

August 27, 2016

1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office? If you are running against an incumbent, what are your main dis-satisfactions and differences with him or her?

I chose to run for office to bring my skills and experience as a non-profit administrator to work on challenges confronting my community, specifically addressing the issues of public safety, jobs, housing and government responsiveness. As a member of a marginalized community, I have experienced the frustration and disrespect embedded in U.S. government structures.

I live in West Oakland where I have been subjected to decades of local government neglect and indifference. My community suffers a great deal of environmental injustice, high unemployment, high crime as well as police abuse.

Four years I stood in a field of 6 other candidates who each proposed to solve Oakland's biggest problems in a single term. My experience as a change agent and social activist led me to be more conscientious about the work that was before us. With deep humility, understanding that the hard work of governance requires us to build consensus across political ideologies, I pledged to work everyday to make Oakland better and to raise the professionalism and regional standing of our local government. I am proud to say that we've done just that.

Since taking office in 2013, I have lead Council's efforts to have a municipality that serves its constituents well and has earned respect in the region. In just under four years, we have made significant strides. Oakland has increased its participation in regional leadership, made significant strides to strengthen our relationship with the County, fostered economic growth downtown and in our neighborhoods, increased the number of police officers and brought down crime without increasing arrests. We have restored basic municipal services to pre-recession levels, raised over \$2 Million to restore the historic deFremery house and grounds, raised the minimum wage, saved head start, banned coal, increased funding for affordable housing, completed 4 area specific plans and initiated a downtown specific plan to protect neighborhoods while stimulating positive economic growth. We have also created the Department of Race & Equity, established a new Department of Transportation and set out ambitious plans to make the city a more safe and desirable, with an economy that works for all.

While the current city council is the most progressive that we've seen in decades, it is clear we have more work to do. This work ahead is hard and our political climate is challenged. Yet I am encouraged. In a poll taken just a few months ago, a majority of voters believe that we are moving in the right direction, on the right track.

This is why I've decided to seek a 2nd term. I want to continue to provide the thoughtful, strategic leadership that builds bridges internally and partnerships externally so that Oakland truly lives into her promise of being the most diverse and prosperous place to live, work, worship and play.

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?

Starting with my first term in office, my priorities have been the creation of jobs at all skill levels, housing at all income levels and holistic public safety that has community buy-in. I believe that we have achieved some success in each of these areas, but there is more work to be done.

Oakland's middle class and low wage earners are struggling to make ends meet. Rising rents threaten to remake Oakland in the image of San Francisco pushing our families, artists, small businesses and non-profits out of the town. And, while public safety is improving, I painfully know the cost of our failures.

Upon re-election among the numerous priorities and projects in progress, I intend to continue to press the needed reforms in:

- **Public Safety**, pushing for the establishment of a dedicated Department of Violence Prevention to invest in restorative justice programs that will disrupt the systems that lead to violence; pressing for more robust investments to support sexually exploited minors and monitoring OPD reforms, specifically on the matters of training & recruitment, accountability, promotion and civilian oversight;
  - **Economic Development & Housing**, working to implement solutions to relieve the suffering of unsheltered residents and providing a pathway to permanent housing, monitoring and advocating for the reorganization of our Rental Housing programs and working with the County to continue to expand employment opportunities for the formerly incarcerated and hard to employ residents; introducing legislation that will require community input for all development projects; pressing for the required disparity study; monitoring the build out and implementation of the BRT
  - **Arts & Culture**, furthering the investment in the Black Arts Movement & Business District, raising funds to expand programming and restore the Malonga Casquelord Center for the Arts; continuing to advocate for the West Oakland Youth Center, ensuring that the City remains committed to robust effective programming for youth and young adults; pressing for the establishment of the Uptown Arts District and the establishment of an Arts Commission
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?

**Summary of Qualifications:**

- B.A. Political Science, with an emphasis on City & Regional Planning and African American Studies
- CEO/Executive Director of a \$2M affordable housing corporation, leveraging over \$30 Million to create programs and raise funds to disrupt poverty systems in low income communities of color, stimulate reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods, launch effective restorative justice programs, combat the foreclosure crisis and provide a pathway to homeownership for low income families.
- 2012 Endorsed by the Sierra Club (#1) and Green Party of Alameda County (#3)

For more than two decades, I have been active in affordable housing development and advocacy and have served as a donor and advisor to numerous progressive and faith-based efforts to remediate the negative impacts of social injustice. I have worked for the City of Oakland before moving onto a local affordable housing corporation where I served as the Executive Director and CEO from 2001 – 2014.

