

Question		Answer
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1	Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office?	<p>I believe our democracy (locally and nationally) is no longer a government of the People, by the People, and for the People. It is rather a government of the Politicians, by the Politicians, and for the Politicians. Unless someone from outside the system takes action, we will be doomed to the same self-serving politicians who will sell us out for personal gains every time.</p> <p>There is absolutely no personal gain for me to devote 4 (or 8) years of my life to be the Mayor of Oakland other than the pleasure of having brought my life experience to serve my community. In fact, spending 4 (or 8) years as the mayor is certain to have a detrimental financial impact on me. Nonetheless, given my personal circumstances of having the means and flexibility to enter and impact the race as well as the capabilities to serve my community compelled me to enter this year's race.</p>
2	<p>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?</p>	<p>In my opinion, the top 2 priorities for Oakland are 1) Quality and Affordable homes for our low income citizens, and 2) Low Unemployment. I have discussed my approach to item 1 elsewhere (Question #11) in this questionnaire; therefore, I will focus on item 2 here, Low Unemployment.</p> <p>For Low Unemployment, I will have a 2-pronged approach to address by the supply side (skilled workers) and demand side (quality jobs) as described below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Job Training. I will mobilize an initiative to support construction-related training programs. In the Bay area, there will be an insatiable need for construction skills for the foreseeable future. Therefore, I would work with local contractors to expand apprenticeship programs with limited subsidies/tax breaks from the City.</li> <li>2. Job Creation. I will work with large services corporations to locate some of their call centers in Oakland as we have, arguably, the highest</li> </ol>

		<p>concentration of multi-lingual residents with the highest language diversity in the country. By tapping into the currently vacant warehouse or office spaces, this would be a rapid ramp-up effort that will result in increased employment within months.</p> <p>I would also look to specialty light manufacturing. In particular, I would target bicycle manufacturing (high end handmade bikes and bikes designed for bike share programs) and equipment/products used for urban beautification projects (e.g., park benches, playground equipment, urban gardening items, etc). Products from both of these programs would be heavily influenced with an artistic flair that would be uniquely Oakland.</p>
3	<p>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?</p>	<p>Over the course of my adulthood, I have amassed a wide variety of experiences from delivering pizza, to starting a thriving business, to managing fast food restaurants, to serving as a senior executive on large multi-national companies (Accenture and CallidusCloud). I bring the firsthand knowledge of all aspects of "making-a-living" to connect with the People of Oakland far above any other candidate. By far, I am the only candidate with the know-how, passion, experience, and utmost integrity to serve every resident of Oakland faithfully without any conflict of interest.</p>
4	<p>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.</p>	<p>No. I have been exploring various loosely organized groups for personal edification in the past few months. However, my extensive job-related travel schedule precluded me from getting involved prior to 2014.</p>
5	<p>Local activities --</p>	<p>I have not participated much in local activities</p>

	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.	<p>recently. However, in the past, I have served in the following capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Big Brother, Big Brother Big Sister program</li> <li>- Corporate sponsored volunteerism, school beautification projects, elementary reading events, etc.</li> <li>- Habitat For Humanity volunteer</li> <li>- Day of Caring volunteer</li> <li>- Hosting Toys For Tots events</li> <li>- Serving at meal preparation and serving events at various organizations</li> <li>- Mentoring youth involved in criminal conduct</li> </ul>
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?	<p>On the Oakland Mayor Movement platform, I have published that I would institute a Participatory Budgeting process. It is imperative to seek direct input from our constituents on where and how their money should be spent. Based on their input, we would be able to ensure that we are targeting the right programs. I realize that this process will take a few cycles to perfect, but we must start at some point.</p>
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?	<p>Our youth comprises our most vulnerable citizens with the greatest potential. What a highly charged combination! As such, we must do everything in our power to equip them with the right tools for success.</p> <p>As I travel the streets of Oakland, mostly downtown and West Oakland, I see many youths with nothing to do. This is a travesty. As has been said, "idle hands are the devil's workshop."</p> <p>With the help from local corporations, we must create programs that help our youth become gainfully active. It can be any form of job training, education, physical activity or employment. As a former executive in large corporations, I know that companies look for opportunities to achieve triple bottom line (financial, social, and environmental) objectives. As such, they are eager to engage in civic programs with high visibility to draw positive investor and public attention to their non-financial impact to their communities.</p>
8	Police -- How do you think our community	<p>I believe our Community Policing is beginning to show positive results. But there is much room for</p>

