

# QUESTIONNAIRE

## GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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### **1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office?**

To represent the entire city. For years I've seen first hand the dysfunction and lack of direction that is necessary to move forward as a community. The Town Mayor campaign is designed to empower Oakland residents as global citizens to collectively work to improve their community. And my motivation is to be spokesperson and executive to facilitate the process of improvement and success for all of Oakland.

### **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?**

City sponsored community gardens, Basic Solar training to residents, and creating a South African style truth & reconciliation forums between Faith Based community, residents and OPD to start the process of healing and building better relationships to bring the city together.

### **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 am a seven-year military veteran, and community organizer and activist. As the city charter establishes the mayor's chief role as spokesperson for the people, my training in communications and media makes me the most qualified candidate for the job. I have engaged with the city as an organizer for First Friday, in the successful Save Liberty Hall Campaign (national historic landmark in West Oakland which faced bank foreclosure), and as an Occupy Oakland activist. I have personal and professional insight into the challenges facing the role of police. As mayor, I will unify the issues of public safety and prosperity as a common goal. Oakland is in need of a new kind of leadership and direction,

an exit strategy to the War on Drugs, and a future for our youth which is full of promise and hope.

**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.**

Oakland Greens

**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 work with the Bee (Black Equal Equity) Coalition, <http://beecoalition.org/> an Oakland based organization that provides job training and placement, i.e Security Guard, Intro/Janitorial, Intro/Landscape, Intro/Construction, Drivers Education, Cook/Food Prep, computer training etc. Also I support baseball academy and Basketball camp for children 4 & up through working with the coalition. I produce a weekly radio show on [www.berkeleyliberationradio.net](http://www.berkeleyliberationradio.net) every Thursday 2-4pm to support community programs.

**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?**

Yes, Mismanagement and not use existing resources properly

**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 are blessed to have our youth who are growing up in a technological revolution. Because of this fact, they are highly intelligent, however often times lack leadership. I would like to focus on jobs, community gardens, arts & cultural development to give youth options to explore their individual talents. The city has several resources not being used to serve the youth.

**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.**

Awful. We as a community have to show more interest before there is an emergency. Fear on both sides which is completing dysfunctional and the city government responsibly to fix. I do support restorative justice, however both parties must be willing to admit fault and agree to move forward. The city government with the Mayor's leadership at strong outreach to build awareness is what is necessary to make a long-term change in the community and the OPD relationship.

**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?**

Weak negotiation skills on the cities part and allowing entirely too much power to developers.

**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?**

Passion towards the police force, understanding that we are adding younger officers who are open to new policies and leadership, it is imperative that the Chief of police can provide that allow with the cities assistance.

In order to get out of federal oversight, we must show the system of NCPD's works and the new officers have a productive career path show corruption does not become more attractive than keeping the city safe.

**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?**

Create an Affordable Housing Initiative, that requires the city council to allocate \$5 million dollars from the general fund Housing Trust Fund (HTF), Also support the expansion of events like First Friday as a local artisan stimulus and spread throughout city to build and maintain Oakland's unique culture.

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

Promote solar programs and services. Promote alternative transportation to reduce emissions. Work closer with community to identify and eliminate blight and clean up legal dumping.

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

Disappointed at the minimum. 3

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

If there isn't one in place i will create a staff position to receive direct input from anyone who has an idea or suggestion on how to improve the city and use Social media, local media, press conferences, creating programming with KTOP to promote the transparency on the administration.

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

Yes, Anyone who see the vision of a better Oakland without the influence of corporations.

**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?**

I am building good relationships with candidates and officeholders. Rebecca Kaplan

**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.**

I would like to reserve this information for my campaign till it is logical to announce publicly.

**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).**

No corporate money

**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?**

Great, No, No.

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

Yes, an appointment of a special prosecutor from Alameda County to give the ethics commission power to enforce laws.

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

No.

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

**-- Do you support the renewal of Measure Y?**

No, Not unless all Measure Y programs and recipients are audited by a third party and provide proof that funds would be allocated properly towards purposes stated in grant application strictly. And the oversight committee has a budget and able to cut funds till investigation at anytime if there is sufficient proof of inappropriate use.

**-- Do you support the minimum wage proposal? Yes**

**-- Are you in favor of a police commission? Yes**

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

**-- 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? Yes**

**-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? Yes**

**-- Would you support Proportional Representation? N/A**

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

**-- Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? Yes**

**-- Would you vote to allow more grey water systems? N/A**