My passion stems from growing up in a marginalized community that was by-passed for municipal services, forced to confront the negative health and safety impacts of a freeway development that altered the character of the neighborhood and that became ground zero in the crack epidemic and the subsequent failed War on Drugs. It was these conditions that led me to find my passion in community and economic development.

My professional service is an outpouring of my love for community and my determination to work toward realizing Dr. King's dream. My parents, humble high school graduates who grew up in the segregated South, struggled so that I my siblings and I could realize freedoms and opportunities that had been denied to them.

**Partial Listing of Accomplishments in office:**

- Established the City of Oakland's first interagency task force to combat the sexual exploitation of children, leading to a redefinition to consider trafficked girls victims of a sexual crime, not prostitutes to be criminalized
- Strengthened environmental protections, increasing air quality monitoring at the former Oakland Army Base (OAB)
- Worked to keep trucks out of West Oakland's neighborhoods by fighting to maintain truck parking at the Port and former OAB in according with the consent decree with BCDC
- Co-authored Resolution No. 85054, opposing the transportation of hazardous fossil fuel materials, including crude oil, coal, and petroleum coke through the City of Oakland in consultation with the Sierra Club, the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
- Initiated efforts to move Council packets to electronic systems, significantly reducing paper waste from the 3" printed packets that had been the norm
- Working with the City Administrator to implement the City's Climate Action Plan
- Led effort to complete over \$2M renovation of the historic deFremery Housing and grounds

**As President of the Council:**

- Led the effort to adopt Impact Fees for new development to generate needed revenue to support affordable housing, transportation and infrastructure needs
  - Led effort to adopt four area specific plans that included prioritization for transit oriented development, enhanced pedestrian and cyclist pathways, including being a champion for the protected bike lane pilot in the KONO area of District 3
  - Led effort in support of the BRT, to increase transit use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Authored Resolution No. 86320 – Oakland's Renter Protection Act 2016, now placed on the November ballot as Measure JJ
  - Co-Authored Resolution No. 86333 – establishing the Independent Police Oversight Commission, now placed on the November ballot as Measure LL
  - Supported Resolution No. 13319 establishing the Department of Race and Equity
4. Local groups -- Are you affiliated with any of the active Oakland groups? Such as TOLA, Make Oakland Better Now, Oakland Justice Coalition, 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.**

**I am member of the following organizations (partial listing):**

- **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)**
- **Black Elected Officials and Faith-based Leaders (BEOBFL)**
- **East Bay Women’s Political Caucus**
- **Stonewall Democratic Club**
- **Sierra Club**
- **Natural Resources Defense Fund**
- **Cal Alumni Association**
- **NAACP**

**I have partnered with, donated to and/or supported the following organizations (partial listing):**

- **Block by Block Network**
- **The Prescott Joseph Center**
- **West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project**
- **Oakland Parks Foundation**
- **Pastors of Oakland**
- **Ignite**
- **Emerge California**
- **Attitudinal Healing Connection (AHC)**
- **Joyce Gordon Foundation**
- **Oakland Public Conservatory of Music**
- **Oakland Community Organizations (OCO)**

**I am particularly proud of my work with OCO. When Oakland's innovative restorative justice and community policing were at risk of losing vital funding, I worked closely with OCO and community allies to pass Measure Z - an innovative measure that invests \$25 million annually to strengthen community policing, expand community resource officers and expand Operation Ceasefire with strong community participation and independent oversight.**

- 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 have a deep connection to my church community at True Vine Ministries in West Oakland. True Vine is both a spiritual place as well as a place that reaches out to strengthen a community of many needs.**

**True Vine is also the force behind Soldiers Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE). Soldiers Against Violence Everywhere encourages residents to break the silence, speak out, get engaged and take a non-violent stand against the rampant murders in our community. S.A.V.E. is a citywide grassroots movement to provide resources and solutions for a more peaceful existence in Oakland.**

**Founded in 2010 as a ministry of True Vine Ministries, S.A.V.E. members have stood on corners near where residents of Oakland have been murdered to raise them up and to say Enough is Enough we must all work to end violence in our city.**

6. **Budget** -- If you were on council for the next budget in 2017 how would you act differently from the council members dealing with the budget in 2015? How much additional revenue should the City aim to take in, and how would you generate it?

