

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to: GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com.
In the subject line, please include "Oakland Mayor"

If it is not possible for you to email, please mail your responses to:
Oakland Mayor
c/o Green Party of Alameda County ,
2022A Blake Street * Berkeley, CA 94704

Please respond by Saturday, August 23, 2014

Name: Rebecca Kaplan

Phone: (510) 463-4946

Email: Jason@kaplanforoakland.org

Website: www.kaplanforoakland.org

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 chose to run for Mayor in order to help build a future in Oakland of social justice, shared economic opportunity, ecological sustainability, and respect for democracy. I am extremely thankful to the many Green Party activists who encouraged me, taught me, and urged me to be a part of the solution – to help “overgrow the government.” I am serving in, and seeking public office in order to put important values into action.

It was thanks to many in the Green Party that I ran for the Oakland City Council, At-large seat in 2000, in my first run for public office. I received 44% of the vote, and then went on to gain a seat on the AC Transit Board of Directors, elected in 2002, and re-elected in 2006, to represent over 1 million people throughout Alameda County and Western Contra Costa County.

While on the AC Transit Board I helped implement late night service, biofuels, solar power, and quality local jobs. I was elected to the Oakland City Council At-Large seat in November 2008, by 62% of the vote. As a result, I have the opportunity to engage in public service to advance our crucial shared goals. While on the Oakland City Council, and as Oakland's representative on the Alameda County Transportation Commission and Expenditure Plan Committee, I have successfully fought for the free youth bus pass, funding to increase local transit operations, bicycle and pedestrian programs, and more, which will create over 40,000 new jobs while improving quality of life and sustainability.

On the city Council I have led the fight against Wall Street misconduct – including our work on Goldman Sachs. I have worked for and passed a new law to hold banks accountable for the blight they cause in their foreclosures – a law to literally make the banks begin to “pay the price” of the harms they are causing in our neighborhoods.

I stood with you in implementing and defending grassroots democracy in the struggle over Ranked Choice Voting. Ranked Choice Voting was overwhelmingly approved by Oakland voters, with my active endorsement and support, and with the very active and devoted advocacy for many years, and with direct campaign work to pass it on the ballot, done by the Green Party . Even after it passed overwhelmingly, political forces opposed to grassroots democracy continued to try to prevent it from being implemented. This issue came to a head during preparations for the 2010 election. I advocated for implementation of RCV (also referred to as IRV), and I won that fight on the City Council. After the 2010 election, which was a major success of RCV working exactly as intended, my challenger again sought to overturn the law, and pushed for a ballot measure to return elections to June. That move would reduce voter turnout by about 40%, and disproportionately disenfranchises younger voters and people of color. I worked successfully to stop the overturning of RCV.

Looking ahead, I know that there is more we need to do. We have passed local hiring policies, and we need to make sure they are fully implemented. We need to protect and improve our violence prevention services, and build trust between the police department and the community, including by hiring more people from Oakland to work in the police department, and by ending the use of militarized tactics. We have upcoming major projects that can happen with strong local leadership for transit-oriented development and local jobs, such as the Lake Merritt BART station area plan, and several others, which will need to be decided during the coming term. It is vital that we both envision, and actually plan for and build, a future for Oakland that is sustainable and inclusive – in which we make improvements in ways that directly benefit the residents of the community and provide win-win situations with local jobs and housing and improved pedestrian and bicycle safety and easier access to local shopping so people drive less, and repaired sidewalk, and ease for all ages, income levels, and dis/abilities.

In the coming term, we must resolve the issues surrounding police oversight and the negotiated settlement agreement. We must continue to take steps to strengthen economic opportunity in our local community, while also preparing for future food security and energy security. We will need to solve our economic crisis while also implementing things like community gardens, plan for climate change mitigations, and substantially improve community-police relations.

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?

- Job creation, in-sourcing of jobs & expanding economic opportunity
- Stopping gun violence and getting rid of illegal guns
- Neighborhood revitalization, including community gardens and water projects

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 hold a Bachelor of Science from MIT (psychology), a Masters in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts, and a JD from Stanford Law School. I have worked in the Oakland City Attorney's office fighting predatory lending, as a housing rights lawyer, as a campaigner for local progressive issues including Measure EE and Measure Z, as an At-Large representative on the AC Transit Board, and now as the At-Large City Council Member, elected in 2008 with 62% of the vote. In my time on the City Council I have passed legislation to fight blight and hold banks accountable for foreclosures, repealed outdated and discriminatory ordinances, revived the LGBT Roundtable and helped found Oakland Pride, cut red tape for small businesses downtown, expanded opportunities for music and culture, helped popular food-sector industries get through bureaucratic barriers to move into Oakland, launched the free Broadway Shuttle with regional grants, and increased City revenues without raising taxes on residents. I successfully fought for implementation of Instant Runoff Voting which was overwhelmingly approved by Oakland voters. I bring energy and dedication to the job of building a better future for Oakland.

