

GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE – 2016
SOPHIE HAHN, Berkeley City Council District 5

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

I grew up in District 5, and have raised my own family here. A product of Berkeley's public schools, I am deeply committed to Berkeley's core values of equity, diversity, opportunity, education and environmental action. I have spent my life working for civil rights, human rights, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, labor, the environment, choice, and more. Passionate about all that makes Berkeley unique, **I am running to forge a dynamic future that embodies our progressive values.** I wish to take my talents, experience and love for this community to an office that will allow me to solve problems to achieve the broadest positive impact for Berkeley.

The affordability and displacement crisis threaten to change the character of Berkeley forever. **I am running to ensure that Berkeley's citizens are lifted up, not pushed out.** Affordable Housing and housing for families and long-term residents – as well as for our homeless citizens - must be the drivers of Berkeley's housing policies. We must ensure that our teachers, firefighters, city workers, nurses, police officers, artists, seniors, and single parent families are able to make their homes in Berkeley.

Sustainability, resilience and environmental concerns are equally pressing issues. **I am running to put sustainability at the center of everything we do in Berkeley.** I am co-Chair of Assemblymember Thurmond's 15th District Environmental Task Force and have been endorsed by the Sierra Club for my environmental leadership. I have spent many years advocating for the greenest possible standards for Berkeley buildings and infrastructure, and I will continue to do so as on the City Council. I am a leader in bringing Community Choice energy to Alameda County and Berkeley, the single most important thing we can do to reduce our GHG emissions and meet our Climate Action Goals. I will continue to champion green buildings, clean energy, urban agriculture and environmental justice.

In 2010, Berkeley citizens approved a Downtown Plan that promised tree-lined streets, parks and plazas, preservation of historic resources, green buildings, dynamic streetscapes, culture, arts, and transit-oriented housing for all income levels and family sizes. **I am running to ensure that all elements of Berkeley's visionary Downtown Plan are implemented.** Our housing and development policies must put affordable housing – as well as housing for families and for the homeless - at the center of our efforts, not as an afterthought.

Berkeley's schools, libraries, parks, shopping districts and historic civic center require investment to become the dynamic, inviting, community-serving commons they should be. **I am running to ensure that our public spaces and institutions are enhanced and enlivened, and that Berkeley as a Place is as dynamic and engaging as the people who live here.**

2. Priorities -What do you believe are the major issues facing your district? The City? What are some specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, et.) you intend to accomplish while in office?

Within District 5:

1. **Solano Avenue**, one of our main shopping districts, is in need of revitalization. I will engage the community in making Solano Avenue a vibrant center for both community gathering and sustainable commerce. The future of our planet depends on a reduction in consumption and increase in repair, reuse and sharing. Solano already has shops and services that fit into this model – I would like to see this, as well as local ownership and local sourcing, expanded. One of my goals as councilperson would be to make Solano into a model, sustainable “Main Street.” I am an advocate of policies advanced by the [Institute for Local Self Reliance](#).
2. North Berkeley is poorly served by **public/alternative transit**. I will seek to implement a long-desired shopper shuttle to link residents to local commercial areas, BART and the downtown, and will improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. I will sponsor special “walk and roll” events to encourage biking and walking. I will also encourage telecommuting, carpooling and other methods for getting people out of private vehicles.
3. **Public Safety and disaster preparedness**. The Hayward Fault dissects District 5, and a rash of car and home break-ins needs to be addressed. Some areas of the district are well organized, while others are not. I will spearhead efforts to ensure that all blocks are organized for disaster preparedness and neighborhood watch, and work with the City to improve bike and pedestrian safety.

City Wide:

1. **The crisis of affordability and displacement are my top Citywide priorities.** For a decade, Berkeley’s housing and development policies have been developer-driven, and centered on the production of market rate housing. We need to consult the many affordable and not-for-profit housing developers in the Bay Area and ensure that our zoning, incentives and other aspects of development policy are supportive of their cost structures and building paradigms. We also need to protect our existing affordable housing and rent-controlled housing stock.