As a new Councilmember, I successfully led two budgets that:

- restored critical public services,
- increased funding to workforce programs,
- protected the Oakland PIC from closure,
- increased funding for parks and recreation,
- protected and opened the West Oakland Job Resource Center
- Established the first dedicated city funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Dedicated funds for paying down Oakland's negative fund balances and
- Established a rainy day fund

Building upon the strong foundation that we set with the 2013-15 "All-In" Budget and the implementation of the social equity focus of the 2015-17 budget, in 2017 – 2019 budget I will be working to establish a Department of Violence Prevention that will elevate and focus existing restorative justice investments in Oakland Unite to be parallel to the Oakland PD, with and a department director that is a direct report to the City Administrator.

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?

My commitment to Oakland youth is first and foremost personal. As a member of Oakland's marginalized communities, I know the perils of raising children in our city. This concern was among my primary motivations for running for office.

As a parent and the the official and unofficial foster mother of several young people, and as the adoptive grandmother of a young man who was shot and killed on the streets of Oakland in the last year, I know first-hand the challenges facing Oakland's youth - particularly youth of color.

As the District 3 City Councilmember I am proud of my record in service to our City's youth which I believe addresses some of the biggest needs of our youth, which include but not limited to:

- Strengthened the City's efforts and our partnership with the District Attorney to end the sexual exploitation of our children by authoring legislation that established the City's first inter-agency CSEC task force
- Secured operating funding to open the West Oakland Youth Center
- Re-established the City/OSD Education Partnership and forming the West Oakland Educators Roundtable to improve outcomes for Oakland's students
- Staved off Federal Cuts to save Head Start
- Advocated for historic deFremery Park and grounds to receive \$3M in critical renovation funds, including new basketball courts, new permanent skate park, and a completely renewed baseball field, park benches and play area.
- Vote to provide support to Unaccompanied Minors
- Supported the launch of the Oakland Promise – an ambitious effort to align numerous strategies to ensure that every child in Oakland graduates from High School ready for college and career
- I serve on the Executive Committee of the Youth Ventures Joint Powers Authority, an inter-agency partnership with the County of Alameda and Oakland Unified School district to improve health, wealth and educational outcomes for Oakland Youth

- I serve on the Alameda County Oakland Community Action Partnership to combat poverty and provide income and housing supports for low and no-income youth and their families
  
- 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. What are your thoughts about police misconduct and how do you feel Oakland should deal with it?

Ensuring high quality policing is one of the pillars and priorities of my service in office. American policing is under increased scrutiny as the broader community comes into knowledge of the harsh realities African Americans have long known about the abuses and failures of policing.

My efforts have been focused on:

- Securing a workforce that is reflective of the city's diverse population
- Adopting reforms on recruitment and retention to ensure that more Oakland residents apply to and graduate from the police academy
- Working to ensure compliance with the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA)
- Reforming police oversight, accountability and discipline
- Ensuring that the Department is adequately funded, properly trained and resourced to become the premier policing agency in the nation

Four years ago, the Police Department was under resourced and deeply demoralized. Officers were driving in vehicles that were 5 – 10 years past their useful life and forced to use malfunctioning radios and other equipment. The City had not provided for career training or clear promotional opportunities for sworn or civilian personnel. Nearly 80 officers were performing civilian duties as the prior council had imposed budget cuts that were not strategic. These decisions made it difficult for the department to recruit and retain top candidates for both sworn and civilian positions.

I subscribe to a leadership principal that says you can only expect your employees to perform at the level you resource and train. After years of neglect, the Department's poor performance was reflective of a series of short-term decisions that decreased morale, straining the relationship between officers and the public, between management and employees and between the Council and the Administration. I recognized that reform efforts would take focused effort sustained over time, prioritized to build trust between branches of government and with the public.

