED WITH PATRICIA KERNIGHAN ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; I'VE OFFERED LEGISLATION WITH DAN KALB AND LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY; I WORKED WITH LARRY

REID AND NOEL GALLO ON AN ALTERNATIVE BUDGET; I'VE ALSO WORKED WITH REBECCA KAPLAN.

17. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? STATE SENATOR LONI HANCOCK, ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROB BONTA, ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR KEITH CARSON, FORMER COUNCIL MEMBERS JANE BRUNNER AND IGNACIO DE LA FUENTE, AARON GOODWIN, A.C. TRANSIT BOARD MEMBER ELSA ORTIZ, SEIU 1021, PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS LOCAL 21, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 55, A HOST OF FAITH LEADERS AND DISTRICT 6 RESIDENTS.

Who do you expect to endorse you? DISTRICT 6 RESIDENTS.

Who do you endorse in the other City races? SALEEM GILMORE – DISTRICT 4, OUSD; RENATOR ALMANZOR – DISTRICT 6, OUSD.

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. THE OTHER 3 CANDIDATES HAVE NOT SET FORTH A VISION FOR THE DISTRICT OR TANGIBLE MEANS BY WHICH TO IMPLEMENT THEIR VISION. NONE HAS A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE DISTRICT. THUS, I AM UNABLE TO MAKE 2ND AND 3RD CHOICES. DISTRICT 6 CAN ILL-AFFORD AN INEXPERIENCED REPRESENTATIVE.

18. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? APPROXIMATELY \$35,000. How much money do you plan to raise? AROUND \$70,000. Where will the money come from? PRIMARILY INDIVIDUALS. Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any). TABACCO COMPANIES.

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? MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WORK WITH THE RESPECTIVE OFFICES AS NEEDED. Are there any changes they would propose to the city charter? NOT AT THIS TIME.

20. Money in elections. -- Does Oakland need campaign finance reform? If so, what kind? YES. THE INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE PROCESS NEEDS TO BE REFORMED.

21. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? I WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE YOUR ENDORSEMENT.

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

-- Do you support the renewal of Measure Y? I SUPPORT THE RENEWAL OF A PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURE BUT THE CURRENT

-- Do you support the minimum wage proposal? YES, I ENDORSED THE CAMPAIGN AND HAVE BEEN A VOCAL ADVOCATE.

-- Are you in favor of a police commission? YES.

-- Do you support Dan Kalb's proposal on oversight and transparency?

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

-- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? I BROUGHT A RELATED ISSUE TO THE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION – A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND IN THEIR EFFORTS TO USE EMINENT DOMAIN TO ABATE FORECLOSURES. THE RESOLUTION ALSO WOULD HAVE HAD THE CITY OF OAKLAND TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO SEE IF EMINENT DOMAIN WOULD HAVE BEEN FEASIBLE IN OAKLAND. THE RICHMOND PROCESS REVEALED THAT THERE ARE MANY LEGAL ISSUES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROCESS.

-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? AS A ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE I AM TO IMPLEMENT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. I DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE NEEDS TO

BE MORE EDUCATION ABOUT THE PROCESS. A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OAKLAND RESIDENTS ARE DISSATISFIED WITH RANKED CHOICE VOTING. NOW THAT PEOPLE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THIS PROCESS, IT SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AND PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE, ONCE AND FOR ALL, IF THIS SHOULD BE THE VOTING PROCESS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS.

-- Do you support diverting people from prosecution if they participate in a restorative justice program? YES, FOR NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES.

-- Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? YES.

-- Would you vote to allow more grey water systems? YES.