As a member of Berkeley’s Zoning Adjustments Board I have approved over 2,500 units of housing and have been a strong and consistent advocate for maximum affordable housing and fees. I will seek to put affordable housing at the center of Berkeley’s housing and development policies, with market rate housing considered primarily as a means to achieve our affordable housing goals. Displacement is accelerated when market rate housing is placed in previously affordable neighborhoods, resulting in the “colonization” of those neighborhoods by more affluent residents, whose presence raises prices for all. Causa Justa/Just Cause has published a report on [Development without Displacement – Resisting Gentrification in the Bay Area](#), which is a good guide for addressing this issue. Preserving our existing affordable housing is also a priority. I am a strong advocate for rent control and resist efforts to erode or undermine Berkeley’s rent control and eviction

protections.

2. **Addressing the homeless crisis.** The homeless crisis in Berkeley must be treated with a progressive and holistic, housing-first approach. I believe it is our responsibility – especially in this time of robust economic growth - to address this humanitarian crisis. To stem the growing population of people living on the streets, we must stop unlawful evictions and provide emergency support to families and individuals on the brink of homelessness, and address the dire needs of those who are already homeless.

I support the Housing First model of service delivery, and the plan put together by Councilmember Arreguin’s Homeless Task Force. San Francisco’s Navigation Center model is very promising. Seattle and Portland, as well as many other communities, are implementing strategies we should explore – quickly.

Addressing the homeless crisis should be done in collaboration with other East Bay Cities, to coordinate care and services and avoid duplication. I will seek to develop a regional approach using data and best practices to ensure that funds are being spent efficiently and effectively. There are already promising initiatives to coordinate care across hospitals in the region, and similar coordination between homeless service providers in Berkeley and other Alameda cities could greatly improve the quality of care for homeless individuals.

Finally, I strongly oppose efforts to further criminalize homelessness. We must de-emphasize policies and approaches that rely primarily on emergency response personnel and police. When a significant portion of calls to police and other emergency personnel are to respond to situations involving homeless individuals, it represents an inefficient use of both officer/firefighter time and city resources – and there is no long term solution to offer. We need to invest in outreach, services and facilities to get the homeless into housing and appropriate services - not cycle them in and out of jail and hospitals, at great expense, or leave them to suffer on our streets.

3. **Addressing Climate Change/meeting our Climate Action Goals**

I am proud to have been endorsed by the Sierra Club, and am the environmental leader in my race. As Councilperson for District 5, I will advocate and legislate for a broad range of environmental issues at the City level, and will continue to lead by example, working within District 5 to create model sustainable programs that can be replicated elsewhere in Berkeley. One of the most environmentally conscious zip codes in the United States should be represented by someone who will champion environmental issues. I look forward to using the office of Councilperson to take my commitment and initiative for environmental action to an even more impactful level.

I will work to improve alternative transit options including busses, shuttles, carpooling, telecommuting and other methods to get people out of their cars. For

the past 2 years I co-convoked a panel of Green Building experts. We have developed a proposed Deep Green Building Code for Berkeley that, if adopted, will incentivize green, non-toxic and responsibly sourced Zero Net Energy buildings. I have led efforts to bring clean energy to Berkeley through the establishment of Community Choice Aggregation. With clean electricity available to all residents, the next step will be the elimination of gas as an energy source.

Finally, as a member of the Council, I will seek to adopt a directive that staff, in its evaluation of City projects, laws and initiatives, be required to provide an informed evaluation of impacts to Climate Action Goals. While the details of such a directive would have to be carefully crafted, so as not to overly burden staff, it is imperative that Berkeley's policy makers have some indication of the impacts of their decisions, and whether they are generally supportive or detrimental to key goals of the Climate Action Plan.

4. **Qualifications - Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for being a City Council-member.**

I grew up in Berkeley, and have raised my own family in the same neighborhood. My life of activism began as a teenager at Berkeley High, where I participated in the civil rights marches and boycotts, and worked to integrate the school's extracurricular activities. Since then, I have a lifetime of experience supporting causes that exemplify core Berkeley values. In addition, I have deep experience in law and policy, community organizing, advocacy, and leadership, and have owned a small business. Through many years of achieving positive outcomes for this community, I have built strong ties. I work effectively with people of diverse backgrounds and opinions to achieve consensus solutions, have managed many large community processes, and am an experienced member of Berkeley Commissions and Boards.