Among the efforts I have led or supported include (but are not limited to):

- Restoring regular police academies to reach an optimal level of staffing, reduce officer overtime and address issues of attrition and unanticipated turn-over
- Funded the replacement of outdated radios and communication systems
- Funded the replacement of the dilapidated vehicles
- Increased the number of dispatchers to reduce call wait times
- Added Crime Analysts and lab technicians to process DNA and crime scene evidence
- Funded an independent assessment of the departments functions and organization, resulting in the implementation of smaller accountability field divisions (known as Areas or Districts) from two to five - increasing accessibility, accountability and stability within the police Areas and ensuring an appropriate command ratio

- Appointed a civilian task force to examine Oakland’s recruitment, training and promotion system
- Led the effort to establish the Oakland Privacy Commission
- Led the effort to pass Measure Z parcel tax (with 70%+ approval) that secures \$30 Million annually to pay for additional community policing officers and community-based intervention and prevention services to reduce violent crime.
- added 150 officers to the force,
- increased funding for career services for the unemployed and those who were formerly incarcerated and
- Led effort to civilianize the complaint system with increased funding for the Citizens Police Review Board and ensured the hiring of a qualified Executive Director
- Co-authored legislation that is now Measure LL that will establish an independent Police Oversight Commission

As I mentioned in the budget question above, Oakland must do more to prevent and interrupt violent crime. My call to establish a Department of Violence Prevention is largely based on my experience being a founding partner of the Richmond Ceasefire initiative that worked closely with the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

True and lasting reforms will be possible when we can stabilize the organization. In the 3 ½ years I have served on the Council, the Department has had 5 chiefs, 6 city administrators, 2 mayors and the introduction of 5 new members of the Council. Cultural change is hard and requires a stable leadership team that will be with the agency long enough to do the hard work. The Mayor’s appointment of the next chief is critical to ensuring that we reach compliance with the NSA but beyond that we need to establish a new culture of integrity and inclusion within the department. Cultural change will take time but can be accomplished. But I am encouraged by changes we’ve noted in other departments in the region, most notably the cultural shift in East Palo Alto under Chief Ron Davis.

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?

Oakland has suffered from the perverse impacts of redlining since the late 1970s. Financial markets have not treated the city equitably, particularly in areas that were once (or remain) home to people of color. In addition, these communities have suffered from numerous failed government policies and impositions, such as the bifurcation of West Oakland for the development of regional highways and BART the regional transit system. Vibrant neighborhoods were destroyed through redevelopment and non-conforming industrial uses were permitted in neighborhoods that housed low income residents and African Americans and Latinos of varying incomes.

The challenge before us is how to attract socially conscious investment to provide neighborhoods serving retail, housing for families at all incomes and good paying jobs. The development of the Oakland Army base fulfills a two-decade promise to the West Oakland community to restore thousands of good paying career jobs to the land once occupied by the Army. It also provides the opportunity to remedy past harms to West Oakland neighborhoods by removing the industrial recycling centers from residential neighborhoods and establish them in a recycling cluster on industrial land at the former Oakland Army Base.

As the District 3 City Council representative, I protected existing firms on the Army Base from closure - protecting thousands of jobs and adding revenue for Port of Oakland operations

Another development of note is the opening of the first full grocery store and a pharmacy built in over 10 years, fulfilling a promise to our seniors who live in the Upper Broadway area.

I have fought for the inclusion of affordable housing at the Brooklyn Basin development and continue to advocate for the 50% local inclusion of local business and local hiring for the project.

I am very proud to have supported the efforts to bring a full service grocer (Sprouts) and pharmacy (CVS) to the Broadway Valdez corridor as a fulfillment of a campaign pledge to the mostly senior citizen and low income residents that have not had a full service grocer since Safeway ceased operations in the 1990s. I am also happy to see the adaptive reuse of underutilized and vacant commercial spaces producing jobs and economic vitality in this critical gateway to our city. And I've been pleased with the new developments that are generating much needed housing, retail (recapturing a nearly \$1B retail leakage), revenue and affordable housing units in accordance with the specific plan.

10. 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? Do you favor rent control?

I am very proud to have led the team that authored Resolution No. 86320 – Oakland's Renter Protection Act 2016, now placed on the November ballot as Measure JJ with a unanimous vote of the Council. In addition to this most recent effort, I have been a critical part of the coalition that has worked to strengthen tenant protections and attract new investment that will expand the housing supply and relieve the neighborhoods from upward rent pressures.