	<p>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.</p>	<p>improvement when it comes to Police conduct. We need some fundamental and some subtle changes in OPD with examples listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Officers must be assigned to the same beat for at least 2 years.</li> <li>2. Officers must spend a portion of their time walking the beat during their patrol.</li> <li>3. Officers must reside in Oakland.</li> <li>4. We must expand Community Policing to include Community Prosecutions (i.e., Restorative Justice).</li> <li>5. Officers must interact with the public in a respectful manner (e.g., remove shades when talking with someone).</li> <li>6. Police must reduce its forceful gear and appearance at all times, except in severe cases (e.g., terrorist attack).</li> </ol>
9	<p>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?</p>	<p>West Oakland Army Base: Mr. Tagami cannot serve as Oakland's agent when his company is the developer of the project. Who could ever think that it's a good idea? We must form an oversight committee to oversee timely execution of that project or it will be squandered away.</p> <p>Upper Broadway-Valdez Triangle. I like this project.</p> <p>Oak to 9<sup>th</sup>. I don't have enough firsthand knowledge of this project.</p> <p>West Oakland Specific Plan. I think this project should be re-worked with more participation from the community.</p> <p>Jack London development. I support modifying the permit to allow residential development, but keep the FAR the same as before.</p>
10	<p>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?</p>	<p>Focusing on closure of Negotiated Settlement Agreement is entirely premature. We must honor the spirit under which it was formed. As such, I don't think our Police Department is where it needs to be with regard to social and racial awareness. Overturning termination of Officer Roche is a telltale sign of it.</p> <p>Above all, we need to demilitarize our police. At a recent demonstration that I attended, the police showed up in higher numbers than the protestors, in</p>

		<p>better physical condition (mostly young men) than most protestors, and equipped with full riot gear (e.g., face masks, shields) along with their standard outfit (e.g., lethal weapons) and vehicles. I was speechless when the sergeant in charge told me that he is concerned about the safety of his officers.</p> <p>There is no doubt that we are far from where we need to be to have a police department that understands its #1 role as a public servant. Until then, there cannot be any discussion of ending the NSA, irrespective of its financial cost to our City.</p>
11	<p>Housing &amp; 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?</p>	<p>On the Oakland Mayor Movement, I have stated that I would take a 50% pay cut to fund a position on my staff entirely dedicated to this matter. It is an extremely sensitive and complex issue. Therefore, it cannot be addressed properly without fulltime dedication of a qualified individual. As the first assignment for this role, I would establish the current inventory of affordable homes by type and by neighborhood and institute a no net loss of affordable homes to protect against displacement. In addition, I would ensure quality living standards by enforcing Building Codes in all rental homes.</p>
12	<p>Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment?</p>	<p>There are many proposals that address environmental concerns at the macro level. However, as the mayor, I would look to implement programs that instill a spirit of environmentally conscious behavior among our citizen that will have a lasting impact on our every day actions. Among them, I would promote use of bicycles via the bike share program, installation of car charging stations, and narrowing or closing some street with outdoor markets to promote more pedestrian-friendly activities.</p>
13	<p>Satisfaction of Residents -- How do you think the average resident feels about city government? How would you rate the satisfaction level?</p>	<p>Not very good. Our citizens are extremely suspicious of our politicians and disenfranchised by the system. Frankly, it's no better or worse than the rest of the country. And that's a sad situation for such a progressive city.</p>
14	<p>Accountability -- How do you propose</p>	<p>On the Oakland Mayor Movement platform, I have specified that I would institute a program where 5</p>

