

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Name: [Scott Donahue](#)

Phone: 510-435-1861

Email: emeryvillescott2014@gmail.com

Website: www.donahue2014.org

Line of work: **artist/public art**

1. What are three major issues in Emeryville that need to be addressed now? What creative ideas do you have to address these issues?

- Getting people out of their cars and increasing bike and pedestrian access: Our growing residential community needs to be developed so that it will encourage bicycle, pedestrian and public transit use. As a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, I have advocated and worked towards making Bicycle parking and storage more convenient than automobile parking and storage. It should take less time to roll out of your safe and convenient bicycle parking with your trailer attached to go shopping than it is to get in your car. Pedestrians and bicyclists must enjoy safer access to our public streets. If elected, I will work to ensure that all parts of our city are more conveniently transversed by pedestrian and bicycle modes. Additionally, I will provide leadership on the issue of connecting the Bay Trail from our Peninsula area in a safe manner than is currently proposed (i.e. not the injury zone at the Powell Street off ramp), as well as for creation of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the tracks at 53rd St.

- Preserving & Expanding Public Transportation: Our shuttle bus service Emery Go Round is in trouble, it's too popular for our current system of funding. Current proposals suggest reducing service at a time when we should be expanding service. If elected, I will work to not only preserve, but expand Emery Go Round and advocate for greater access to regional public transit. As a result of the extreme amount of big-box, retail and outlet stores in Emeryville, people drive from all around the Bay Area come here to shop. This results in

disproportionate amounts of carbon emissions in Emeryville's atmosphere. I believe finding ways to limit the amount of incoming traffic to our retail community the reduction of parking and increasing access to public transit, and would seek to serve on local and regional transit authorities if elected to the City Council.

Reinvigorating Emeryville through affordable housing and limited equity co-ops: To accomplish this I would work to encourage limited equity housing co-ops, like the one I co-founded and currently reside in, that will provide stable sustainable low to moderate income housing for eternity and ensure that any future housing development is transit-oriented and affordable.

2. Who has endorsed you so far (groups and individuals of note)?

Unite Here Local 2850
Residents United for a Livable Emeryville (R.U.L.E)
Mayor Jacqueline Ascher
councilmember Jennifer West
councilmember Ruth Atkin
councilmember Nora Davis

3. How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?

I have about \$3800 in the bank right now. I've raised over \$6000 to date. My total budget is \$15,000. I will employ persuasion, pressure to individuals and businesses until I make my budget.

4. Why did you choose to run for this office? What strength/ skills would you bring to the Council?

I've been involved in this community a long time – 37 years. I think I have an accurate understanding of what we can achieve and the ability to persuade others to do it. I've served on the Bicycle and Pedestrian committee for more than 10 years, and have also been active with the community organization Residents for A Livable Emeryville (R.U.L.E). I've also been involved with the public art process for more than 20 years, whereas public agencies and/or private owners come together with an artist to make public art.

5. What major Emeryville development of the last 10 years do you least respect and why? Most respect.

Least – Bay St., Mall. It turns its back on our local community and is purely regional retail. They have no local hire, no CBA, pathetic bicycle and pedestrian access, oceans of minimum-wage jobs and it does not look like it will be sustainable. Respect – Ambassador Housing project. It is affordable family-friendly housing.

6. How can we attract more families into Emeryville?

Create more limited equity housing that encourages people with low cost minimum amenities basic space living that will allow for the shareholder to develop their own amenities over time. Retain our under two-minute police response time while developing more user-friendly public space and a school system that works. Provide better access and connectivity for bikers and pedestrians and increase public transit options.

7. Traffic is a major problem in Emeryville and with all the development in the pipeline it seems likely to get worse. How would you work to lessen this?

I would work to improve our bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure while expanding our public transit.

8. The Emeryville Center for Community Life is now under construction. Are you in agreement with the present vision for its use? What new ideas or changes would you suggest or support? How do you feel about its present sources and level of funding?

The vision is glorious as presented by the original backers but the reality seems much bleaker – less space per student, reduced amenities and problems attracting and retaining quality teachers. Many Years Ago I was a mathematics tutor volunteer for the high school. The students who chose not to be tutored resented those accepting tutoring. We need a complete change where the community becomes meaningfully involved so that those that choose to be in the Emeryville system know that they will be looked after, pressured to achieve critical thinking skills and entertained with mathematics. The city is starting to become more involved with the school system now and therefore because of our investment of actual dollars we can change the culture for the better.

9. What is your opinion about developers signing community benefit agreements in Emeryville? Please include in your answer specific reference to the (former) Sherwin-Williams property.

Until the developers perceive that a Council majority expects - no, demands - a CBA, it won't happen. This issue alone underscores the importance of this election and the platform represented by me and my running mate, Dianne Martinez.

10. Without the re-development agency, how can small business be encouraged to come to Emeryville?

All of our unoccupied ground floor retail square footage should be available at a declining rate until rented to small business. When these businesses succeed they can be allowed to move to larger unoccupied ground floor retail space in Emeryville.

11. Do you believe that transparency in city decisions has improved in the past five years? Does this still need improvement? What changes would you suggest or support?

Yes transparency has improved over the years with the additional of videotaping and archiving City Council and other meetings. But we can always do more, such as increasing ethics trainings and taking a more proactive approach to engaging the public that is often too busy to attend City meetings.

12. How do you see the role of the city manager in Emeryville with regard to both connection to the city council and the public? Can you comment on changes in this with our new city manager and your opinion.

Sabrina Landreth our city manager has been a refreshing change for us in Emeryville. The developer centric previous city managers were looking to get to that three-person Council majority. Sabrina really seems to be concerned about the issues and how to solve them.

13. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? My name is Scott Donahue, not to be confused with local journalist Brian Donahue (which often happens).