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 a member of the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, the Sierra Club, the ACLU, and OCO, and actively working with multiple congregations in faith-based coalition efforts. I also work closely with the Oakland Climate Action Coalition, Causa Justa Just Cause, EBHO, and the coalition to Stop Goldman Sachs.

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 am active in an Oakland interfaith spiritual community (East Bay Church) and a Torah (bible) teacher who participates with and teaches in a variety of faith communities in Oakland. I bicycle regularly, and participate in community clean ups, tree plantings, and more.

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 budget crisis was caused by a range of factors, including specifically misconduct on Wall Street, and banks that engaged in predatory lending and improper foreclosures. That is why I have been fighting against unjust foreclosures and working to hold banks responsible for the harms they cause, and taking action against Goldman Sachs and the millions they cost us each year. In addition, in the past years Oakland wasted millions of dollars on militarized and overly heavy police deployments to marches and rallies --- and by avoiding that kind of wasteful action, we can save vitally needed funds for local community services.

In the most recent budget vote I successfully fought to restore needed community services including senior centers. I will continue to advocate to ensure that our core services are maintained and improved.

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 in Oakland are struggling, in terms of their personal safety in many cases, and also in their economic situations and often in terms of their sense of hope and options for their future. Youth of color also suffer disproportionate arrest, expulsion, and overuse of the criminal justice system against them.

A healthy future for Oakland requires better options for our youth. That is part of why I fought for and won the free youth bus pass, which will enable our young people to get to school, jobs, and after-school programs without the added burden of the cost of transportation. We also need to substantially expand both job opportunities, and other after-school opportunities for our young people. This should include specifics ranging from gardening and cooking programs, to options for help with academic work, to athletics and more. These programs help to keep our young people away from crime, and provide better opportunities, and they deserve our continued support.

We also must continue to expand job opportunities, such as the local opportunities for new apprentices which are part of the new waste franchise agreement. On upcoming projects and new funding there will be additional opportunities to provide opportunities for Oakland youth. And we must stop overcriminalizing our young people.

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.

When community policing is really done, it does usually work. Unfortunately, it isn't being done consistently. Real community policing requires having specifically-assigned officers located in specifically-assigned locations ("beats") in a long-term way, and including building real relationships and strong lines of communication between the officer and the local community. When people really get to know one another, and when an officer develops a strong enough understanding of a neighborhood, community policing can be very effective. However, if officers are constantly re-shuffled around, and repeatedly diverted from their local area in order to work on other things, then it is hard for the system to work effectively. That is why Oakland voters sought to have a community-policing officer for every beat. In addition, I am strongly advocating that Oakland prioritize hiring people from Oakland, with knowledge of our city and communities, in our police department, which will improve trust and understanding. Finally, we must not rely on the criminal justice system so often, and instead support restorative justice efforts, mediation, and other forms of resolving conflicts. California wastes more money on prisons than most of the rest of the planet, and has a horrible recidivism rate. We must ban the box so people can rebuild their lives after incarceration, stop imprisoning people for minor/nonviolent actions, end marijuana prohibition, and

stop the cycle of pushing kids out of school, cuts to social programs, while prison budgets keep going up.

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?

If it is done correctly, the West Oakland Army base project has the potential to simultaneously create thousands of good-paying local jobs while also improving human health and environmental sustainability. For example, the intermodal rail project can dramatically reduce air pollution by reducing truck traffic congestion. However, it will require ongoing efforts and diligence to make sure these goals are accomplished. We have passed a local hiring and local apprentice policy, but we need to continue to make sure they are implemented. The local jobs center needs to be strengthened, and transit shuttle service for workers needs to be established. It is my hope, and my intention, to continue to be a part of these efforts going forward, so that we bring trade logistics work (such as unpacking and sorting of goods), and related business like recycling, to locations directly adjacent to ships and rail, protect worker rights and opportunities, and expand revenue to help pay for vital local services.

Broadway-Valdez and others have the opportunity to increase accessible housing that all income levels can afford. In all cases, I will insist on substantial local hire and local small business inclusion to be genuinely implemented, so that the benefit of expanding economic opportunity really does benefit the local community.

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?