While the current economic upswing promises much needed investment to Oakland, it also threatens to displace long-term residents and to water-down our economic and social diversity.

As the District 3 representative and City Council President, I:

- Passed legislation to significantly strengthen tenant protections and improve delivery of city services to Landlords and tenants
- Established the first dedicated city funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Passed legislation enacting an Impact Fee on New Development, joining cities like Berkeley and Emeryville in obtaining critical resources to invest in affordable housing, public infrastructure and transportation
- Protected our transitional housing and homeless service center from closure
- Authored legislation providing priority placement and a right of return for displaced Oakland residents
- Led the effort to include support for struggling middle-income earners, like teachers and non-profit workers, so that they can secure affordable housing and remain in our communities

Additionally, my City Council colleagues and I sent a renter protection ballot measure to the voters this fall that will require landlords to petition the rent board for new rent increases. I have engaged the Federal Reserve bank to examine the reasons why there were only four home loans closed for African Americans in 2015 and have supported the launch of two efforts to increase homeownership rates for people of color.

There is still more work to be done to keep Oakland affordable to its residents, and I am committed to this work.

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

**My environmental priorities for my second term will be to:**

- Fulfill a 2 decade promise to re move the industrial recycling centers from residential neighborhoods and establish them in a recycling cluster on industrial land at the former Oakland Army Base
- No coal, oil or other shipments from the Port of Oakland that add to the air quality, public health and safety burden on the West Oakland community
- Expand bicycling as a viable mode of transportation throughout Oakland, including the promotion of the new bike share program
- Continue to work with the Port of Oakland to improve air quality, reducing harmful emissions
- Implementing our bike/ped plan
- Pressing the Administration to continue the efforts to implement the Oakland Climate Action Plan

**12. Public Banking -- Will you introduce, co-sponsor and/or support an ordinance or charter amendment to create a Public Bank of Oakland, inspired by the Bank of North Dakota[i] (BND), a 100 year old public institution? The Public Bank of Oakland would hold the city's deposits - in contrast to having them held by Wall Street Banks as currently done. It would make fiscally responsible loans in the best interest of the residents of Oakland - in contrast to Wall Street banks' record of risk and ruin. Profits made by the Public Bank of Oakland would be returned to the General Fund of the City of Oakland, or used to further buttress the loan capabilities of the bank, much as the BND does (the BND has returned over \$400,000,000 to the General Fund of the State of North Dakota over the last 21 years,[ii] while substantially increasing its capitalization and its loan outreach)**

**I would support such an effort as long as the Administration can show the capacity to implement in a cost-effective manner.**

[i] <https://bnd.nd.gov/>

[ii] <https://ilsr.org/rule/bank-of-north-dakota-2/>

13. Local Payday Lenders – Oakland is awash with for-profit Check Cashing and PayDay Loan emporiums (a simple Google query[i] shows 20). These outfits provide emergency cash and other financial products to those who cannot obtain it otherwise - at outrageously high interest rates and/or extremely high fees. Professor Mehrsa Baradaran, in her book *How the Other Half Banks*,[ii] quotes the astounding statistic that those who use these services spend on average over \$2000 per household per year. It is not widely known but Oakland is home to the only non-profit check cashing and payday lending storefront in the country - Community Check Cashing[iii] (CCC) in Fruitvale Plaza. It provides the same services for-profit operators do at 33% - 50% of the cost, while paying its employees a living wage. Will you support build-out and capitalization loans by the City of Oakland to expand CCC to other storefronts around Oakland (much as the City Council gave a 50-year, \$3,300,000 interest-free loan to the E 12th St. developers[iv])?

Yes

[i] Type 'Oakland Payday lenders' into Google Search and click on the resulting map.

[ii] NALC.org "Author makes the case for postal banking" <http://tinyurl.com/h9e6a2p>

Baradaran noted that the average unbanked family with an income of around \$25,000 spends about \$2,400 per year on financial transactions like these, even more than it spends on food.

[iii] <http://communitycheckcashing.org/>

[iv] Oakland City Council agenda, June 15th, 2016 <http://tinyurl.com/jzy398p>

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

Over the past four years, the Council has been called upon to provide steadfast leadership as the Administration reconstitutes itself, with 100% turn-over in the City Administrator's office and a new Mayor. And we have done the work.

