

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office?

I am running for Oakland City Council because I am committed to serving my community and have the experience and knowledge to move Oakland forward. I also believe every life in Oakland matters and I am willing to work hard to improve the lives of every person in Oakland. Our community needs someone who will work to build alliances and bring resources back to District 6 and not be an obstacle to the positive changes we need.

I am a determined individual and fixer who works diligently to solve problems. I will build partnerships with stakeholders including residents, engage others and draw upon my analytical skills and experience. Oakland is on the rise and I will help move our city forward.

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?

My priorities are to ensure that families feel safe in and around their homes, grow our tax base and increase the number of jobs in Oakland, work with the school board member so that our children are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow, and make government more responsive to all of our concerns. Oakland is on the rise yet we in East Oakland are at a standstill. This election is about the ability to demonstrate that you understand that Oakland is on the rise and what it takes to get that progress across the city. The biggest indicator will be the number of jobs created, but that will not come if people do not feel safe in their homes, and if children are not prepared for the jobs that are created. We must continue to build this city but not compromise the quality of life of the people already here.

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 worked with the four levels of government including the Federal, County, State and City. This experience has enabled me to know how to bring stakeholders together and work towards a common goal of providing basic quality of life services to residents. I can quickly take a problem and determine the key players that are needed to address the concern. I have worked diligently to ensure that all neighborhoods can feel safe in and around their homes and eradicate them of problem properties. I have worked closely with the Laurel Business Improvement District to help them decrease the number of vacancies, and connected with our schools and school board members to help ensure that our schools active members of the surrounding neighborhood.

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.

NWPC, East Bay Young Dems, East Bay Black Young Dems, Wellstone Democratic Club, BWOPA, Emerge California Graduate, Member League of Women Voters, Field Faculty CORO Public Affairs Fellowship & Exploring Leadership (Youth Program) mentoring fellows during government placement.

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.

Member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Member Allen Temple Baptist Church.

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?

I would look for opportunities to reduce the City's overhead expenses through sharing resources, possibly even facilities, with other agencies and special districts. I would work to raise revenues through boosting Oakland's overall economy, and work to promote Oakland as an ideal place to locate new businesses but large and small. We need get some cranes in Oakland for major development because the tide is turning. I am more open to increasing the utility consumption tax or continuing the state's sales tax increase. Additionally, I would look to maximize revenue opportunities by evaluating all fee structures and revenue-producing assets, including parking garages, recreation facilities, billboards and cell towers. Lastly, I would encourage that we set aside surplus funds in the reserve to address the long- term financials obligations so that we are not in the same situation that we were are just barely coming out of.

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?

Improve our schools: *The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) is at risk of losing preschool seats in its Child Development Center programs because it's not filled to capacity. Meanwhile, the City's Head Start program has a waiting list. Both serve similar populations yet the two don't communicate. I want to bridge that gap. I will be a fierce advocate on the City Council for the OUSD and its initiative to get all kids reading at grade level by 3rd grade.*

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.

Officers police different when they know the people they are policing so I would ensure that the officers are in the community. When I hold meetings I will have officers present so that residents can meet them. Anytime there is a community event, block party or such I would have officers attend as well. Additionally, in District 4 we have held a monthly coffee hour with the Police Captain so that community members and law enforcement are meeting in a nontraditional setting. This gives the Captain the opportunity to learn the pluses of the community and the residents the chance to meet the person behind the badge. Lastly, I would plan and host a forum with community leaders and officers facilitated by mediators to discuss community issues and police concerns to try and gain a better understanding of both. I am a huge supporter of Restorative Justice!

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 project is an important project that raises the tide on the local economy, bringing additional development and thus more union construction jobs. The Community Jobs policies guarantee 50% local hire on the project, and specifically 50% must be Oakland residents. Since a large portion of the funding is public funding the City has responsibility to guarantee these public dollars impact local communities in addition to creating infrastructure for more robust regional economy.

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.

In order to get out of the current oversight OPD must come into compliance on the outstanding concerns. There are many lessons to learn from Ferguson and police misconduct. Please visit www.sheredaforoakland.com under campaign news for my thoughts on what Oakland can learn from Ferguson.

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?

Oakland should pass a tenants harassment rights Ordinance to truly protect tenants from slum landlords. This will give tenants a voice to not be afraid to voice their concerns when they are not treated properly or living in unsafe conditions. The City's housing assistant city should be fully staffed in order to meet the demands of assisting those needing help finding housing. Lastly, Oakland must address our public transit disconnect.

Public transit is not only vital for the mobility of thousands of residents, it is also an essential strategy for fighting global warming. For too long, the planning and coordination of public transit (which is under the jurisdiction of other public agencies) has been separated from the land use planning process in Oakland. I support coordinating land use and transportation policies to ensure that we use our increasingly scarce transit resources efficiently and do not make decisions that work at cross-purposes. I also believe that Oakland's representatives to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission need to advocate strongly for the transportation needs of Oakland residents, with a particular focus on transit, pedestrian, and bike safety. I especially believe that bus service, which is the primary transit mode for the residents of Oakland and low-income people generally in the region, must be funded and supported at higher levels

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

The City of Oakland is taking a leadership role on climate change and the ECAP is appropriately aggressive and progressive. Unlike some other climate action plans, the City has incorporated many progressive measures, such as support of urban agriculture, green jobs, and environmental justice (i.e. providing rebates and programs for those who can least afford retrofits and upgrades).

The City's GHG emissions are overwhelmingly from operating its own buildings, so we need to focus on energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades of City buildings. When looking at the whole city, the sector with the highest GHG emissions is material consumption including the transport of those material goods to, and waste away from, Oakland. Therefore, we need to look at waste reduction measures, recycling, composting and local solutions that avoid transporting our waste such distances.

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

The average resident is dissatisfied with city government and is ready for change. They want someone who will be responsive

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

All residents deserve the same level of services. I have provided the same level of constituent services regardless of where a person lives. The squeaky wheel usually gets more attention, yet that should not be the case. I want to empower residents in less affluent areas so they can help improve their neighborhood and become the squeaky wheel. I will have monthly office hours in off hours in the community so that residents can come discuss their concerns. This will help with building and strengthening community partnerships and plug normally inactive residents into the pulse. Lastly, I will also hire staff and ensure that they work closely with residents and help them navigate the bureaucratic process.

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

Not at this time.

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?

The current council has been challenged with working together for the good of Oakland as a whole. As Councilmember I will work with my colleagues to move Oakland forward. You need five votes to get something passed so that means you have to have a working relationship with your colleagues or you will not get anything accomplished for the district or the City.

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.

Please visit www.sheredaforoakland.com for a list of my endorsements.

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).

I have raised \$25,000 and plan to raise \$100,000.

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?

The Mayor is the administrative head while the Council is the policy making body. The Mayor and Council must work together in order to move Oakland forward.

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

Oakland's campaign limits allow for non entrenched individuals to run for office. Additionally, the council should continue to fund public financing through the public ethics commission.

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

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? I support the Citizen Police Advisory Board.

-- 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? No

-- Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? Yes

-- Would you support Proportional Representation? No

-- 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