

Green Party Questionnaire for Hayward City Council Candidates

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Line of work: Hayward Council Member and Probate Court Investigator.

1 --- Qualifications: Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City Council. 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 a mother, lifelong Hayward resident, homeowner, working professional and active community volunteer, it is a privilege serving residents as a City Council Member. I grew up in Hayward, my roots run deep in the community. My family has owned and operated a restaurant in downtown Hayward for over fifty years. I have over 12 years of experience with local government serving as the former Chair of the Planning Commission and Human Services Commission, I'm also a former member of the Sustainability Committee.

I was appointed to the Hayward City Council in July of 2014 to fill the two year vacancy, created when Barbara Halliday was elected as Mayor. I'm proud of my ability to jump right in and serve my community with integrity, optimism and a spirit of goodwill. I've worked as an effective Council Member, working on policies to improve public safety, strengthen our economic and sustainability measures.

2 --- Local groups: Are you affiliated with any of the active Hayward or other local citizen or environmental advocacy groups?

I'm active in the Democratic Party and serve as an alternate to the Democratic Central Committee. I'm a member of the Hayward Area Democratic Club.

3 --- What are some of the largest issues in Hayward that need to be addressed now? What creative ideas do you have to address these issues?

The most important issue to our residents in Hayward is public safety. I'm working diligently as a Hayward Council Member to support policies that ensure that our Police and Fire Department have the support, technology and training they need to be effective. I'm a strong supporter of Community Policing as simply "the way we police" in Hayward. I'll continue to support creative and innovative policies that promote community engagement with our Police and Fire Department.

4 --- Who has endorsed you so far (groups and individuals of note)?

I've been endorsed by Paul Hodges, President of HARD Board of Directors, HARD Directors Minane Jameson and Rick Hatcher, and Dennis Waespi, Board of Directors of East Bay Regional Park District.

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

I chose to run for Hayward City Council, because I'm committed to working with community stakeholders to find creative solutions to address community concerns. I'm an excellent listener and consensus builder.

6 --- Given the issues with campaign finances at the national level, we regard transparency in fundraising as highly critical at this time -- how much money do you currently have for this race? Are all your donors publicly listed on your website? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?

I've raised \$48,250 thus far, all of the donors that have contributed \$100 or more are listed on my 460 report pursuant to FPCC guidelines. You can access these reports on the City of Hayward's website under elections. I intend to raise \$60,000 from a broad base of supporters.

7 --- The Hayward Police Department has been steadily increasing bike patrols in the Downtown area, which has helped with connecting with the community and has shown to be very effective. Do you support expanding these patrols in other neighborhoods around the City?

Yes, I was a strong advocate for expanding the bike patrol to other neighborhoods in Hayward. Our Police Department is currently piloting the bike patrol in South Hayward, along the Tennyson Corridor.

8 --- Do you consider environmental stewardship and sustainable development as core parts of your vision for Hayward's future?

Yes, The City of Hayward is a leader in environmental stewardship. We were one of the first Cities to adopt a Climate Action Plan which I helped adopt as a Planning Commissioner, the City implemented a Green Building Ordinance and adopted sustainability measures as one of our Council priorities. The City of Hayward has recently received numerous awards for our environmental stewardship. I'll continue to advocate and support for sustainability as a core component of Hayward's future. I recently voted to approve adding a sustainability section to our staff reports, that will highlight the sustainability features in new development projects.

9 --- Will you work closely with EBRPD and HARD to expand protected open space and add to the Bay Trail wherever possible?

Yes, I have a professional working relationship with the elected members of HARD and EBRPD, preserving the Bay Trail and open space is imperative.

10 --- How do you plan to get the city to expand solar panel coverage of roofs of all city owned buildings, as well as parking lots, as soon as practicable?

I would support funding through our Capital Improvement Program to support adding solar panel coverage to city owned parking lots and buildings.

11 --- How do you plan to encourage industries with huge roof areas (especially in South Hayward) to also get solar panel coverage of their roofs?

