

Nancy Sidebotham for Oakland City Council At-Large

QUESTIONNAIRE  
GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY  
2016 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? If you are running against an incumbent, what are your main dis-satisfactions and differences with him or her? **I am running cause their is not leadership in Oakland and change is needed. I am running against Rebecca Rebecca Kaplan, the incumbent. She serves what interest her and is never available for the crucial votes. She is supposed to represent the whole city but is never seen until election time. I have worked along side neighbors and residents in many issues since 1982. I have mentored many about Oakland's past to understand Oakland's present, so that we can work to improve and change Oakland's future.**

2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively 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? **Public Safety--Community Safety--Community Policing. Economic Development —Attract businesses to build our sales tax base and jobs. Give residents a voice in government by improving access and accountability. We need to go back to the City Manager Form of Government, do away with Rank Choice voting, and implement term limits on the city Council and City Attorney. These last three are Charter Changes which requires a petition and vote by the Oakland Voters to bring about these changes. We do not need more housing until we bring business, a sales tax base and jobs back to Oakland.**

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 a resident since 1964. I graduated Merritt College and CSUH, tax preparer since 1973 and a community activist since 1982. Over the years I have been involved in fighting the corruptness that permeates in Oakland. The beauty of Oakland, the diversity and what is lacking in Oakland is what makes me committed. I am running in order to continue to fight to**

bring about positive change to a city that is controlled by machine politics and a self-serving governance. I have over the years worked on many issues in Oakland, seen public servants come and go, yet the leadership continues to fail Oakland's residents. We are asked to pay for empty promises and receive few services in return. We need a grassroots candidate that has no hidden agenda but to work for all of Oakland's residence.

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. For years I have been a "decline to State" voter but it is very difficult to run a campaign in Oakland which is labeled "non partisan" without being a democrat. I few years ago I was recruited to become a board-member of MGO (Metropolitan Greater Democratic Club of Oakland) and I had to change to Democrat. I have been a Board-member of MGO for almost 8 years. I do not belong to any other groups which you have listed. I am on the CPAB (Community Policing Advisory Board), Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee and Fifteen year Chair of NCPC (Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council) 29X. Over the last 34 years I have been affiliated with many groups and organizations.

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. No other than what I mentioned in #4.

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? Unfortunately Oakland has very few choices for raising money with the leadership that has been running this City since Henry Gardner left (and not this last 6 months he stepped in after Santana left). Other than Robert Bobb there has been no City Manager/Administrator that had the hands on control and knowledge. Oakland has minimal sales tax base due to lack of major retail. This is what needs to change! Oakland relies on building housing and pushes "low income" now renamed "affordable" both for temporary jobs and rental business tax; these are not a sustainable means to fund the coffers that make up the budget. Oakland relies on Federal and State handouts, grants, parking tickets, fines, business tax and fees. Oakland has the highest property taxes in Alameda County and has nothing to show for it. We have lost businesses over the years due to the high business tax and crime. There has been no business savvy member of the council which has been a detriment in achieving financial independents reflected by other Alameda County cities. Until Oakland stops being the stepchild to all the other cities who are flourishing building more affordable housing will only sink us further

and Oakland will never be attractive to attracting a business base. This is what I would work on along with building back up the philosophy of Community Policing with OPD, the community and the City departments to help to bring crime down so that business will take notice and want to come! We have the spending dollars but not the environment!

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? Youth are our future and we need to make sure that they have a future to grow up in. We are already paying a small percentage of the General Fund to help youth in the public schools. It should not be the job of Oakland government to set priorities for youth or to pay for it. If Oakland wants to help the youth then Oakland needs to bring business with jobs to the city. Schools need to bring back shop programs. Most of the youth have no hope and believe there is no future for them. We, as a society, train these kids that to be somebody that they have to have all the swank gadgets, toys, designer clothes and shoes as well as a nice set of wheels..Then they are somebody. They are bored, few have family support or they are out hustling anyway they can to help support their family. To belong they join gangs which they usually, once in, can't leave. Parents, Faith Based Organizations and the schools are responsible for how our youth grow up. Oakland Government needs to guarantee a safe, clean, well run municipality that sets the standard for fair and equal treatment with programs at libraries and park and recreation facilities that allows outlets for youthful energy and the need to grow both physically and mentally. Oakland has a Youth Advisory Commission to help set standards as it relates to youth and programs in the City.

