

**GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY QUESTIONNAIRE for
ALBANY CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES - 2016**

Candidate name: Nick Pilch
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Occupation: Director, Cloud Operations
Campaign Chair: <self>
Treasurer: <self>

Please briefly summarize your background, qualifications, and reasons for seeking to serve on the Albany City Council.

I've served on the City Council for the past two years and spent 9 years on City Commission, including Planning and Zoning, prior to that. I've also recently served on the School Board's Sustainability Committee.

I'm an active community leader and volunteer, as well as a Sierra Club elected leader and Outings leader. My community service includes co-founding Albany Strollers & Rollers, an active local pedestrian and cyclist advocacy group, as well as being a board member for Carbon Neutral Albany. The efforts of Carbon Neutral Albany continue with ACRAT, the Albany Carbon Reduction Action Team, of which I am a member.

The qualities I bring to the Council are active leadership and an ability to work leaders and citizens across the political spectrum. I have used my time to improve the City's electronic communication efforts and ensure that all meeting materials are posted electronically. I have directly brought forward a sugar-sweetened beverage tax ballot measure, and significantly supported the sidewalk tax and Measure D reform ballot measure efforts. I was a strong advocate for the creation of the new Economic Development Commission.

Please summarize your understanding of the city's budget in terms of current status and projected future status? What is your approach to the budget going forward, given current and likely near-future economic conditions? Please share any specific proposals you have for changes in the city's budget.

Our budget is sound. We are enjoying the benefits of good economic times. However, revenues to the City's general fund, from which salaries are paid, is volatile and can significantly decrease in less good economic times. I have noted that staff has not hired back to pre-recession levels. This may be a reasonable thing, but I am concerned with level of staff in the Community Development Department. The Community Development Department, which oversees building and construction, is a very important cog in our economic engine. Going forward, I will continue to examine the need for more hiring and/or reconfiguration of the Community Development Department in order to meet Albany's need for Economic Stability. Businesses and Developers with good green projects should not be thwarted in their efforts to land in Albany.

What is your vision for future development along Solano and San Pablo Avenues? What is your view of the development currently under construction in UC Village at San Pablo and Monroe?

I want a thriving local business community along Solano and San Pablo Avenues. In addition, I support dense infill housing along these transportation corridors with mitigation measures for neighbors such as stepping down building heights. Albany's upper portion of Solano has not yet been revitalized as has lower Solano to be more attractive and pedestrian-friendly, but this is planned and I strongly support this to be important to the success of Solano Avenue. Similarly, San Pablo Avenue, needs revitalization – complete streets compliance, with pedestrian safety improvements, cycling improvements, and street trees.

I support the UC Village project. I think there were some missed opportunities there for housing above the grocery store, and more dense development in general. I was part of a process that forced the developer to comply to stricter environmental measures that had previously been negotiated – some excellent bicycle facilities and solar panels for the senior housing project.

A recent update on Albany's annual greenhouse gas emissions indicates a reduction of about 10% in 2011 compared to 2004. This is remarkable given that Albany's population increased by 13% from 2000 to 2010. Still, a projection based on reasonable assumptions indicates Albany will likely miss its target of a 25% reduction from 2004 levels by 2020. What is your plan for Albany to achieve its target?

Support the Climate Action Plan and the Sustainability Committee. In Council votes, I have supported the proposals put forward by the Sustainability Committee time and time again. We have some great people working on that Committee coming up with great ideas. It's time we moved forward with their implementation ideas for our Climate Action Plan. A BESO program and UUT tax were some of the latest ideas brought forward by this Committee.

This year's ballot features a city-council sponsored ballot measure for a parcel tax to repair sidewalks, and another to remove a 2 parking spot per residential mandate enacted by voters in 1978. What is your stance on each of these measures? Will you be actively supporting or opposing one or the other?