	making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland?	<p>citizens are selected at random (with advance registration) to accompany the mayor each week. These individuals would 1) serve as eyes and ears of other Oaklanders into the affairs of the Mayor, 2) Gain an appreciation for what it takes to run our city, and 3) bring a fresh perspective to the issues that we face.</p> <p>In addition, the platform includes Participatory Budgeting process.</p>
15	Do we need an Oakland Progressive Alliance akin to the one in Richmond, and if so, who should be members?	<p>Yes. Interestingly, the very first line in RPA's About Us is "We believe that what people do is more important than what they say", is entirely in line with the theme that I have been espousing since initiating this movement when referring to our coin-operated candidates/politicians: "Believe Their Actions; Question Their Words."</p> <p>As for membership, I don't have enough knowledge of potential individuals who would be suitable members of the Alliance.</p>
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?	<p>In my career, I have encountered many individuals with a variety of backgrounds, objectives, principles, and methods. As such, I have gained valuable experience on how to be effective in gaining trust and cooperation of others.</p> <p>As the Mayor, all of my actions and decisions will be founded on the best interest of Oaklanders. If I encounter resistance from individuals whose objectives are not aligned with this foundation, I will work with them amicably to the extent possible to achieve a solution that protects our citizens. However, if I must, I will not shy away from exposing their conflicts to the public. I am confident that with my leadership style and proper transparency and disclosures, we will have an effective City Hall in Oakland.</p>
17	Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you? Who do you endorse in the other City	<p>None to date. And no idea on who may or may not endorse the Oakland Mayor Movement. However, I will continue to press on as I believe the Oakland Mayor Movement is our only hope at this time to change the course of history for Oakland and, possibly, our country. The current course is not sustainable.</p>

	<p>racers? 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.</p>	<p>I have not finalized my decision on who will receive my other 2 votes. But I have excluded Mr. Parker and Ms. Kaplan as I consider them enemy #1 to our democracy.</p>
18	<p>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).</p>	<p>As much/little as necessary as the Oakland Mayor Movement is entirely self-funded. I will NOT accept any contributions of any kind from any source.</p>
19	<p>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?</p>	<p>Based on my observations, I don't see any structural issues of significance with our city government. What I see is a function of a mayor who suffers from a total lack of situational awareness, inability to connect with our citizens, and ineptitude to build a cohesive Council. I don't have an opinion with regard to the relationship with the City Auditor and City Attorney.</p> <p>What I would do differently is I would engender a strong relationship with each neighborhood in our community by attending neighborhood events so that I could bring a perspective to the Council that is representative of the constituents in all districts. In addition, I would work intimately with each Councilmember to avoid unnecessary friction among them. Above all, I would be much more proactive and vocal when issues are discussed in the City Council. With our "Strong Mayor" model, it is imperative that we have a mayor who takes charge of issues and influences the Council.</p>
20	<p>Money in elections. -- Does Oakland need campaign finance reform? If so, what kind?</p>	<p>Absolutely. \$405,000 is patently absurd for a city of 400,000 residents, with about 200,000 registered voters. As published in the Oakland Mayor Movement, I would work to impose a \$10,000 cap on the Mayor campaign races with 50% reimbursement to the top 10 candidates after the election.</p>

21	Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?	
Question		Answer (Yes/No)
Do you support the renewal of Measure Y?		Yes.
Do you support the minimum wage proposal?		Yes. I would work to get it to \$15 ASAP.
Are you in favor of a police commission?		Yes, provided this commission would have citizen members on it.
Do you support Dan Kalb's proposal on oversight and transparency?		Yes, in principle. I would need more time to understand the specifics and mechanics.
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. But would look for other alternatives to protect against evictions first.
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. I would look for expanding Community Policing to include Community Prosecution.
Do you support Community Choice Aggregation?		Yes. It should be inclusive of cities around Oakland, not just Oakland alone.
Would you vote to allow more grey water systems?		Yes.