

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Name: Mark Williams

Phone: 510-692-8147

Email: williamsforactransit2014@gmail.com

Website:

1. Why do you want to serve (or continue to serve) on the AC Transit Board?

I am running for reelection to the AC Transit Board of Directors, to continue supporting AC Transit's mission of being an excellent public transit agency by supporting projects like the districts Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus program, our Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, continued discount fares for our customers especially for our youth and seniors, and increased service levels throughout the entire AC Transit service area.

2. (For incumbents :) What actions of yours during your term are you proudest of? What have you accomplished during your time on the board?

As a director I've had the opportunity to cast many votes, and support new initiatives and projects but I'm most proud of the following. Over the past two years, AC Transit has replaced one third of our bus fleet, with 210 locally built buses, built locally by Gillig Corporation in Hayward, CA. I've also voted to continue to keep our fare's low especially for our youth and senior customers, while increasing bus service and reliability. Finally I'm most proud of the three contracts that I voted to approve, that gives workers a fair wage, and which has also contributed to AC Transit having a budget surplus.

3. Do you ride AC Transit and, if so, how frequently?

I have been and continue to be a lifelong AC Transit rider. I frequently ride the 1, 1R, 32, 48, 51A, 97 and 99

4. People without access to cars are AC Transit's captive audience. What are your ideas for increasing ridership of those with cars, sometimes referred to as "choice riders?"

With the purchase of the new locally built Gillig buses, AC Transit launched "A Better Ride Campaign", which was aimed at attracting new riders for our expanded service. The campaign focused not only on the new buses but expand service and new routes. AC Transit also has plans

to introduce smaller buses, and with the savings from the buses further expand service. With all of these improvements, AC transit will be able to attract new riders and provide greater service for our current customers.

5. What are your thoughts on AC Transit's current TransBay service?

AC Transit's TransBay service has been and continues to be very popular. As a result of service issues with BART's TransBay service, our TransBay service ridership increased substantially, so we have had to add increased service and adjust service schedules. I look forward to our TransBay service increasing in popularity, and becoming even more efficient.

6. AC Transit made the decision to use the diesel. Are you satisfied with that? Why or why not?

I am not satisfied that AC Transit current bus fleet is made up of a majority of petroleum diesel buses, which is why I'm supportive of, and continue to advocate for, our Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus project. Although we have been able to reduce asthma causing particulate matter from our bus engines by 98%, which is a substantial improvement over older buses. I feel that our development of our fuel cell bus project, will help develop not only AC Transit's but the entire public transit industries preferred bus engines.

7. Would a pre-paid or free bus system be financially feasible? (Seattle has this in downtown areas, Portland for seniors.)

Currently at AC Transit, we have both a pre-paid and free shuttle service within our service area. UC Berkeley's class pass program, which is a student pass paid for through student registration fees' serves the universities 30,000 students. We also have a similar programs at both Mills College and the Peralta Community College District. AC Transit also partners with residential complexes and employers, to create pre-paid pass programs.

AC Transit has a free route called the "Free B" Broadway shuttle, which unlike other shuttle services in our service area, is provided directly by AC Transit, and driven by ATU operators. The Broadway shuttle is funded by a combination of air district grants and contributions from business improvement districts.

Prepaid and free bus systems are possible but require grants, and developing partnerships with other organizations.

8. Are you concerned about buses for youth, seniors, disabled, and low income riders?

Are you aware of the disproportionate cuts in services impacting communities of color?

As an AC Transit Director, I always have the concerns and issues affecting our youth, senior, and disabled customers at the forefront of my decisions. I have continued to support lower fares

and increased funding sources to keep fares low. I have and continue to support Measure BB, which includes a pilot program for a free bus pass program.

I am acutely aware of the cuts in service and how they affect our customers, I have regular meetings with community groups like ACCE and Urban Habitat. I've also gone out ride the bus, with community groups to see specific issues they face first hand.

9. What endorsements have you received thus far? Elected Officials

AC Transit Board of Directors

Director Joel Young

Director Joe Wallace

Director Elsa Ortiz

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Richard Valle

Alameda City Council

Councilwoman Lena Tam

Alameda County Board of Education

Director Marlon McWilson

Director Joaquin Rivera

Director Fred Simms

Berkeley City Council

Councilman Jessie Arreguin

Berkeley Rent Board

Director Igor Tregub

California State Assembly

Assemblyman Sebastian Ridley-Thomas

Assemblyman Bill Quirk

Campbell City Council

Mayor Evan Low

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Director Hal Gin

Dublin City Council

Mayor Tim Sbranti

East Bay Municipal Utility District

Director Frank Mellon

Fremont City Council

Vice Mayor Vinnie Bacon

Councilman Raj Salwan

Hayward City Council

Councilwoman Sara Lamnin

Newark City Council

Mayor Alan Nagy

Oakland City Council

Councilwoman Libby Shaft

Richmond City Council

Councilman Jael Myrick

San Leandro City Council

Mayor Stephen Cassidy

Councilman Michael Gregory

Councilwoman Pauline Cutter

Councilman Jim Prola

Councilwoman Ursula Reid

Unions

Alameda Central Labor Council

ATU Local 192

IBEW Local 1245

Teamsters Local 853

AFSCME Local 3916

10. Please add anything more you wish to tell us so we

In 2010, I had the honor to be elected to the AC Transit Board as the son of a retired 35 year bus operator. Which means my family has an almost 40 years of service to the district. I grew up a child riding AC Transit, so I feel as if I have a responsibility to contribute to AC Transits role as the bay area's public transit backbone In my role as a Director I chair the AC Transit Board Planning Committee and I formerly served on the Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee. I currently serve on the City of San Leandro Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board, The American Public Transportation Association Transit Board Members Committee and the Transit Board Members Legislative Subcommittee.

Prior to my election to the AC Transit Board of Directors, I was appointed to serve as a member of the AC Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee and served as Vice Chair of the Committee in 2010.