I strongly support both. A key to a sustainable city is the support of alternative transportation – walking, bicycling, take transit. A key to supporting walking is the maintenance of our sidewalks. Prop 13 and subsequent state action influenced many cities to put the burden of maintaining sidewalks on adjacent property owners. How strange is this? Do we make each adjacent property owner maintain her/his portion of the street? Taking into account our small budget, the city is not proposing removing the liability from adjacent property owners, but giving them support by addressing the worst areas. After all, we all use potentially all of our sidewalks. A important part of assessing the worst areas is prioritizing walk routes to schools.

Measure N1, "Measure D reform", is another key to a sustainable city. The city needs control over parking standards. No other city that I am aware of has passed a voter initiative for parking requirements – it's highly unusual and has hurt the city a great deal. The effect has been to stifle almost all residential development. With no residential development, in the current climate, rents have skyrocketed. Providing more housing stock is one very effective measure towards keeping rents down. Additionally, Measure N1 is vital to revitalizing our city. Many developers are poised to come to Albany with smart developments when Measure N1 passes. We will see San Pablo Ave. become more vibrant as empty single-story storefronts and unused parking lots are replaced by new developments with ground floor retail and housing above, as it envisioned in our General Plan. Especially in the north of Albany, we should encourage this and I can envision some dense housing developments without the need for much parking, as commuters can easily access BART for their commutes.

Who has endorsed you or is supporting your candidacy? Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races?

My campaign is a bit behind as I have been doing city business and support the Sugar-sweetened Beverage tax ballot measure. However, I have the endorsement of the Mayor, and expect majority Council and School Board endorsements, along with many endorsements from Commission and Committee members. I am endorsed by the Sierra Club and believe I will be

endorsed by regional leaders as well. I expect my endorsements will resemble my 2012 endorsements and be even stronger: HYPERLINK "http://www.nickpilch4albany.com/endorsements" <http://www.nickpilch4albany.com/endorsements>

My wife, a Green Party member, also endorse me. ☺

Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics? Have you HYPERLINK "https://movetoamend.org/pledge"Taken the Pledge to Amend?
(HYPERLINK "https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend"https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend)

YES! Thank you for referring me to the Pledge to Amend. I just took it and indicated I would work to restore campaign finance limits in my second term if re-elected. The current climate means that corporations have undue influence and candidates and supporters must expend inordinate energy and time, must raise and spend an inordinate amount of money in order to win. This time, energy and money could be spent to the betterment of society.

The following are the 10 Key Values of the Green Party (more details available at HYPERLINK "http://www.cagreens.org/platform/10k.shtml" <http://www.cagreens.org/platform/10k.shtml>). In view of these values, why do you feel your candidacy merits Green Party endorsement?

Green Party 10 Key Values:

- Ecological wisdom
- Social Justice
- Non violence
- Grassroots democracy
- Decentralization
- Community based economics
- Feminism
- Respect for diversity
- Personal and global responsibility
- Sustainability

I can honestly say that I support all of these values. I am also particularly concerned with something that seems to lie across a number of these values, which is the growing economic divide in our country.

My work as a City Councilmember and with Albany Strollers & Rollers and Carbon Neutral Albany goes directly to sustainability, ecological wisdom and personal and global responsibility and grassroots activism. By helping people rely less on fossil fuels and pollute less with their cars, I am making Albany and the planet more sustainable.

A sustainable Albany must improve the existing walking and cycling features to help us all, children and adults, confidently reduce our automobile reliance. This reliance is environmentally unsustainable, and also damages our community bonds. Automobile usage demonstrably reduces the number of community relationships we form. These are the essence of our social fabric and a key to maintaining the "small town" we love. To support this shift away from automobile usage, though, we need to redesign the remaining barriers to human-scale transit, such as the impediment Buchanan presents for safely traveling on foot or bike to

our waterfront. As a co-founder of Albany Strollers & Rollers, I have a record of success on such issues. As a City Councilmember I have fully supported our Active Transportation Plan and Climate Action Plan.

I will revisit our living wage ordinance and introduce appropriate minimum wage legislation if re-elected.

I support woman's rights. I am a long time (>12 years) NOW member.