I would collaborate with the Hayward Chamber of Commerce to outreach to the businesses throughout Hayward with huge roofs that could support the installation of solar panels. I would also work closely with City Staff to make sure that our businesses are aware of the PACE financing program and other incentives such as leasing, and Business Renewable Energy Tax Credit.

12 --- Are you committed to making sure any further parking comes with commensurate levels of EV charging infrastructure, making provisions for future EV ownership growth?

Yes, I've also encouraged many developers to provide the charging infrastructure in new developments.

13 --- Will you make sure that any future development (infill or rehab) is LEED certified or Green Point Rated, and further that provisions are made for significant water conservation and reuse of water on site, given that climate change models show California will be getting steadily drier into the future?

Yes

14 --- The Downtown Traffic Loop has been a disaster for Hayward with documented slower traffic on routes in and around the downtown, and a degradation in level of service in the reverse directions (such as north on Mission) to "F," which is being hidden by the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Pedestrian crossings are longer and more difficult; people have to drive longer distances to get through downtown and to downtown; there is cut-through traffic in neighborhoods, murderous lane changing challenges, and jack-rabbiting speeds between lights. Downtown is an expressway, not a destination. Will you work with Councilmember Marv Peixoto to end the Loop?

I support conducting a third party analysis with regard to whether or not the loop is moving traffic along faster, the impacts its having on our downtown merchants and considering recommendations to potentially change B Street or A Street to a two way Street.

15 --- The City thoughtlessly decided to destroy a multimillion dollar building, the old library, which has potential to serve as a community center. It could be saved by change orders and saving of demolition costs, but first needs to be studied concerning its value, the interest of people in making it work, costs and other planning to see how it compares with other options. Will you support spending \$3,000 for an appraisal so that we will at least know the value of the building before it is too late?

I'm a supporter of the 21st Century Library and Heritage Plaza, I'm really excited about the underground rainwater catchment one of the major features that will make this project Platinum Certified. The Heritage Plaza will provide opportunities for our community to participate in recreational, cultural and educational events. I'm afraid its too late to make any changes to this project.

16 --- The Maple Main project and the Lincoln Landing projects are proposing large scale parking structures, with buildings five and six stories high for the North side of Downtown. They have huge increases in parking and subsidizing parking. There are viable alternatives for lower rise buildings for a comparable population, designed to encourage walking and shuttle bus to downtown and BART rather than driving up Foothill out of town. Will you support parking reduction and alternative transportation? Will you support parking ratios of one half space per unit or lower based on alternative mobility policies?

Yes, I will support parking reduction for projects within a ten to fifteen minute walk from the Downtown Hayward BART Station and alternative transportation options, i.e. shuttle, on site car and bike sharing programs.

17 --- Taxis and ehail, and carshare/rental, are increasingly important for mobility with less car-dependency. Will you support big projects like those above only if they can credibly achieve over 50 percent reductions in Vehicle Miles Traveled and 50 percent or fewer trips by personal car? How much greenhouse gas reduction by new developments will you support, and how will you do it? Will you support the long-overdue relocation of the taxi stand at Hayward BART, designating a place close to the exit of the station for pickup, and implementation of Flywheel by Hayward cabs?

Yes, I support car and bike sharing programs. Our climate action plan specifically addresses the goal of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions with regard to new development. Every five years we are monitoring whether or not were meeting our targets. We are reducing our green gas houses my encouraging solar panel installation in new development, implementing water conservation features and water efficient landscaping. I will work with my colleagues that serve on the BART JPA to encourage the relocation of the taxi stand and also support the implementation of Flywheel technology.

18 --- Will you support rapid bus -- fast, frequent, free -- in the downtown corridor and to Cal State Eastbay?. Will you support land-based finance and RFP management of operations? Will you support early public involvement in discussion of City application for funds from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program?

Yes

19 --- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Growing up in Hayward, I have many fond memories of spending time at our parks, Don Castro and using AC Transit to get anywhere in Hayward. It's my goal to ensure that the policies I adopt as a Hayward Council Member support environmental stewardship, access to public transportation and open space.

Please visit my website for more information: www.elisaforhayward.com