

Green Party Questionnaire for Hayward City Council Candidates

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY
2016 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to: GPAC-VoterGuide@yahogroups.com. In the subject line, please include "Hayward City Council". We prefer that you simply reply in the body of the email.

You can attach a file instead, but PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FILES IN .DOCX FORMAT. Thank you!

If it is not possible for you to email, please mail your responses so we receive them by 3/25, to:

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

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Website: <http://franciscoforhayward.com>

Line of work: Businessman, Educator, and Councilman

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 have been a business owner for over 34 years, a professor of Spanish at Chabot College for 38 plus years, and a City Council Member for 7 plus years.

2 --- Local groups: Are you affiliated with any of the active Hayward or

other local citizen or environmental advocacy groups?

>>> Yes, Hayward Rotary Club, Audubon Society, St. Rose Hospital, Hayward Area Democratic Club are the major ones.

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?

>>> A Strong Local Economy, Education, and Public Safety. Attract and Retain businesses to our City, work with local leaders to aid our HUSD to become Student-Centered, and maintain our Police Department's philosophy of Community Policing.

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

>>> I am honored to be Endorsed by elected officials, educators, business owners, union members, and many Residents. For a complete list, please visit <http://franciscoforhayward.com/endorsements/>.

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

>>> I have the time, the energy and the vision to help our City realize its Potential. I am fluent on all matters dealing with our city, from business to education, and from public safety to clean and green. I have a CAN do attitude, am a doer rather than a talker, and believe in collective wisdom.

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 have about \$10,000. Donors are listed on the City's website, under Form 460, which must be filed with the State. Probably will raise another \$10,000, and the funds will come from donors of from \$5 to \$1,000.

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, and I have been one who constantly has pushed for bicycle patrols on our streets. We finally have the program on Tennyson Rd. Our 152 businesses there – and I've counted every one of them - are very happy, as are the Residents of our Tennyson Community.

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

>>> Yes, because our Mother Earth needs help. I am a member of our City's Sustainability Committee.

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

>>> Yes, as I have done for many years. Recently I discussed with a couple of HARD Directors the idea of turning the railroad line adjacent to BART into a trail. It is a complicated issue, but we will work on it. This is good time to mention trees, and having our City continue being a Tree City, as it has been for 29 years. I constantly plant them, and have planted five fruit trees at Chabot College. Hopefully the Green Party of Alameda County will help me with that endeavor.

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?

>>> Solar paneling is becoming cheaper to install, and solar energy is the future. One of the reasons that Chabot College has solar paneling on its parking lot is because I encouraged our college to install them. I have also mentioned to the Southland Manager that they should explore solar paneling on its parking lot.

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?

>>> Most likely leading by example, with our City having solar paneling on our City buildings, and then working with them to do the same. At the same time, RoofTop Gardens ought to be explored...will you help

me promote that idea?

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, a very good idea.

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, and did change the 8,000+ light fixtures in our City to LEED lighting. Also, as a member of our City Joint Powers Agreement with BART, formed to improve our South Hayward BART Neighborhood, we just passed a resolution to convert the light fixtures to LEED lighting.

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-rabbing speeds between lights. Downtown is an expressway, not a destination. Will you work with Councilmember Marv Peixoto to end the Loop?

>>> The Downtown Loop has not been a disaster, thus we disagree on this point. I will work with my City Council colleagues to find ways to improve it, as I believe in Collective Wisdom.

Downtown Hayward is not an expressway...every street in the USA is! People do not respect speed limits, and our Downtown is no exception, especially in our society where time is money and we love and look for instant gratification.

I accelerate and break slowly, much to the displeasure of those behind me...too bad. That said, I avoid jack-rabbing speeds between lights, but I see it in every street, not just Downtown. Not very good for gasoline consumption, that's for sure.

Driving long distances is another way of life in our USA, and our lack of prioritizing public transportation sadly feeds this need. I had a 10-minute car commute to my work. Our second Hayward home is now just a 10-minute walk. In other words, driving long distances to get to Downtown Hayward is nothing unusual. That is something that our Residents in the hills have to do every day, for their needs. Their car(s) is/are their lifeline. My family decided to live near all our needs.

Cut-through traffic is another way of life in our car-cultured USA. Come visit my house on Sleepy Hollow in the morning and in the afternoon, to see traffic cut through our street in order to avoid 880/92 intersection. We even have had buses on our street.

Hayward IS a Destination City, and I will work to ensure that it becomes an ever better one.

It is an uphill battle, that's for sure, and I applaud your efforts. However, now we're working on driverless cars, coming to our streets soon... for what?

Why not work on taking six lane streets, such as our Hesperian Blvd. and Mission Blvd. into 4 lane streets, with the rightmost lanes devoted only to bicycles? How about closing B and Main Sts. to cars, and them the pedestrian only? Would you like to work on this together?

All is not lost however. One of my students at Chabot College, walks to class and back, a teacher at Hayward High School has no car, and uses buses to from work, and students at Mt. Eden High School want more frequent bus service.

Good question.

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 still do not like destroying the Old Library, and voiced my opinion several times.

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?

>>> I have always supported public transportation, and living close to work, offering my case as an example, where I normally bicycle or walk to work. As we make the transition from being a suburb to being an urban city – and we are having a difficult time figuring out how to - we must grow from within, especially since we can no longer grow east, west, north or south. We are the 5th largest city in the Bay Area, and the 3rd largest in Alameda County. We are also the cheapest, which means that people still flock to our city.

I would love to have a better public transportation system, or even shuttle service, as does The Card Palace, but that is a HUGE no-no, because people WANT their cars! A retired couple on Cannery Place complained to us at City Council because they had NO place to park their three (!) cars, and actually suggested to turn their park into a parking lot.

Let's work with the Millennials and our younger Residents...maybe they can be weaned from their Fords, since us oldsters are set in our driving ways.

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?

>>> The taxicab idea is a good one. What is missing are improvements to both, our Greyhound and our Amtrak stations, so that they can become friendlier to their users. Also forgotten and in need are our ACTransit bus stops, where we are in dire need of covered bus stops. These are priorities to me.

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?

>>> I will support a shuttle program that will expand our present Cal State to Downtown program. It should be expanded to Southland, Chabot College, Life Chiropractic, Industrial area west, and Mt. Eden and Moreau High Schools. Public transportation is not popular in our car loving USA society, and we must begin to modify this love affair. I will also support a friendlier bicycle lane program, with green lanes.

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

>>> I am running for office because I have to give back to the community that has been so good to my family. My adult life has been spent in Hayward, and this City has educated our children well, has allowed me to have two businesses in order to provide for my family, has permitted me to serve our Residents for many years as a Commissioner and as City Council Member, is the home of my place of employment, and has become the home of both, my Immediate and my Extended families. I have the time, the energy, and the vision to have our City realize its Potential.

Thank you!

Hayward On!