It would be very easy to say yes Oakland should find the money to help everyone but just looking at Oakland and what it has become in the last decade, Oakland has deteriorated because they have not kept up with maintaining anything. They have laid off workers, we are over burdened with overpaid management and nepotism has left wide open the question of qualifications of those hired. Unless you know someone in the city you have to wait approximately 1 to 2 years if you get hired through the Civil Service process. Oakland has over extended itself into programs which it has no business being involved in and has waste millions that should be going into repair and upgrades of our streets and infrastructure. Remembering if there is money available and a grant is involved Oakland will jump on board.

All three positions recently filled by Libby was because of grant money. Oakland makes promises and just enough is put into those promises so questions are never asked.

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? **Community Policing was killed off when Jean Quan became finance chair and cut OPD's budget. This led to the freeze of Academy's and mass reduction in OPD staffing. The hiring of Claudia Albano, removing the NSC's (Neighborhood Service Coordinators) from OPD and moving them downtown under the supervision of Albano in the City Administrators Office pretty much put a stop to what was, until that stupid blundering move, a very successful program. Beat Health (written up in textbooks and taught at UCLA) was a force to be dealt with; problem liquor stores where closed, drug houses where closed, illegal dumping was minuscule. When Quan as finance chair and the hiring of Albano that was the end of Community Policing and Beat Health and the beginning of Council's micromanaging of OPD.**

With the Riders issue, which was never proven, and the take over by Judge Henderson of OPD, the department has not had the leadership to fully recover. Because of the Council's micromanaging and incompetent Mayors, OPD has been struggling over the last few years, retirement and/or transfers could not come fast enough. I am on the CPAB (Community Policing Advisory Board) and new appointments are coming out of the group known as Block to Block run by Jean Quan and the agenda by this group is attempting to kill off community Policing and coming up with what they see as there interpretation of the CP Philosophy.

The residents are frustrated because there is no response, to delayed response when a crime is reported. The actual number of OP officers are a lot lower than what is made public. What is considered a crime is prioritized from low to priority. When a crime is reported to Dispatch unless it is a shooting or the person doing the criminal act is on site, OPD does not respond. So it makes it difficult for the public to understand why OPD is not there immediately. Ninety five percent of Oakland respect and support OPD. Part of the problem is the news media and the sensationalizing of certain crimes gives a very poor image of OPD. Frustration and anger over PD incidents around the country has led to reactive demonstrations which in some cases, innocent businesses have been vandalized. Anger, the lack of hope, bleak future and education or lack of, have an impact on who reacts and what transpires. OPD is getting more and more diversified. OPD is a department with a military mindset where taking orders and following them is crucial. Discipline is crucial along with hands on involvement within the community they serve. OPD does not have the bodies to put walking officers on the street but those driving the streets need to stop an talk to people they come in contact with and in turn the community needs to acknowledge the officers when they see them. Community Policing is a partnership!

I support Restorative Justice programs but I don't believe that it is the Cities function to be a part of it. The County should run these programs. Oakland has managed over the years to take on tasks and

programs that they don't have the knowledge or the funding for. That being said, when Oakland takes issues/projects on it is because there is money to be made not because they are actually going to do what is required . Oakland has been caught in this game before. OPD needs to add what Restorative Justice is and does to their classes so in working with who ever runs the program there is not miss communication.

Police misconduct is on the radar because of all the incidents across the country. Revamping how Officers do there job and react to situations or any individuals starts with the hiring process and if hired is part of the academy's curriculum. Hiring young men and women today makes it crucial that training pushes the envelope to out any hidden disciplinary issues which might lead to a reactive incident. Human beings have faults and in some cases are not found out until someone is pushed to the limit. Officers are human and their character might be flawed but never disclosed. Not only should training be revamped to pressure reactive behavior but Union Contracts need to be looked at where misconduct becomes an issue, depending on the severity of the action, the officer at fault can be fired if warranted. I personally believe that OPD needs to handle the discipline and consequences of their officers. Unless a civilian commission

has the training and goes through the various programs offered by City having an emotional reaction without the understanding and discipline as that of an officer you cannot walk in their shoes. Wanting something cause you have a vendetta defeats making the program work.