The city of Oakland did not deal properly with the protests. In fact, a report by an outside independent group looked at the conduct of OPD and other law enforcement agencies responding to the encampment and the protest, and found repeated instances of improper conduct. Some of the improper conduct was by OPD, and some of it was by other law enforcement agencies from throughout the region who also participated in these actions. Examples included use of excessive force against individuals, arresting people in large numbers without specific wrongdoing, use of gun-fired projectiles which are called "less than lethal" but which cause severe bodily injury and can kill people when used incorrectly, use of large quantities of tear gas in populated areas and firing tear gas canisters at people, and other problems. Due to the Federal monitoring of the Oakland police department, these problems are also being looked into by other oversight and can result in further Court orders. I oppose this type of misconduct, as I did (together with Greens and other allies) in 2003, when similar examples of police excessive force were used against us when we protested the Iraq war – in that example, protestors, and bystanders (including port workers) were injured by police projectiles. Following

that case, a settlement agreement was made which was intended to prevent future instances like this. I have continued to, and will continue to, oppose this type of misconduct and actively advocate for an end to these practices. In fact, we should not be allowing the deployment of police officers for crowd control with the types of weapons that are banned for use. Repeatedly over the years Oakland has paid millions of dollars in settlements for wrongfully shooting people with dangerous projectiles at rallies. We are under court order **not** to use these types of weapons for crowd control. So why are police officers still being given these prohibited weapons when they are sent out to do crowd control? This error must be corrected from top to bottom. Stop handing officers weapons that they are not allowed to use.

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?

I have a background in housing rights, including working as an attorney in Oakland helping to protect tenants, working to pass Measure EE Just Cause Eviction, and in our most recent budget action, working to increase the staffing for housing rights enforcement so that the laws we work for are fully implemented. It is essential that we take action now so that Oakland does not become a city which has only millionaires and the homeless. This means we must expand the supply of affordable housing, and substantially improve education about and implementation of laws to protect tenants from displacement. We must prevent people from losing their homes to wrongful evictions and unjust foreclosures, and preserve housing to be affordable for the long-term, including through the use of strategies like land trust, and the use of eminent domain against bank misconduct (such as vacant blighted foreclosed properties). I look at the housing crisis from both ends, we must prevent people from losing their homes or having their rent wrongfully jacked up, and we must develop new affordable housing to expand the supply over the long-term, including at transit-accessible locations. I also fought successfully for funding in both the new State Cap and Trade funding and in the Alameda County Transportation plan which will allow us to fund affordable housing at transit hubs in Oakland. I successfully advocated to add anti-displacement protections for existing residents in Transit Oriented Development project funding.

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

Since joining the Oakland city council I have won important efforts including passage of the Oakland Climate Action Plan, opposition to fracking and transportation of deadly fuels through Oakland, energy efficient lighting, and just recently, won huge improvements in our waste agreement to provide a third bin for organics in multi family buildings and food waste diversion for local green energy

through EBMUD. I believe we can solve Oakland's environmental and economic problems through sustainable development. For example, I am working to enhance key corridors with better lighting, faster transit, better bus shelters and improved pedestrian safety with money that's already available in the region for transit projects.

The City of Oakland needs a mayor with the track record and understanding of environmental priorities, and as mayor, I will bring these skills and insist that environmental standards be included throughout the city. This applies to all departments, but is especially important in public works, which with strong leadership could help implement environmental goals in areas ranging from water run off issues, to transportation planning, to ensuring our waste agreements are environmentally sound, and providing solar power for our buildings and sustainable fuel vehicles for our own fleet.

I will personally make these goals a requirement for the departments and agencies as mayor.

Some of the specific steps I have taken since joining the Oakland City Council to improve the environment include:

- a) Implementing the free green Broadway shuttle to reduce car traffic congestion
- b) Increasing bicycle safety, bike lanes, and bike parking to expand and promote bicycle use
- c) As Oakland's representative on the countywide waste and recycling authority, successfully working to adopt a mandatory recycling ordinance and mandatory diversion standards for composting and organics
- d) As Oakland's representative on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, successfully fighting for funding for transit operations, bike/ped programs, transit oriented development, and other strategies for environmental sustainability
- e) On the countywide waste and recycling authority, successfully working to adopt a single-use bag ban and fee program (which bans the use of disposable plastic bags and places a fee on the use of other, such as paper, disposable bags).
- f) Supporting the implementation of recycling and composting at city facilities
- g) Supporting the expansion of waste-to-green-energy production through a program with EBMUD
- h) Reducing particulate emissions and air pollution (and the human health problems they cause) though efforts both to clean up truck emissions, move truck parking out of neighborhoods, and expand freight rail
- i) Adopted the Oakland Climate Action Plan

Looking ahead, I have begun to work towards, and would seek to continue:

- a) Expanding solar power use in Oakland, both on city facilities, and supporting programs that make it easier for residents and local businesses to get and use solar power
- b) Expanding used grease collection and biodiesel opportunities
- c) Further reducing particulate emissions, air pollution, and truck congestion
- d) Expanding community garden opportunities and tree planting
- e) Ensuring that our transit-oriented development plans are properly implemented
- f) Further improvements to bicycle and pedestrian access and safety, including secure bike parking through bike stations
- g) Switching city lighting to more energy-efficient lights
- h) Following through on the elements of the Oakland Climate Action Plan
- i) Expanding “shore power” at the Port to reduce emissions from ships
- j) Expanding Oakland’s reputation and outreach as a hub for green businesses

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

Currently, the Oakland community does not have high confidence and satisfaction in the ability of the local government to meet their needs. I intend to make core city services and efficient government my top priority as mayor.

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

I be an accessible, communicative, and responsive Mayor. I will attend community meetings often, as well as regional boards. I will be actively engaged in community movements to improve the City, and will continue to hold regular meetings both for policy development, implementation of community recommendations, and to hear new input.

15. Do we need an Oakland Progressive Alliance akin to the one in Richmond, and if so, who should be members?

Yes, I do believe many important issues can be better advanced by working together to advance common progressive goals. For example, Greens worked together with tenants' rights activists and progressive Democrats to pass Just Cause Eviction/Measure EE in Oakland. I would be happy to support such efforts, including around issues of: ending the cycle of incarceration/job access for re-entry, housing protections, community-based agriculture, sustainability, job access for local residents, and more.

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 have an effective working relationship with a majority of councilmembers – and have worked with them to pass important progressive legislation.

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.

I have been endorsed by the California Nurses Association, The Harvey Milk Club, Oakland Firefighters, the Victory Fund, SEIU Local 1021 (#2), Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti, former State Senator Sheila Kuehl, Hayward Mayor Barbara Halliday, and more.

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).

Our budget for this race is \$350,000. We have raised \$143,000 to date.

I have received contributions from people in all walks of life. I have invested in micro-donor software to expand the small donor base as well -- so that my campaign can be funded by ordinary people in small, affordable amounts. In addition, I have the honor of being supported by some organizations who are seeking contributions from their members, expanding our base of donors, and have financial support from the California Nurses Association and SEIU.

I would refuse any contribution that violated the law, or any contribution which came with an expectation that I would violate my principles or vote a particular way on an issue or project. I have been public about my positions and platform – and would refuse any contribution that was based on any expectation of going against these values.

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?

As mayor, I will use the bully pulpit and administrative leadership to drive Oakland in a positive, progressive direction. I have prided myself on my ability to work with both the administrative and legislative branches in my years in office.

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

Oakland has some important campaign finance reform protections in place. It is important to have confidence that there is a real authority to enforce them, which is why I am working to strengthen the public ethics commission, and urging a Yes vote on a ballot measure this November to strengthen public ethics in Oakland. In addition, we could further minimize the role of money in politics by furthering public funding of local elections.

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

It is important that we respect Oakland as a City for people of all income levels. I was a leading campaigner for the successful Measure EE (Just Cause Evictions) initiative, which protects all Oaklanders against arbitrary displacement. I will continue to fight unjust foreclosures and blight by holding banks accountable, including bringing legal action to enforce compliance with the new blight and foreclosure ordinance that I passed on the City Council in 2009. We can ensure that the benefits of growth are shared with Oakland residents by creating a strong local-hire requirement for projects that use City resources from Redevelopment funding to land acquisition.

As an active member of the Green Party for many years, I worked together with many of you to advance our shared goals. Although I am not currently registered as a Green party member, I have maintained, and will maintain, my commitment to taking action in support of green values, including economic justice, grassroots democracy and ecological sustainability. As Mayor, I would work with you and others to develop a sustainable inclusive future in Oakland, one with easy bicycle and pedestrian access and good, affordable public transit, one with grey water systems, community gardens, and thriving local artists. One in which economic opportunity for all is taken seriously, with jobs for local residents, and improved trust between the police and the community.

I honor and respect the Green Party, and respect your giving your first choice

endorsement to the Green Party candidate. I respectfully ask for your #2 vote and recommendation in this election.

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

-- Do you support the renewal of Measure Y? Yes

-- Do you support the minimum wage proposal? Yes

-- Are you in favor of a police commission? Yes

-- Do you support Dan Kalb's proposal on oversight and transparency?
Yes

-- Are you in favor of receiving public complaints against police officers
at the Civilian Police Review Board? Yes

-- Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis?
Yes

-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? Yes

-- 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 grey water systems? Yes