

John Bauters for Emeryville City Council 2016  
Green Party Endorsement Questionnaire

1. What are three major issues in Emeryville that need to be addressed now? What creative ideas do you have to address these issues?

*Broadly speaking, we need to take steps to address community livability and sustainability. First, housing affordability and stability needs to be addressed. We need tenant protections in order to promote stability and protect residents who are seniors, live on fixed incomes or have disabilities. Additionally, we need to commit to doing our part by building affordable housing to make housing costs across the Bay Area more affordable to low-income and working households. Second, Emeryville has a severe deficiency in park and open space. I would like to campaign for a local park bond to raise funds to fulfill the goals of Emeryville's general plan of having signature parks across the city for the enjoyment of residents and workers. Third, as detailed further below, the city needs to address the growing conflict between vehicular traffic and pedestrians and bicycles. Optimizing traffic corridors in ways that encourage drivers to use main roadways while also providing traffic mitigation on other streets to protect bicyclists and pedestrians can do this.*

2. Who has endorsed you so far (groups and individuals of note)? Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races?

*I am endorsed by the following individuals:*

*California State Controller Betty Yee  
Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson  
Emeryville Mayor Dianne Martinez  
Emeryville Vice-Mayor Scott Donahue  
Emeryville City Council Members Jac Asher, Ruth Atkin and Nora Davis  
Former Assemblywoman Dion Aroner  
Former San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz  
El Cerrito City Council Member Gabriel Quinto  
Over Emeryville 50 Residents, including many city committee members*

*I am endorsed by the following organizations:*

*Alameda County Labor Council  
Building Trades Council of Alameda County  
International Assoc. of Firefighters, Local 55  
Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local 713  
Sierra Club  
National Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund  
East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club*

3. How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?

*I have raised \$25,000 for this race. I hope to raise \$30,000. Almost all of my money has come from individual donors who are residents, friends or professional colleagues of mine. A small percentage has come from endorsing organizations that represent the interests of workers. I*

*expect that balance to continue through the end of fundraising.*

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

*I chose to run for this office because it is the next step in service to my community. Currently, I am actively involved in city affairs in many ways. I serve on the Planning Commission and Housing Committee and am the Chief Examiner for the Board of Housing Appeals as well as Chair to the Citizen's Measure K Parcel Tax Oversight Committee at Emery Unified. I bring a strong understanding of the city, the needs of the community and the professional skills necessary to improve our community.*

5. What major Emeryville development of the last 10 years do you least respect and why? Most respect?

*I most respect the Ambassador on 36<sup>th</sup> and Peralta because it is a LEED certified building that was produced as an infill development and made affordable through a combination of state and local resources. It was built with energy efficient and environmentally friendly materials, is close to mass transit and houses working families. We need more projects with this complement of features in Emeryville.*

*I least respect the Intersection (Maz site) Building. The building, which recently burned down during construction, is 100% luxury apartments in a location where high-end renters are shown to be statistically far less likely to use the transit-rich options located at San Pablo and 40<sup>th</sup> Street than working and lower-income families would have been. This project will likely contribute to traffic problems and will not bring more families to our city or improve affordability.*

6. How can we attract more families into Emeryville?

*Emeryville needs to do more than just build family-friendly housing. We need to create and expand park and open space to improve livability and make the city more attractive to families with children. Likewise, the school district needs to improve the quality of education at EUSD. As Chair of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee, I have made formal recommendations to the district on behalf of our committee on ways to incentivize the hiring and retention of teachers in subjects that improve the overall quality of schools such as art, music and athletics.*

7. Traffic is a major problem in Emeryville and with all the development in the pipeline it seems likely to get worse. How would you work to lessen this?

*We are way overdue for a comprehensive review of our transit infrastructure and improvement needs. We need to incentivize the movement of vehicular traffic along major corridors and then assist in facilitating its movement through the city. In particular, this should be along mass transit corridors because reliable, frequent mass transit will increase mass transit ridership. Alternatively, bicycle and pedestrian-oriented streets should be calmed to discourage traffic. This can help improve community livability if done holistically.*

8. The Sherwin Williams project as proposed will mean the demise of the Horton Street Bike Boulevard as defined by the General Plan owing to too much surplus project generated traffic. Additionally the 45th and 53rd Street bike boulevards will also be rendered impossible according to metrics defined by the General Plan because of the excess traffic generated by the Sherwin Williams project. The developers say the project is so good, it's worth destroying these bike facilities to get it. How will amenities from the project more than offset the loss of these critical bike corridors (presuming you agree)?

*I support our General Plan and protecting our bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure in the city. I am not able to comment specifically on the Sherwin Williams proposal under advice of the City Attorney that there are currently only 4 commissioners currently eligible to vote. If another person became ineligible I will be the person called to vote on the proposal out of necessity. My right to cast a vote on this matter is forfeited in such a situation if I make public comments on Sherwin Williams specifically. I can say, as a general matter, that I support obtaining community benefits from the development process, including improvements to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.*

9. Without the re-development agency, how can small business be encouraged to come to Emeryville?

*We need to make meaningful use of the Small Business Fund created through the development bonus process. The fund currently exists in statute but has never been funded. I called for a special joint hearing of the planning commission and the city council to discuss small business needs and ways in which we could encourage contribution to the Small Business Fund to do things like subsidize business license taxes/fees and provide graduated rental assistance for new small businesses coming to the city to help them become established. I think there are lots of opportunities to do things here and I am excited to help get that started.*

10. Do you believe that transparency in city decisions has improved in the past five years? Does this still need improvement? What changes would you suggest or support?

*Yes, I believe that the city has significantly improved transparency over the past five years. I think that the city should have an online resource that allows the public to access adopted resolutions so the public that cannot attend a hearing can still read about the action taken by the city. Transparency in government is always the ideal and there are always ways to better improve transparency in the administration of government and improve civic participation and public engagement.*

11. How do you see the role of the city manager in Emeryville with regard to both connection to the city council and the public? Can you comment on changes in this with our new city manager and your opinion.

*The role of the City Manager is to manage staff in their execution of the policies adopted by the City Council. The City Manager should have a public-facing role in answering questions and*

*making services accessible to residents and be responsive to community concerns and share those with Council. Our last City Manager really worked to improve transparency. I am not aware of additional changes with the new City Manager.*

12. 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> )

*I support removing the influence corporations have on national, state and local politics. I also support rolling back Citizens United and believe that the untethered right of corporations to flood politics with money undermines our democratic system.*

13. What is your current line of work, phone number, e-mail, and website?

*I am the Director of Government Relations at Californians for Safety and Justice, a project of the Tides Center. We are a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization focused on smart justice reforms that increase spending on mental health programs, substance use disorder treatment, and crime victim services in lieu of incarceration and jail construction.*

*My campaign contact information is:  
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14. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

*I am excited about the opportunity to continue in my service to my community. My path to this point is the product of having worked for over 15 years to build community. We build stronger and more sustainable communities when we prioritize the human and social values of diversity, equality and inclusivity over party affiliation, ideology and policy platforms. These values are the most important things that guide me and will be central to how I evaluate every decision that I make as a council member.*