A few examples:

- I am a senior member of **Berkeley's Zoning Adjustments Board** and have a reputation for fairness and for responding to concerns brought forward by the community. I am the strongest advocate on the Board for obtaining as much affordable housing as possible in every project, and for robust community benefits.
- **As Chair of the City of Berkeley Commission on the Status of Women** I led the Commission to focus on Sexual Exploitation of Adolescent Women in Berkeley, as well as trafficking, both of which are significant issues in Berkeley and throughout the East Bay. A forum was held in conjunction with the Peace and Justice Commission and the City Council adopted a new measure addressing these issues. As a result of this new focus, enforcement against illegally operating "massage parlors" was initiated by the City and as a member of the Zoning Board I voted to revoke the permits of these exploitative enterprises. In addition, I revived the Bi-Annual Outstanding Women of Berkeley Awards program to recognize women

making significant contributions to our community, honoring a very diverse group of truly outstanding women. Our selection process gave special consideration to “unsung heroes” – providing awards to longtime community volunteers who might otherwise not receive public recognition.

- I took the initiative to co-convene a working group of green building professionals and **develop a “Deep Green” building code for Berkeley.** We met for a year and collaborated with specialists in solar energy, green building techniques, toxics and other related professions and drafted an incentive based code that we are presenting for the City to consider. If adopted, Berkeley will have one of the most progressive green building codes in the country.
- **I founded the Berkeley Edible Gardens Initiative and spearheaded the effort to change City law** to facilitate the sale and trade of home grown produce. Legislation I co-wrote and ushered through a comprehensive community process (working with City Councilmember Jesse Arreguin, the Ecology Center, Berkeley Food Policy Council, East Bay Urban Agriculture Alliance and many others) was unanimously passed at both the Planning Commission and City Council.
- **I served in leadership at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School PTA** for 5 years and was elected Chair of the School Governance Council. In those capacities I revived the PTA, increasing parent volunteerism and fundraising, each by over 500%. I introduced numerous programs to increase the diversity of students participating in sports, music, afterschool and other extracurricular activities, and to reach out to parents traditionally less engaged in the school. One program I conceived and introduced, the Welcome Fair, was so successful that it was replicated at all other middle schools in Berkeley – and continues today. As Chair of the School Governance Council, I led the effort to have the School Plan organized around one theme: Closing the Achievement Gap. This was done before the City of Berkeley and School District had considered the “2020” vision.
- **I co-founded and helped run an organization called the M3 Education Foundation, serving young African American men in Berkeley’s Middle Schools.** It was founded to address the fact that young African American men graduating from 8th grade at King Middle School had only a 13% proficiency rate in Math. At all three Berkeley public middle schools, we provided comprehensive support, tutoring, mentoring, sports and health, family outreach and a variety of other services which led to improved grades, scores and success for young men in the program.
- I served as **Chair of the North Berkeley committee that raised funds to refurbish all of Berkeley’s public branch libraries.** One of our goals was to ensure that every neighborhood in Berkeley received sparkling new facilities - simultaneously. The South and West Berkeley branches were rebuilt from the ground up, and library patronage has increased by over 40%. I currently am raising

funds for a new Teen Room at the Main Library – teens are the largest group of library users in Berkeley.

- I served for six years on the **Board of Planned Parenthood Shasta Diablo** and remain active in the organization. During my time on the Board, we significantly expanded services for reproductive and women’s health, and to address the AIDS epidemic. I am previously endorsed by Planned Parenthood and am currently endorsed by numerous past Chairs of PPSD (the PP endorsement process has not taken place yet for 2016).
- A resume-type list of all my community activities can be found on my website: www.sophiehahn.com/resume.

4. Land Use: What do you think are the most important land use issues facing the city today? The City and the University have different missions: what conflicts/challenges do you foresee on land use policy, and how would you address these? What should happen to People’s Park?

General Land Use Priorities:

I believe it is important to find the right balance between development and open space/parks. We need to invest in our public realm – streetscapes, historic civic center, parks, plazas and commercial corridors - as well as encouraging the development of new housing. Most importantly, we review land use policies to better incentivize new affordable housing and the preservation of our existing affordable/rent controlled stock.

I support the West Berkeley Plan, which preserves Berkeley’s artisanal and light manufacturing sector for small and medium sized businesses. West Berkeley is home to hundreds of creative, sustainable, small scale ventures that are important to Berkeley’s character and economy. In addition to West Berkeley’s unique light manufacturing base, West Berkeley also includes Berkeley’s most ethnically diverse populations, and still has *relatively* affordable housing. These communities should be protected from displacement and gentrification, so that existing residents and businesses can thrive. Planning for sea level rise is also an important task for West Berkeley, and must be taken into account when approving new development and infrastructure.

Another important land use issue facing the city is the encroachment of “mini-dorms” in residential neighborhoods, and enabling AirBnB-type rentals while ensuring that no permanent housing stock is removed from the market.

UC Berkeley/City of Berkeley:

The University is not legally required to adhere to the City of Berkeley’s land use regulations, so maintaining cooperative relations between the two and enforcing contractual agreements should be a priority. It is especially important with regards to influencing the University’s land use. As councilmember, I will reach out to UC Berkeley’s planning administration to establish regular channels of communications. The top priority

from the City's perspective should be to build additional student housing. With a growing number of homeless students and the expected increase in students enrolled at UC Berkeley over the next few years, the student housing situation is critical. CAL is in the process of building a swimming pool for top swimmers on a prime lot in Downtown Berkeley, which could have been developed into a large amount of student housing. This is an example of poor planning on the part of the University, which hopefully wouldn't be repeated in the future.

People's Park:

I do not believe that People's Park represents a fitting tribute to the free speech and anti-war movements that spawned the park. I believe there are several interesting ideas to breathe new life into the park, including turning it into an outdoor amphitheater for the exercise of free speech. Another idea would be to build supportive housing for the homeless who currently frequent the park. The University should initiate a robust community process to consider these and the many other creative ideas that will be generated.

5. Automobiles - What policies should the city take to reduce automobile use and make the city friendlier to pedestrians and other non-automobile transportation? Should the city promote electric car use, and what policy and infrastructure changes would you support, if any?

Berkeley should move toward a city modeled after Amsterdam or Copenhagen, where there are extensive bike routes and protected bike lanes in the urban centers. Much of Berkeley is bike friendly and biking should be primary mode of transit in those areas. We also need to improve safety for bikers and pedestrians, which is the biggest barrier to wider adoption.

AC transit needs to be improved, but we should also explore the creation of a shuttle system within Berkeley that links underserved public transit areas to major commercial areas, BART, ferries, and other regional transit hubs. On the Zoning Adjustments Board, I have consistently advocated for bicycle parking, repair workstations and other amenities for bikers, and to provide bus passes and Clipper cards to tenants and employees, as well as car share pods and electric vehicle charging. I will continue to advocate for these and other measures to promote alternative transit.

As a member of the Zoning Adjustments Board I have been a strong, consistent and repeated advocate for electric car charging in new residential buildings, as well as in the new garage being constructed in Downtown. It is also imperative that we roll out more charging stations throughout the City. I have worked to bring Community Choice Energy to Berkeley. Soon, all residential and commercial energy users to access 100% clean energy, and can charge their cars with clean energy as well - the optimal outcome for Berkeley.

Transit justice has become a more acute need as well, under current regional pressures. Those least able to afford owning and driving cars are being forced to the far reaches of the region. Reliable transit is critical to their ability to access good jobs. In addition to expanding our local and regional transit options, building affordable housing near transit is

a priority for me, rather than primarily allocating the “social good” of public transit to those who can afford market rents. These Social Equity goals have always been central my work, and will continue to be on the Council.

6. Safety - What are the most important public safety issues facing the residents of Berkeley? What kinds of programs are useful for creating a safe environment for all people?

Gun violence has taken the lives of three recent BHS grads just over this summer. In recent years, a number of young men from Berkeley have been convicted of murder. Clearly, this is Berkeley’s #1 public safety crisis – when our youth are killing and dying, we have a serious and urgent problem on our hands. I support a community based policing model, and believe we must foster strong relationships between the police and all communities. Equity in policing and in our justice system are also important elements in creating a safe environment for all people.

Organized theft rings are targeting neighborhoods throughout Berkeley in waves, stealing from cars and homes. Addressing this growing trend is another important public safety priority.

Earthquake and disaster preparedness are absolute requirements in District 5, which is bisected by the Hayward fault. While many blocks are well organized for the inevitable quake, many are not. I will take the initiative to fill in District 5’s “patchwork of preparedness” with the goal of achieving 100% neighborhood preparedness. Together with Disaster preparedness, we must bring back Neighborhood Watch, a neighborhood – based anti-crime program that was more widespread in the past, but has not been actively promoted for many years.

Saving Alta Bates from closure is a new and pressing public safety concern for all of Berkeley, and for the entire north-east-bay corridor. I am proud to be endorsed by the California Nurses Association, and will work closely with them to save Berkeley’s only emergency room. With an aging population, emergency calls in North Berkeley are up, and wait times for ambulances can already be several hours. Berkeley’s “shelters,” which themselves are not earthquake safe, must be retrofitted, or others identified. We need comprehensive, effective plans for likely disaster scenarios, and to meet everyday health and public safety needs.

7. Affordable housing- What is your position on building market-rate housing versus affordable housing? Does building mostly market-rate help or hinder affordability in Berkeley? What affirmative steps would you take to increase the availability of new or refurbished affordable housing in Berkeley? Are there any particular demographics that you would target for this housing? Are there any particular neighborhoods that you would target for this housing?

Berkeley must shift its development focus from market rate to affordable housing, such that affordable housing is the center of our housing and development policies. Under current crisis conditions, my focus will be on creating as much affordable housing in Berkeley’s urban core, so that working families can live close to transit and have access to

jobs and other opportunities. As a member of the Zoning Adjustments Board, I have approved over 2,500 units of housing in Berkeley. I always push for the highest Green building and transit standards, as much affordable housing as possible, and accommodations for residents of a diversity of life stages and abilities. I will continue to champion the creation of additional housing, with an emphasis on finding solutions to support affordable, green and accessible housing.

There is no single, simple solution to increasing affordable housing in Berkeley. In addition to focusing on affordable housing in all development and housing policy considerations, I support all of the following measures, and more, to increase affordable housing, and housing for the homeless, in Berkeley:

- I strongly support the Alameda County housing bond, and will carry the logo and endorsement on my campaign materials.
- I would support a future Berkeley-based housing bond
- I have long supported adopting the highest Affordable Housing mitigation fee recommended by a current Nexus Study, and believe Nexus studies should be redone, and fees reconsidered, on a regular basis, so that the City does not miss out on any feasible fees.
- I support requiring at least 20% affordable housing in all large developments in Berkeley, as an alternative to payment of the Mitigation Fee. The “Green Pathway” permitting scheme requires 30%, but no developer has elected to permit under this scheme.
- I support the Landlord Windfall profits tax as proposed by the Community/City Council (U1), that will result in maximum increased funds flowing into our Affordable Housing fund
- I will consider adoption of an alternative “local” Density Bonus scheme, similar to legislation adopted in Emeryville, to further incentivize the production of affordable housing.
- Other features of our Zoning Code may tend to facilitate or hinder the building of affordable projects. Working with Affordable housing builders, we may need to refine our zoning code to better support the building of affordable housing.
- I will seek to create a regional commercial linkage fee that results in a pool of affordable housing monies available to all cities
- I will approach technology and other industries that have expanded in the past several years and inadvertently contributed to this housing crisis. I welcome the new jobs and prosperity for our region, but believe local companies that are experiencing rapid growth and soaring profits should help mitigate the “unintended consequence” of extreme housing shortages, displacement, and overextended transit systems.

Specific Demographics/Neighborhoods:

Transit is a subsidized social good, and should be allocated to poor and working families who are least able to afford cars or the time of lengthy car commutes. To that end, we should target transit rich areas for affordable housing, including Berkeley’s downtown and transit corridors. Downtown Berkeley has very few opportunity sites for all-affordable

housing developments. The only way working families will access this transit- and culturally-rich neighborhood is if affordable housing is built within market rate developments. I also would like to incentivize or mandate a certain percentage of two and three bedroom units, and amenities attractive to children and families, to ensure that people at all life stages are welcomed to the downtown. Units built to universal access standards, and parking and other amenities for disabled residents also need to be included, to ensure that Berkeley's downtown is accessible to residents of all life stages and abilities.

In addition, I would like to see affordable housing in all neighborhoods, so that we may continue to welcome nurses, teachers, public safety workers, artists, activists and working families into our community.

8. Rent Control- How important is it to keep Berkeley's form of strong rent control and eviction protections? How important is keeping an elected rent board? What is your position on the effects of Costa-Hawkins ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costa-Hawkins_Rental_Housing_Act)) on the affordability of Berkeley units? Is it an overall good or an overall bad law, looking back over the 20 years since it was passed? What can or should be done to roll back the massive rent increases new tenants face because of vacancy decontrol?

Rent control is extremely important for maintaining affordability for at least some Berkeley renters. I have been endorsed by all of the pro-renter rent board members, and by the Berkeley Tenant's Union. Eviction protections are becoming more and more important as the pressure to increase prices becomes irresistible for landlords. We must continually update eviction protections to ensure that no abuses can take place. I will prioritize increasing funding to our Rent Board to ensure adequate staffing and resources to work effectively with tenants and landlords during this housing crisis, and to increase outreach. Rent control is our most important bulwark against displacement, and I will fight to preserve it.

An elected rent board in Berkeley is extremely important. Renters must have a say in who will be overseeing Berkeley's renter protections.

I will fight to overturn Costa Hawkins, which has been devastating to affordability. New units are coming on the market at exorbitant prices, which are out of reach for all but the wealthiest. Even rent-controlled apartments experience a huge leap in rental rates when they change hands from one renter to the next, exerting pressure for landlords to evict long-time renters. I will work to overturn Costa Hawkins.

We are powerless to roll back rental rates without new legislation. Building dedicated and affordable housing is the best antidote under the current regulatory environment, and we must pursue both new legislation and aggressive efforts to increase the amount of affordable housing.

9. Homelessness- Berkeley Greens agree with, but don't necessarily believe, the Democratic Party Platform where it states, "We will fight for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investments to provide the necessary outreach, social services, and housing options for all populations"

experiencing homelessness." What do you think can and should be done about the "Homeless problem" here in Berkeley?

Our federal and state governments have largely abandoned the type of broad-scale, society-wide affordable housing, mental health, and other health supports that would prevent people from becoming or staying homeless. In the face of these huge gaps in necessary services for vulnerable people in our community, it falls to Cities and Counties to address the needs of the homeless in our midst. It is a humanitarian crisis of huge proportion and it is a moral imperative that we take effective steps to address the crisis. First, we need short term emergency measures complemented with a long term strategy towards permanent housing. Councilmember Jesse Arreguin ran a several-year Homeless Task Force process that included input from all of Berkeley's homeless agencies, and homeless people living in Berkeley. I support all recommendations of the Homeless Task Force Report. These include:

- A **Housing First policy**, that acknowledges that we cannot effectively help the homeless get back on their feet and, if necessary, address mental illness and substance abuse problems, without providing housing.
- Accepting that **addressing homelessness will require significant funds and a long term commitment** – and identifying one-time capital funds and long term program funds to dedicate to helping prevent and address homelessness
- **Berkeley has declared a homeless state of emergency.** Now the City must follow through by freeing up emergency resources to address the critical day to day needs of those living on our streets
- **Raising funds (possibly via a Bond measure) to create a state of the art navigation center**, modelled on SF's successful new system, to bring groups of homeless into a resource-rich environment and transition them to stable housing and services.
- Raising funds – or accessing newly available funds, to **build permanent very low income housing** and other housing options for the homeless.
- **Implementing programs to “catch” families and individuals on the verge of homelessness**, and ensure that they do not become homeless. These can include providing support for family or friends who can temporarily house them, help with deposits and other short term rental assistance, etc. It is much less costly to prevent homelessness than to restore people to homes after living on the streets.
- **Creating a regional Database** to track homeless individuals who seek services so that information about prior contacts can be accessed and they can receive appropriate care.

Coordinating with other East Bay jurisdictions with significant homeless populations such as Oakland and Richmond, to pool resources, coordinate care, avoid duplication, and stop exporting the “problem” to our neighbors.

In the long run, I would like us to implement a model based on SF’s successful navigation centers for intake with supportive housing and develop supportive housing options to transition to permanent, stable, healthy living situations.

10. Food Policy- What policies would you support to re-localize our food system? Do you support labeling of GMO foods, similar to Vermont's law?

I have been an urban agriculture leader for Berkeley for a number of years. I co-wrote the urban agriculture laws for residential areas and have been collaborating on laws to expand urban agriculture and community gardens in Berkeley’s commercial and manufacturing districts. I also have been involved for many years with Alice Waters’ Edible schoolyard, and have been endorsed by her for my leadership on this issue. My own backyard is an urban farm that feeds 6 people through a CSA program. I would like to see an expansion in the growing of food in all Berkeley neighborhoods. In addition, I strongly support our farmers markets, and would like to see mini-markets at school sites, senior centers, and other convenient locations. I also believe that we need to look at measures that will incentivize the establishment of markets with healthy food in all neighborhoods of Berkeley. I strongly support the continuation and expansion of school-based programs modeled on the Edible Schoolyard and the school district’s initiative to provide healthy organic breakfast and lunch to all schoolchildren in Berkeley

I do support the labeling of GMO foods, although at this point almost all foods would bear the label!

11. Should the City Council take positions on national and international issues?

At times I believe it is important for Berkeley to take a position on national and international issues. For example, our leadership in opposing Apartheid was important and impactful. However, I would not want an excessive amount of the City Council’s time to be devoted to such issues, especially when there is a lack of consensus within our community. Berkeley has been a standard bearer for human rights and civil rights in the past, and is looked to for moral leadership. I embrace that role for Berkeley, so long as it does not divide our community.

12. The trend in recent years has been for state and local law-enforcement agencies to procure military-grade weapons as well as high-tech surveillance equipment (drones, among others), and to adopt military-style tactics and training. This is generally but not exclusively under the aegis of Urban Shield. What do you think the Berkeley Police Department's and City's stance should be on this issue, as well as what you think the City's policy and practices should be? What would you do or not do as an elected official?

As a general matter I oppose the militarization of police. At the same time I understand that both the police and the public are at risk of harm from dangerous high-capacity weapons. I

value the security and well-being of citizens and of our police. That said, I will look upon military style training and weapons with skepticism and would require an extremely high bar to support their adoption. It is also important for Berkeley to be at the forefront of developing alternatives so that the community and the police are able to function without violence. Peaceful means of conflict resolution both in the community and nationwide are imperative, and part of the solution is to demilitarize, to promote transparency, and increase accountability of police officers and the departments that employ them.

13. Do you support The Movement for Black Lives Platform?

I support The Movement for Black Lives Platform, from ending the war on black people, to reparations, economic justice, community control, and increased political power. I have long been in favor of reparation for African Americans, Native Americans and others who have been the subject of official, institutionalized forms of discrimination and violence in this country. Furthermore, it is imperative that we support investment in the education, healthcare and in the safety of black citizens, and end practices that criminalize and harm all people of color.

14. What specifically will do you think Berkeley needs to do locally to fight climate change? To make Berkeley a zero carbon city?

As described in many of my previous answers, I have been and will continue to be a leader on environmental issues, and am endorsed by the Sierra Club for my significant environmental record. To fight climate change we must “act locally” on many fronts. One of the most important things Berkeley can do to fight climate change is to support the Alameda County CCA program, which I have been working with activists to achieve for years. With access to clean electricity, Berkeley can move to 100% electric energy for both buildings and vehicle needs.

We must build zero-net energy buildings; I have been a leader in developing a Deep Green Building code, to be considered by the City Council for adoption this year. Berkeley must also reduce consumption of disposable goods as well as our waste stream, and consider the climate impacts of everything we consume and discard. We should also increase the sharing economy, using the tool lending library as a model, and expand it to include other items that are only periodically used such as camping equipment, catering equipment, sewing machines, and other items which are better shared than owned individually.

15. What are your positions on the any or all of the eleven Berkeley Ballot Measures? Specifically, what is your position on the competing ballot measures on both the minimum wage and on increasing the business license tax on rental properties?

I support the City and rent board sponsored business license tax (Measure U1), and oppose the landlord measure (Measure DD). The unanimous endorsement of the measure by the City Council is impressive, and the measure clearly does not pass any further tax burden onto tenants, who are already under significant hardship from rising rents.

I support the Infrastructure and Facilities Bond (Measure T1), the public campaign financing measure (Measure X1), the Berkeley Public Schools bond (Measure E1), and the

Citizens Redistricting Commission (Measure W1). I also support the Youth Voting measure (Measure Y1), and The Low Income Housing Authorization (Measure Z1). The minimum wage issue appears to have been settled via a compromise between the authors of the two competing measures. It remains to be seen if the voters “respect” the compromise. If either measure passes, or both, they will overrule Council action. If Measure BB is passed, it will take a 2/3 Council majority to revert to the “deal” that was approved by Council – a supermajority that is likely not to be achieved. I fear we may not have heard the last chapter in Berkeley’s minimum wage saga, but hope I am proven wrong.

16. Are there particular statewide initiatives you support? Proposition 59, if passed, would commit California officials to overturning the Citizens United case and getting money out of politics. Will you take the following pledge: "I support amending the U.S. Constitution to make clear that corporations and other artificial entities do not have Constitutional rights and that money is not speech and campaign spending should be limited through regulation."?

I strongly support Proposition 59, and would happily take the above pledge. I support marijuana legalization for adults, oppose overturning the ban on plastic bags, support repeal of the death penalty, support gun control measures. With short time, I will not comment further on State measures.

17. Endorsements:

a. Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races?

I will be voting for progressive Democrats.

b. Are you endorsing anyone else in your own race, considering that we have instant run off voting?

There is only one other person running for the District 5 City Council seat. There was a third candidate, Jesse Townley (Green Party) but he did not continue moving forward with his candidacy, and has endorsed me.

c. Who has endorsed you?

The Sierra Club

Alameda Labor Council

SEIU Local 1021

California Nurses Association

Berkeley Citizens Action

Berkeley Progressive Alliance

Berkeley Tenants Union

Betty Yee, California State Controller

Delaine Eastin, CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Isadore Hall, California State Senator & Black Caucus Chair

Tony Thurmond, California State Assemblymember, 15th District

Sheila Jordan, Superintendent of Schools, Alameda County (Emerita)

Shirley Dean, Berkeley Mayor

Carole Kennerly, Berkeley Vice Mayor & Councilmember

Dianne Martinez, Emeryville Mayor
Aaron Peskin, San Francisco Supervisor (and native of Berkeley District 5)
Madeline Kellner, Novato Mayor and Councilmember
Maxwell Anderson, Berkeley City Councilmember
Jesse Arreguin, Berkeley City Councilmember
Kriss Worthington, Berkeley City Councilmember
Winston Burton, Berkeley Library Board Trustee
Jesse Townley, Berkeley Rent Board Chair
Katherine Harr, Berkeley Rent Board Vice Chair
Alejandro Soto-Vigil, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
John Selawsky, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner, Berkeley School Boardmember
James Chang, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Paola Laverde-Levine, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Asa Dodsworth, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Pamela Webster, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Judy Shelton, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner

Please visit my website for additional endorsements
<http://www.sophiehahn.com/endorsements>

d. Who do you expect to endorse you?

I will continue to seek and obtain the endorsements of progressive Democrats, Green party members, neighborhood and community activists, and members of my community who value the work I have done over the years.

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

I have been honored to receive the endorsement of the Green Party twice in the past, I would be honored to receive it again. I look forward to working with Greens, progressive Democrats, and other individuals in the community and city who value and promote equity, environmental action, education and supporting the local economy. I respectfully ask for your endorsement.