

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

#### 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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

*I'm running for Oakland City Council because I believe in a better Oakland for everyone. As a native of Oakland and a District 2 resident for 47 years, I have deep roots in our incredible city. I have been a committed servant of the City through volunteer work -- most notably as a baseball coach in East Oakland for 14 years. Professionally, I have worked in Legislative Affairs for the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, collaborating with Members of Congress, Housing Builders and Affordable Housing Advocates to author the nation's housing policy. From these experiences, I have learned that when we work together and hear all sides, we can pass good laws -- laws that benefit our City, our people and our planet. When we do so, Oakland will grow and together we will enjoy an even better quality of life. I have a proven track record of service and leadership -- and I will leverage both to help Oakland achieve its full potential.*

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?

*My core vision is to create a better Oakland for everyone -- longtime residents and newcomers alike. I am a committed steward of our environment, and I will ensure that all policy is considerate of environmental impacts. Climate change is real and threatening to become irreversible. We cannot continue to kick the can down the road -- or perhaps more aptly, let the snowball roll down the hill. I am honored to live this commitment every day, not only as conscious citizen, but also the President of the Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association.*

*My top four priorities are:*

*A. Improve Public Safety. We need to fully staff the police force and ensure more officers are native Oaklanders who understand the cultural and ethnic diversity of our city. We must expand*

***Community Policing as we staff up the department and continue incorporating Restorative Justice diversions for first time offenders.***

***B. Expand Oakland's economy and grow our tax base. Sustainable economic development creates jobs and builds healthy communities, especially when we hire Oakland residents. City Hall must become more welcoming to honest, responsible businesses owners who want to open their doors in Oakland.***

***C. Expand early education programs for our youth. We must support OUSD and nonprofits as they work to reduce suspension rates and improve graduation and college acceptance rates. As President of the Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association, I expanded the coverage of our MOSS (Mendocino Outdoor Science School) program to take inner-city classrooms from Oakland, Richmond and San Francisco to the Mendocino Woodlands for a weeklong outdoor education program. I spoke with the Oakland students before and after their trip -- for many, it was their first time experience the splendor of the great outdoors. This kind of experience early on in life gives youth a tangible appreciation for the dangers climate change poses to our society, planet and way of life.***

***D. Create a comprehensive housing policy for Oakland by working with developers, affordable housing advocates, city planners and the community.***

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 been an entrepreneur and worked in the private sector my entire adult life. In 1989 I started a distribution business and built a nationwide network over a 12-year span. In 1991 after completing a marketing consulting contract I was offered an equity stake in the firm, a local telecommunications reseller. Following the sale of that business I was recruited to run a sales team for a national Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) and when they were acquired 2003 I was Director of Sales for Northern California with responsibility for two offices four sales teams and over 40 employees. In 2004, I was recruited to work in the Legislative Affairs unit of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, an \$86 billion wholesale bank serving the liquidity needs for member banks, savings and loans, credit unions, insurance companies and Community Development Financial Institutions based in California, Arizona and Nevada. The Bank promotes housing, homeownership and community economic development by providing access to low-cost funding for member institutions by linking them to the worldwide capital markets.***

***In addition to my experience in the private sector, I have served on the board of Alternative Family Services, a foster care agency serving Northern California; Tabernacle Development Corporation, an affordable housing developer in San Francisco; and the Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association.***

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.

*No.*

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.

1) *President, Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association a 501(c)3 organization that operates Mendocino Woodlands State Park, a National Historic Landmark. The Woodlands provides outdoor environmental and science education to urban and suburban schools and group camping facilities.*

2) *Director, Tabernacle Community Development Corporation an affordable housing developer based in San Francisco.*

3) *Director, Alternative Family Services a Foster Family Agency in Northern California that serves over 1,000 of our most vulnerable children and youth annually.*

4) *Shiloh Church Oakland, Team Shiloh Volunteer and Worship Choir Member.*

5) *Advisory Board Member, Studio One Art Center, Oakland.*

6) *Coach, Oakland Babe Ruth Baseball.*

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?

*The city's budget is extremely complex due to the sheer number of restricted funds that comprise it.*

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?

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.

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?

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?

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?

*Inclusionary Zoning; Fair Eviction Policy*

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

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

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

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

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?

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.

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).

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?

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

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

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

-- Do you support the renewal of Measure Y?

**Yes.**

-- Do you support the minimum wage proposal?

**Yes. I do believe there should be a phase in period for small business with revenues under a certain threshold.**

-- Are you in favor of a police commission?

**Yes. It has worked well in San Francisco and Los Angeles**

-- 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?

-- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis?

*No*

-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?

*While I value the cost savings RCV brings to municipalities, I believe it is too complicated for the average voter to comprehend, particularly how second and third place votes are counted. Additional education is needed to inform the electorate of the nuances of RCV.*

-- Would you support Proportional Representation?

*Yes*

-- 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?

*Yes in the residential environment.*