

Marcie Hodge for Oakland City Council District 7

QUESTIONNAIRE
GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY
2016 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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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 am running because I have a renewed vision for Oakland, I would be a council member who is responsive to constituents and would vote for what's best for the city. The incumbent is not responsive to his constituents, and as member of the city council bears some responsibility for the recent police sex scandals. In addition, Mr Reid's development projects has not offered affordable housing for many residents who would benefit, Over the last four years, crime in East Oakland has grown by approximately 8% a year, businesses that have come and gone, and Oakland's Economic Development for district 7 has failed. The incumbent has been on the council for 20 years, according to the East Bay Citizen on August 9, 2016 Reid said he was "getting bored" with the current crop of council mates. Mr. Reid policies are dated and his district continues to suffer.

2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provide 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?

As councilmember I would champion for an Economic Plan that would include Public Safety, Affordable housing and more job opportunities.

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 lifelong resident of Oakland. . I served 8-years as Trustee of the Peralta Community College Board, I fought to eliminate waste and re-direct funds to classroom instruction and more student financial aid. I worked to expand vocational training programs; led fight against the international travel scandal; demanded better fiscal accountability for local taxpayers and fought to cut administrative bureaucracy and waste. My proven track record and education

provide me with the expertise to be a responsive council member to the residents of district 7.

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.

The Green party is a well know group that has been actively educating, fighting for and transforming communities in relation to ecological awareness and social justice. Receiving an endorsement from The Green Party would signal to the voters that this body made up of diverse professions, ethnicity and views have elected to endorse a candidate who also supports social justice issues and the environment. It would be an honor to be selected as your candidate of choice for the Oakland City Council District

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.

Yes I am involved in a local sorority that w/ nearly 120 members. Through my sorority we provide mentorships programs, feeding the homeless, fundraising for high school scholarships and supporting social justice programs in the city of Oakland/Berkeley.

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?

I would implore the council to hire a Chief economist with responsibility for analyzing the economic impact of legislation the council approves. All legislation as an economic impact on the city, its businesses and residents. My priorities would be focused on public safety, affordable/workforce housing units and creating more job opportunities.

7. Youth -- Describe the condition of youth in Oakland? I believe our youth have challenges; I remain optimistic that young people can successfully see their goals realized with the help and support of groups like the Green Party and my sorority. What would your priorities for youth be for Oakland government and how would they get implemented and paid for?

Typcially tax dollars pay for extra support for programs that support young people. The council should focus more on increasing business development for more tax dollars. Encouraging retention and expansion of small businesses. Increasing employment opportunities for young people; while also supporting existing programs such as Youth

Employment Program, Youth Uprising and First Place Fund For Youth, all of these programs provide both educational services, housing, recreational activities and jobs for our youth.

8. Police -- How do you think our community policing is going and what are the next steps?

There are improvement that should always be evaluated for and made. With the shortage of police officers and other scandalous distractions occurring the OPD is doing the best with the resources they have. Describe the current relationship between the residents and the Oakland Police. I have positive relationship with both the community and police. Do you suggest any changes? No, not at this time. 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? Yes, when people can come together and discuss difficult issue while working toward resolution, I believe it helps all involved. Police conduct must be addressed in a comprehensive manner, training's and policies can also address theses issues.

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. 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?

Measure EE helps toward keeping residents in Oakland who desire to stay in the city, I support this effort.

Do you favor rent control?

In some cases yes. The council must also consider capital cost the landlord absorbs, there must be a balance enabling both parties to benefit from the tenant relationship.

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

Continue on the path toward sustainability. I believe the polices Oakland has puts the city on the right track toward preserving the earth.

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

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

I support the idea of a municipality bank, I have spoken publically about the need for cities/states to maximize their dollar by leveraging their ability to create a banking system that would positively affect residents and local businesses. The opportunities are vast, cities must begin thinking about utilizing a municipal banking system.

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])?

Absolutely, I will support legislation of this kind.

[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?

Somewhat satisfied. How would you rate the satisfaction level? Satisfied, but the city can do much better.

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

Having an open door policy.

16. Governance -- What kind of relationship could you have with other office holders?

I hold a civil relationship with many elected officials in the Bay Area including many members on the Oakland City Council. Who do you see as a working majority on council and who can you work with? I'm convinced based on my observation that I would not have a problem with working with any elected council member including the mayor.

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.

I will be supporting the Democratic ticket.

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? Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics?

Yes and No.

Have you Taken the Pledge to Amend? (<https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend>) .

No I have not taken the pledge. The discussion of getting money out of politics has been a point of discussion since the 1960's as elected officials have found ways to continue to bring money into their coffers. The question is rhetorical as it continues to come up during election years. My question is how do we get the citizenry more involved in researching who the candidates are who desire to be elected.

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 raising the minimum wage to a living wage? **Yes in other cases No. It depends on the situation.**

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

Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? **Possibly.**

Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? **No.**

Would you support Proportional Representation? **Possibly.**

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.**

Cheers,

Marcie Hodge

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope. MLK, Jr.

<<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/martinluth297522.html>>