I am very proud that under my leadership as President of the Council, a recent polls indicate that for the first time in over 10 years, the Council as a whole is polling positively and the majority of residents believe that we are headed in the right direction and on the right track. This Council has been seen as a welcomed contrast to the bickering and dysfunction of the past council by engaging in robust and respectful discourse.

The Council and the Mayor must continue to tackle the big issues of the day to continue to strengthen credibility with the public and to actually identifying programs to remediate the suffering for many of our residents.

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

Over the last four years I have kept thousands of appointments with constituents, attended hundreds of community meetings, and my office has engaged in regular communications through newsletter, emails and by phone. I host annual State of the District town hall meetings and am available to the public via social media and traditional methods.

**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 love people and work with everyone. I am a relational leader. I place a high value on mutual respect and consensus building whenever possible. It is unprecedented that a first term Councilmember was elected to be the City Council President, and I am honored to have earned the trust of the majority of my colleagues in being entrusted with this position as the first African American woman and District 3 representative to hold this important role.

One of my major goals as a Councilmember is to raise the civility and professionalism of our City's governing body. I have worked with every member of the City Council and continue to believe that we can and should reach unanimous votes on important legislation such as our budget. And, under my leadership the Council has established annual retreats and has engaged in proactive opportunities to tour each other's districts with senior Administrative staff.

**17. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you? Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races? Include your #2 and 3 choices (if applicable) for your own race and note that this year the City races are Council seats, School Board seats and City Attorney.**

**Prominent Endorsements:**

Senator Loni Hancock  
Assemblymember (ASM) Rob Bonta, Tony Thurmond  
Supervisor Keith Carson  
President Pro Temp Larry Reid  
Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington  
Councilmembers Abel Guillen, Dan Kalb, Rebecca Kaplan

OUSD President James Harris  
OUSD Members Rosie Torres, Jody London

BART Director Rebecca Saltzman  
BART Candidate Lateefah Simon

Teamsters Local 5  
IAFF55  
IBEW

Port Commissioner Ces Butner

Ray Carlisle, Zack Wasserman, David Stein, CJ Hirshfield, John Bliss, Kim Thompson, Lateefah Simon, Pastor Zachary Carey, Pastor Greg Payton, Pastor Curtiss Fleming, Pastor Anthony Jenkins, Pastor Kenneth Chambers, Pastor Joseph Simmons

**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).**

I have currently raised \$104,000, and plan to raise the maximum \$130,000. We focus our fundraising on small donors with our donations averaging \$250, with a significant number of donors under that amount. I have agreed to abide by campaign finance limits, which regulate which regulate amount and sources of funding.

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?

I have a strong working relationship with the Mayor and the City Attorney. It is no secret that the City of Oakland's unique form of strong-mayor government is a challenge to manage because the City Administrator who is hired by the Mayor must serve both the Council and Mayor with equal consideration. It is a challenge but it is possible and provides for robust negotiation in order to move a progressive agenda.

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

I believe that democratic elections should be publicly financed in order to get money out of politics. I would support a constitutional ammendment, and will take the Pledge to Amend.

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

I am delighted to present myself for consideration by the Green Party. A review of my voting record reveals that I am among the most progressive and effective legislators currently serving the Council. My strength comes from my deep empathy and my ability to communicate effectively with groups of divergent opinions. I have been able to move the Council beyond the paralysis of conflict where there has been little compromise among ideological leaders. I believe in progressive change and in reconciling competing visions so that the City benefits from our collective wisdom. As the City's demographic returns to its historic balance of ethnic groups, African Americans and whites, we must continue to be vigilant in leadership that honors diversity and sets a tone for maintaining Oakland as an inclusive, safe place for all to live, work, worship and play.

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

- Do you support raising the minimum wage to a living wage? Yes
- Are you in favor of a police commission? Yes
- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? Yes, but in very limited cases
- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? Yes
- 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, if it creates lower rates for the ratepayer and good jobs for employees of the new public utility
- Would you vote to allow more grey water systems? Yes

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Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynette Gibson McElhaney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some overlapping letters.

Lynette Gibson McElhaney