

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2016 ENDORSEMENT
ALAMEDA SCHOOL BOARD

1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for the School Board?

As a parent to both a preschooler and a first grader attending Earhart Elementary, I'm committed to ensuring our school district maintains the highest academic standards for all our children. I enter this race to bring my values to the Alameda School Board. These values are born out of my continued work in the labor movement and involve a strong commitment to equality and equity, community decision-making and collective action, and justice in our community and Justice in our places of work.

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 School Board?

As a parent volunteer, I have seen firsthand the positive impact innovative programs in math, science, technology, and the arts have on our children; and, I will work tirelessly to preserve and expand these programs at all district school sites. The district needs to make sure students of all abilities are afforded equitable opportunities, ensuring every child gets the support they need to be successful in college and in the workplace. Additionally, I will work to attract and retain the best teachers for our children and to provide all district employees with a living wage. I'm committed to community, parent, and teacher involvement in the administration of our school district, as we work in collaborative ways for the betterment of our children's education.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of School Board. If you are an incumbent, what issues can you point to in your time as an incumbent that have had a positive impact? As an incumbent what can you tell us about your service on the school board, and share with us the decisions you have made in this capacity that you believe made a difference in the functioning of the school district?

I am a UC Berkeley graduate, former Cal-in-Sacramento Fellow, and recent graduate of the Alameda Labor Council's Values Based Leadership program. I am a proud Member of the Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), an elected Board Member of TWU Local 556, and the chairperson of the TWU California State Conference. I am an Earhart Elementary PTA member and a parent volunteer at Earhart Elementary facilitating in the classroom with math, science, and motor fitness. I am a volunteer organizer on the citywide B1 parcel tax renewal campaign.

4. There has been a concern over the cost of the school district lease in Marina Village which houses the district offices. What are your thoughts about this situation; have you considered a more economical solution to this cost?

I am concerned over the high lease cost of the district office; annually this lease runs in the ½ million-dollar range. Exploring other sites, currently owned by the district, would be a priority once elected. However, we would have to take into consideration the total cost of relocation, which could ultimately be several million dollars.

5. There are close to 4,000 housing units on schedule to be built along the north shore of Alameda. What solutions would you suggest to accommodate the increased number of students this housing would generate and what ideas would you propose to cover the cost of these new school buildings?

Adding space to accommodate new students is a priority and I am open to exploring development fees to help with the costs of construction of new school buildings. Recently a State Superior Judge ruled in favor of allowing the state to collect higher fees from developers in order to help school districts build new classrooms and alleviate overcrowding.

6. How did you perceive the district's refusal to obtain appraisals for the tidelands swap with the city?

My understanding of the Tidelands title swap is that the City of Alameda was never in a position to transfer title to the School District in the first place. So, returning the property to the City, in exchange for the Bachelors Officers Quarters and funds for the swimming pool project, were acceptable in my opinion. Ultimately, the Bachelors Officers Quarters will be a high value property for the District.

7. The teachers turned down a contract proposal at the conclusion of the school year. This necessitates negotiating a new contract to settle the dispute. It is our understanding the issue is class size. What suggestions would you offer to settle this dispute and obtain an agreement with the school district teachers?

I am committed to improving on current classroom sizes. Classroom size reductions benefit students, teachers, and the community in so many ways and contribute to the over health of our District.

8. Accountability -- Concretely and specifically, how will you make yourself accountable to the voters who elect you? How can the voters participate in holding you accountable if you are elected?

To make myself accountable to the public I will make myself available to meet with and discuss any topic with any individual or group.

9. 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).

My goal for this race is \$10,000 and I am over half way there. My campaign contributions have come from small contributions from friends and family and from organizations representing working families.

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