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? **The Army Base should never have been given to Tagami! That being said time will tell what happens there. I was against coal coming through there and now it is a moot point cause the powers that be in Utah have withdrawn their contract and Loni's bill was signed by Jerry to stop coal coming though Oakland starting January 2017. The Broadway-Valdez project has chinese money bank rolling it through the DE5 program as does the Oak to 9th. Do I agree with these not really but that is a moot point. Oakland needs jobs, sales tax base, shopping so that residents stay here with their dollars. Housing is a luxury that Oakland does not need more of. You asked about the environment in another question but you never asked about population control and the slow death of our planet!!**

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? **No to this last question! Change is constant and diversity is here to stay! The USA is now a country of diversity due to various evt is requireents over many years. Rents going up is being driven by Silicon Valley, Dot-comers and Millennials who are making good salaries. The crash is**

coming again and rents will go down and level out. Who has been dislocated? I don't see laws telling the lending industry you can't foreclose or charge outrageous interest rates. Economically diverse????????????? What economy? Everyone I know shops outside of Oakland. Like everything the market is manipulated by man. Who do you think the landlords are in Oakland? The former owners now renting out their home or have been landlords for years are not gouging their tenants...The hysteria of this is caused by a few and like everything else that happens you punish a whole network of individuals who are actually supporting tenants. Supply and demand is how this country functions and instead of being a democracy we are rapidly becoming a socialist country. A good many individuals are leaving the Bay Area because there is no work and they are moving to locations where jobs are available. Foreigners coming to this country who are 65 get on social security immediately if they are here legally and this has forced SS to give scrap raises, or none, to those retired individuals who have paid into the system. It is easy to blame what you don't see or understand but because a large group (many not Oakland residents) shows up at city hall making statements which for a great majority of landlords is false. I have my personal experience to back this up. You also have to realize that the Portuguese and Italians where gentrified over the years when blacks came here to build ships, work on the railroad and then the Port; this is how Danville, San Ramon, Castro Valley, San Leandro and so forth grew. So like I stated Change is constant: we are born have our youth and the grow old and die!

11. Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment? This is loaded question because Oakland does not do anything right! Confusion keeps everyone off kilter. Getting Oakland government to do anything right about anything is the joke. Now if we live in an ideal world Oakland would not be the dumping ground for homelessness, dumping, foreclosures, liquor stores, sideshows, highest unemployment, poor schools, favorite sons getting prime real estate free, forgiving millions of dollars on loans, inside deal making, bought and paid for council members a couple of mayors who don't even run the City...so what would make one think that Oakland could get environmental issues addressed. We've got buildings, animal shelter and a coliseum that have major plumbing problems. It took an outsider, Dr. Bailey, to start to demonstrate that Lake Merritt could be cleaned up and finally he got monetary support. Oakland is going to cut down trees cause they are none native because FEMA is giving a huge grant. These trees are part of the landscape and home to thousands of fauna and flora! Oh forgot there is also going to be pesticide spraying-that of course will just stay on the stump and not seep into the ground and our ground water. How many creeks are there in Oakland and the City through it's will to build at neighbors and surrounding environments have devastated creeks below developments....Only if those creeks sit on public property or have public access are they rebuilt back up. Creek Ordinance is a joke. There is no will to address environmental issues unless there is

\$\$\$'s involved for the City. I would love to say that had the will to address environmental issues but they don't have the leadership! When you are hearing an incumbent state that marijuana dispensaries mean jobs for Oakland, this means a very sad state of affairs facing our city. Now if you mean the Cartel is now legal then that's a whole other ball game! Eleven year old's old'scan now be given oxycodone...We need jobs that manufacture needed life sustaining items and food not continuing to deaden the mind and the will to achieve.

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<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_edn1](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_edn1)>[i] (BND)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' 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 BNDdoes (the BND BNDhas returned over \$400,000,000 to the General Fund of the State of North Dakota over the last 21 years,<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_edn2](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_edn2)>[ii] while substantially increasing its capitalization and its loan outreach)

<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_ednref1](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_ednref1)> [i]<https://bnd.bndnd.ndgov/>

<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_ednref2](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_ednref2)> [ii]<<https://ilsr.org/rule/bank-of-north-dakota-2/>><https://ilsr.org/rule/bank-of-north-dakota-2/>

**This is a fantastic program and would be a benefit to Oakland but unless you change the leadership and get individuals on board that understand business this will get screwed up! Remembering that Oakland is a machine run city and things are not supposed to work other than to benefit a few. As is being depicted today with Jerry running Oakland and developers being given free reign. Yes businesses have moved to Oakland but there has been no rush to hire because they brought their workforce with them.**

