

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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Note: You may respond to any question with a link to your website or other posted positions. For the yes/no questions, please answer yes or no and if you wish to add to your answer, feel free to do so.

1. **Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office?** I am tired of the empty/fluffed rhetoric and promises never kept. I am fed up with the machine politics that controls every elected official in Oakland.

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?**

First on my list of ideas is to form a Charter Comm. To work on making changes to what makes Oakland tick! 1) go back to the City Manager form of government, 2) Get rid of Rank choice Voting, 3)look to having all Districts elected City wide and get rid of the fiefdoms so that all of Oakland gets equal and long overdue fair share representation. 4) Strengthen the Ethics Commission and make it independent of elected officials control as well as independent of the City Administrators control and oversight. Not by piece mealing it as is being done for the 11/4 ballot

Quality of life is the overall package that needs to be addressed for the whole City...that being said, each area has their concerns that need hands on work and direction. Public Safety is a concern of many depending where in Oakland you live. Pot holes, illegal dumping, graffiti are concerns again depending where you live. Hiring the right individuals with the credentials and expertise is crucial to accomplishing the moral issue of all the City departments and Staff and those individuals also need to know Oakland, her history and the diversity which makes Oakland unique! Nepotism is a major problem in the work force and impacts performance at all levels...that needs to be addressed and cleaned up.

Have the State audit all of Oakland's books, which is long overdue and will give credence to what is actually happening to the millions of dollars that are brought in and never fully disclosed.

Working closely with the Unions and outreaching into the communities in partnership will impact ownership in and for the City.

Working to attract business by lowering the Business tax and parking fees will start to open up the possibility of jobs so that crime can start to be addressed with alternative positive outcomes.

The above is just a few of my ideas but it is going to take not just me but all of us working to bring about change that Oakland has lost out on while surrounding cities have gained.

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 involved in Oakland's politics as an activist and as a candidate since 1982 working to bring positive change. I have worked on issues and different departments from Economic Development to Public Safety...from the shutting down the old and building the new animal shelter to fight parcel taxes that have overburdened residents and been squandered by elected officials.

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.

I am on the Executive Board of MGO, I was on the Executive Board of Urban Relief, Chair of Beat 29X NCPC, Member of the NW Steering Comm. I was on the CPAB till Quan took me off. I was on the CDBG Board and was instrumental in breaking it up but over time it has reverted back to same ol same ol! I work closely with many groups and find support to “fight” to bring to light and educate to get others involved. I work for positive change that will benefit either the neighborhood or district and finally the whole of Oakland.

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 been involved in many activities over the last 32 years.

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 lack of knowledge and expertise in doing a municipal Budget is the main problem! Allowing lobbying to way in because of possible not getting elected for another term to be a blinding force on making the right decisions and prioritizing the needs of the whole so that the end result benefits the growth and future of the City. Working with the Unions, which have the expertise of what makes Oakland tick. Hiring qualified Financial Planners, Auditors and CPA's that have municipal expertise. Working with the Budget Advisory Board and out reaching to the residents at Townhall meetings and other venues to get the feedback on what is needed and where priorities need to be considered..

Addressing pension issues and the long neglected infrastructure of the City are foremost to adding any more expenditures at the cost to the taxpayers. Oakland needs to know what funds they actual have and stop nickel and diming property owners to get quick cash to cover piss poor decisions.

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?

Oakland needs jobs and the youth need Hope! Crime is big business in Oakland so a complete circle needs to be broken in order to bring the needed businesses and jobs to a City that has one of the highest crime stats in the country and 9<sup>th</sup> worst City on top of that. We have a piss poor educational system and need to bring back shop programs along with music and art...not all are computer whizz's or going to college but they all have hidden talents that need to be tapped!

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.

The current Administrations policing programs are a joke. There is no Community Policing!!! We have less than 500 officers and losing more every week. Community Policing worked till Quan and Ignacio thought that NCPC's and NSC's were getting to powerful. We stopped Beat Health which is written about in and taught at UCLA . We brought in incompetents that undermined what worked. We moved the NSC's out of OPD and attempted to use them to do busy work and lost many of the original staff, who were replaced by yes people having no knowledge of Community Policing or how to work with and for the community. This is Oakland's problem if it works let's break it and sweep it under the rug. We have no leadership in OPD today.

For the most part 85% of the residents have a good relationship with OPD but the mismanagement and the lack of Officers to cover the City makes it difficult for the residents to feel that they have protection and if needed, can OPD respond.

The priorities of OPD need to change on how they deal with crime...Traffic enforcement, walking the Beats and business districts, listening to residents and handling the small criminal activity will be more effective in dealing with the crime that makes headlines and puts Oakland in a bad light.

We need to get out from under Henderson and hire a Chief who has the respect of the rank and file as well as the community....The Chief, who is hired, will implement Community Policing throughout the whole department.

Officers are human and like all apples there are good and bad....right now we are at a rush to hire and those coming into the force are young and inexperienced while the seasoned older officers are abandoning the ship.

The Micromanaging needs to stop and a respected Chief needs to be hired. Restorative Justice works if those who are managing the programs are actually doing the job...right now with the money being spent the programs are not working! Very few are actually getting the help or outreach...

Complete audits of those receiving Measure Y dollars needs to be done by an agency that does not owe it's allegiance to white washing results. A few years ago the findings of an audit was not favorable to the programs so that group was dropped and another group was hired knowing that this new group would skew the finding and their report to fit the criteria that the city was expecting in order to continue to sell Measure Y.

#### 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?

Army Base is a disaster that is happening and Tagami should never have been given the contract. Chines money is being used to fund Upper Broadway and that should not have been allowed but then again the US is being sold on the cheap. The DE5 program replaced redevelopment and anyone with \$500,000 can buy their way into the USA. Oak to 9<sup>th</sup> is another boondoggle and will make a few rich The Transit fiasco on International is going to be another mess that residents and businesses are now coming to realize that they have been misled and had. The Airport Connector another waste of money that should have included stops for people to get to hotels,

shopping and jobs. I was part of the Airport Connector group when Margaret Prior was on Bart and many of us fought to make the connector inclusive as mentioned previously but instead we have a boondoggle mess!

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?](#)

John Russo sold Oakland out in settling the Riders case...No one was found guilty and nothing should have been settled before the officers had their day in court. There are no experienced officers that are running OPD...We have paid thousands out and Oakland still does not listen...Is there really a problem...the rules keep changing depending on Henderson's watchdogs...We have ended up with a dysfunctional police department because we have no leadership at any level of City Government. OPD has complied but the rules keep changing...I would sue Judge Henderson because all we are doing is paying out millions and while losing great officers to attrition and other cities leaving ourselves wide open for anarchy by a very few and a media that embellishes.

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?](#)

Progress and growth is what makes life evolve. We don't need any more laws protecting anyone. People move, cultures move in and change happens. There are no jobs in Oakland!! People are moving to Texas and down south because that is where the jobs are at the moment just like they moved here when jobs were here.

Oakland has been the dumping ground for Alameda County and has over 60% of low income housing that other thriving cities refuse to address or build. We have the lowest performing school district we have youth with no HOPE and no future. .We are crime ridden and businesses don't want to invest or come here.....We are a Democracy and a capitalist society...Socialism is not part of our culture. Change is and always will be! Those who have invested are re-selling to homeowners and helping to clean up Oakland have been

doing a hell of a lot more than the ones who are constantly complaining. The revitalizing of Oakland is way overdue just look at the surrounding cities and then ask yourself how they made it and Oakland has become the step child and joke in the Bay Area. Sports Teams are leaving because Oakland won't, can't and with newbies moving here who are making a killing off the ills of Oakland under the guise that they are protecting what is....Oakland because of a few continuing to make money at the expense of Oakland coming into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has continued to keep Oakland as the "welfare" city which exist on handouts and high taxes while nothing moves forward and it has been going on for over 30 years due to a very few who have been allowed to reap the millions while Oakland has been allowed to burn!

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

Plant trees and push to bring more parks and open space. Oakland had a chance under Jerry to make the Leona Quarry a major Solar Center but instead a few developers and cronies of Jerry's and Don's got richer.

Start working on overpopulation and stop building because you can and force people to realize that the planet is dying and there will be no future for all the kids that have nothing to look forward to.

Yes continue to cull and kill off the many species that also own the right to be here while man continues to frack away and greed takes over...Soylent Green is right around the corner.

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

They don't that is why we have low voter turnout and many who could stay are moving. Less than 40%

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

Already am and hire staff with qualifications to deal with the different levels of government so that the Mayor's office can be held accountable. Hold the required Townhall meetings.

15. Do we need an Oakland Progressive Alliance akin to the one in Richmond, and if so, who should be members? There are already groups that are progressive who have their ideas on how Oakland should run...the 80's saw Berkeley Progressives move into Oakland and take over the League, NWPC etc. Even with all the progressive movements and activist Oakland still does not move forward and the same individuals continue to pull the political strings...So another group? why not! People are tired of nothing happening in and having no stores to shop. Crime is the biggest money maker for Oakland and that won't go away any time soon and businesses that can actually hire won't come.

Why not start asking why all the staff that Oakland has had over the years and have left...went to cities such as Walnut Creek, Emeryville, San Jose (sleepy farming community) and built them up and surpassed Oakland and left her in the dark ages to continue to be the dumping ground for the have not's while sales tax, businesses, sports teams, and affluence went elsewhere.

Those staffers knew that working in Oakland taught them what not to do so be progressive in their new locations...Even Jerry our "great" governor learned that Oakland was a haven for waste and that is why he killed off Redevelopment.

So another group doing what many are already doing why not...people are already turned off and won't answer their doors or are just fed up and moving!

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 can work with anyone as long as it is for the good of the whole of Oakland. I know all the office holders and understand the clicks and games...That is why the residents need to take back their City and that is why I want to form a

Charter Comm., to strengthen parts of the Charter and force elected officials to work as a whole for the good of Oakland and not continue to split her between the hills or the flats/haves and have not's.

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.

My endorsers are residents and voters of Oakland. I would not want to be beholden to any group or individual who would expect that I would jump to their tune...My love is Oakland and this is a wonderful and great City and deserves better!

I am endorsing Desley Brooks for D6, Len Rafael for City Auditor dual, D6 School Board Renato Almanzor and Chanthel Gonzalez and Jill Broadhurst for D4 Council.

I would have people write in Einstein for Mayor as #1, me for #2 and Courtney Ruby for #3

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 raised \$300.00 to date and will probably get more..not a big issue for me as paying to market lies is not my idea of TRANSPARENCY or ETHICAL! Money will come from those who wish to give because they believe in me and not because they want to buy my vote at a later date.

I think the above states y views to the last part of your question!!

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?

Council and Mayor clickish, full of games and not transparent!

Auditor could have done her job with clout but has not

City Attorney has been weak for a long time

The Charter is Oakland's Constitution and should be respected and changed with respect and careful consideration...that is why a Charter Comm. Is needed to look and recommend changes in a careful and precise process.

Dan Kalb's joke of a Charter Change to the PEC is way off balance and really does not address the protections and the cleanup that can and could be done if taken the time and actually listen to those who take open government and Ethics to heart and not just trying to make a name for themselves!!! Dan claims when told that more changes were needed that he would come back again in 2 years with to continue to make recommend changes that he refuses to incorporate this time round.

What I like is that there are a few of us who thrive on putting the truth out there for the residents and voters to question and draw their own conclusions from Manipulation is why politics turns people off and when positive changes can and should be addressed those in power become threatened and the manipulate to stay in control.

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

Money has made campaigns a rich person and machine politics game and the voters and resident's lose...Oakland has been losing for over 30 years!!!!!! Yes, Finance reform is way over due and people should run on the merits and not on the whim of hired Spin master!

21. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? I have never "lost" an election and have continued to work for my

community and City! I don't care whether you like me or agree with me but this is your City so get involved and don't let a few control the outcomes!

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

-- Do you support the renewal of Measure Y? NO

-- Do you support the minimum wage proposal? YES

-- Are you in favor of a police commission? NO

-- Do you support Dan Kalb's proposal on oversight and transparency? NO not as it is set up it is weak and will not work ..Dan knows this and wants to come back in 2 years with further changes...This is the Constitution of Oakland you are fooling with and if you are going to change it, make sure it is done right from the start and not piece meal it ...This is not his claim to fame!

-- Are you in favor of receiving public complaints against police officers at the Civilian Police Review Board? YES but not a witch hunt!

-- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? NO

Occupy blew it! They had the momentum and the public behind them till they went all over the grid! Banks won people lost and still are!

-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? NO

-- Would you support Proportional Representation? Yes because everyone's voice needs to be heard

-- Do you support diverting people from prosecution if they participate in a restorative justice program? Yes/No Depends on the crime and their record/rap sheet

-- Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? Yes

-- Would you vote to allow more grey water systems? Yes

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Greg Jan  
Green Party of Alameda County

(Please reply to: [GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com) by Saturday, August 23 ).