**Oakland already has the Community Bank and that is not promoted. This bank used to be talked about back in the 1990's but rarely now. Mind set is not there and the Chamber or Oakland Rotary is comfortable with the status quo.**

13. Local Payday Lenders -- Oakland is awash with for-profit Check Cashing and PayDay PayDayLoan emporiums (a simple Google query<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_edn1](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_edn1)>[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 MehrsaBaradaran, MehrsaBaradaran in her book *How the Other Half Banks*, <[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_edn2](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_edn2)> [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 <[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_edn3](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_edn3)> [iii] (CCC) CCC in Fruitvale 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 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 <[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_edn4](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_edn4)> [iv])?

<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_ednref1](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_ednref1)> [i] Type 'Oakland 'Oakland Payday lenders' lenders' into Google Search and click on the resulting map.

<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_ednref2](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_ednref2)> [ii] NALC. NALC org "Author makes the case for postal banking" <<http://tinyurl.com/h9e6a2p>> <http://tinyurl.com/h9e6a2p>

*h9e6a2p Baradaran Baradaran noted that the average unbanked 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.*

<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_ednref3](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_ednref3)> [iii] <http://communitycheckcashing.com> [communitycheckcashing.org](http://communitycheckcashing.org)

<[https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#\\_ednref4](https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=6co0ld79gnuf3#_ednref4)> [iv] Oakland City Council agenda, June 15th, 2016 <http://tinyurl.com/jzy398p>

jzy398p

**YES I would definitely support this..I hate usury and abusive bullies, cause they can!**

14. Satisfaction of Residents -- How do you think the average resident feels about city government? How would you rate the satisfaction level? **ZERO and Fed up but tired it has been going on tooo long!**

15. Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland? **I am already and have been for over 30 years...My phone rings at all hours for assistance, gr itching or hand holding. Others who fear having their name on something that the public needs to know call or email e to get it out there...Which I do if I agree with their position. I am running to give people a voice and ear.**

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? **At this moment in time if I where on the Council I can work with Desley, Noel, Larry and Ann Campbell. This Council is skid-dish compared with the council when Ignacio was president...the majority was clear. Since Kernighan the majority click was always there but the knowledge and abilities as leaders deteriorated, leaving much to be desired and lacking for the City. As a woman I am ashamed of the women that have been elected (cause they are nice or smile a lot) with no sense for what they are there to do.**

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. **My endorsers are community members and neighborhood leaders. I have no expectations for endorsers because I won't be beholden. I am running for the community...I have not looked at who is running as I have no intention of voting for Hillary or Trump. State candidates have not looked at those races either. Only City seat I can vote in is At Large and I would vote for ME...not impressed by Peggy, Rebecca or Matt. Doug Quan peaks my interest but need to know more and whose backing him. I am sorry Barbara Parker is running unopposed.**

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). **None at the moment but will be lending myself \$5,000.00. If I receive contributions they will only come from community members.**

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? **Libby is not liked and comes with a lot of baggage. Libby is running Peggy Moore because she needs a guaranteed vote on the Council..If she has allies they would probably be Anne Campbell Washington, Abel Guillen and Dan Kalb. Barbara Parker is in her on world and she and Brenda Roberts are most likely not friends but tolerance comes to mind. I have no idea about what they would want changed in the Charter. I would like Rank Choice Voting repelled, Go**

**back to the City Manager from of government and term limits on council members.**

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

**Money in elections is wrong because it sends the wrong message. Over the years some of us who follow Oak politics new that a lot of illegal funds crossed hands but no one would listen. I believe along with charter changes that a committee of committed individuals would need to come together and work on these issues. Though changes, through Dan Kalb's aide (non Oaklander who knows it all) that Dan took the credit for, where made to the PEC; it was a real watered down version compared to what Ralph Kanz and I proposed and Dan said "oh we can do that later". To make reform happen the PEC needs to be completely separate from city government. YES, I support amending the Constitution to stop Corporate rights and get money out of politics!! Yes I have signed the pledge and this is not the first one I have signed..There are a couple of others out there.**

21. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? **I believe I have said enough but have lot's more that I could say. I love this city and have a passion to work to bring about positive change but it will take a whole city to make it happen.**

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? **NO**

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

Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? **NO**

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**

Would you vote to allow more greywater systems? **YES**

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire