

Will Roscoe for BART Director District 7  
Green Party Endorsement Questionnaire 2016

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1. Please give a summary of your background and qualifications for the office of BART Board.  
**I've worked in the water and energy infrastructure space for over 7 years. I understand the costs of large construction projects and the engineering limitations of transit technology. I believe BART has a massive opportunity to create an awesome transit system in 20 years.**
2. (For incumbents) How would you assess your own job performance? Please give some specific examples of accomplishments and setbacks?
3. How would you go about leading change that would result in better coordination between BART and other transit providers, especially AC Transit? What could BART do to improve it's coordination? Can you share some ideas about what you would do differently?  
**BART needs to transition its system to use self driving electric buses. Not only will this be much cheaper to maintain and expand, but this way AC Transit and BART vehicles could share the right of way.**
4. Where do you stand on the proposed extension of BART service to Livermore? Further into Contra Costa County (for example Brentwood)? How would you ensure that the Board proceeds responsibly in whatever direction it goes, on these proposed expansions? How do your priorities compare with the BART Board's historic planning and priorities for expansion? Which do you prioritize, expanding the system or increasing capacity within the core? What is the logic behind your prioritization?  
**BART's priority needs to be fixing its systemic problems that make it nearly impossible to improve and expand. Current expansions cost more than \$700 Million per stop so it rarely makes sense to expand. BART can fix these systemic problems to cut the cost of adding stops by 100 times.**
5. How would you work to minimize the financial impact of the San Jose extension on the core system?  
**Capital funding for the extensions was raised by the VTA and the maintenance/operations costs are covered by a 1/8th cent sales tax.**
6. What would you do to ensure that a boondoggle project (like the Oakland Airport Connector) would not happen again?  
**BART should not be building out these new custom technologies that don't integrate with each other. The path between BART and the airport has massively underutilized roads that could**

**have been used instead.**

7. Does BART still need a systems expansion department? Why or why not?

**Not yet. Expansions are not a priority for BART until we can make them cheaper. We don't want to be Napoleon's army and overexpand into bankruptcy.**

8. Are you satisfied with employee safety? If not, have you any proposals to increase employee safety? Please include your thoughts and proposals regarding employee safety, including Train Operators' workplace injuries, and assaults on Station Agents.

**I do have enough data on this to make a fair response.**

9. BART has identified \$17 billion needed to keep facilities in a state of good repair. How do you plan to generate funds to maintain BART in a state of good repair?

**Transition BART to a better system, not just keep the old system running. The longer we wait to fix the existing system, the more it will cost. BART is a technology from before dial-up internet and we are trying to keep it running. It's time we upgrade to a modern transit system that uses self driving electric buses.**

10. What kind of cost savings do you suggest for BART?

**We've got to transition off of our custom and centralized infrastructure to one that is common and mass produced. For example, the Brakes on BART's new and old train cars can only be made by one supplier. This means the company can ask any price for their brakes.**

11. What is your opinion of the MTC and its funding priorities for transit?

**The MTC is a valuable organization that helps coordinate regional transportation priorities. I don't think they have leveraged their influence enough to unify transit systems for the sake of riders.**

12. What will you do to ensure that housing development on BART-owned properties provides below market rate (i.e. "affordable") housing, allowing low-income folks (who are the most transit dependent) the ability to live within walking distance to BART?

**BART can make recommendations for a percentage of the affordable units but I'd defer to the local municipality to develop the regulations. BART's focus should be providing awesome transit.**

13. Would you support a regional plan for backup in the event of a BART interruption of service? What would that be?

**Maybe. I believe BART already has agreements with AC Transit and other bus services to help when this happens. I don't think this is a priority.**

14. What will you do to expand "owl service" or to run BART 24hrs per day, the way NYC can run their trains 24 hrs per day?

**We need to make this happen but it's nearly impossible with BART's infrastructure. A**

**transition to self driving electric buses will make this much easier.**

15. What do you think about the pilot plan for bikes on BART at all hours?

**I think it's working because no biker actually enjoys riding on crowded trains anyway. Having bikes on crowded trains will be less of an issue with the development of Bike Share programs and safer bike parking at stations.**

16. Do you believe that public sector unions should have the right to strike? Please explain your answer. As an elected Director, what is your role in regards to contract negotiations? If elected, what will you do to ensure good faith bargaining efforts on the part of District Staff? What role do you believe the media should play during negotiations? BART engaged in negative campaigning against its employees in the 2013 negotiations. Do you support such messaging, and if not, what would you do to reverse that? What will you do to improve relations with workers at BART? What would you do to ensure the voice of workers is heard, as well as that of management?

**First, conflict arises when resources are constrained. BART is feeling its resources constrained because it's trying to maintain a super old system and its making less sense every year. The best thing BART leadership can do is provide a vision for BART where everyone (riders and employees) benefit by providing a better transit service.**

**Yes. Striking is a fundamental feedback mechanism in organizations between labor and management. Every employee has the right to strike. The negative campaign BART ran against its striking employees highlights the desperate position of the organization. This position won't change unless we change its direction.**

**As director I'll provide a vision that employees can get excited about.**

17. Regarding the 2013 strike (including the hiring of Thomas Hock of Veolia Transportation) -- do you think the Board should have handled it any differently? Please explain.

**Yes. BART should have been much more transparent and had better judgment about hiring someone with a troubled history of labor relations.**

18. Please give an example (if applicable) of when you took a position different than management's position. Please describe how you, as a Director, will be independent from management.

**BART management is stuck in a narrow mindset of maintaining an aging system. I will lead management, to embrace the vision of building the world's best transit system in twenty years.**

19. How can you help strike a better balance between community service police and BART police, in terms of safety and funding?

20. Discuss the reforms for BART police since Oscar Grant. Do you feel these changes are adequate?

**I think BART police is making big steps to understand and combat the practices that lead to these tragic mistakes. These efforts to combat bias and violent reactions needs to happen on an ongoing basis.**

21. What are your thoughts on having an armed BART police force?

**I think only 10 percent of officers need to carry a gun.**

22. Other ideas you have to provide better service? (To reduce noise?)

**We need to replace the rail with roads and use self driving electric busses. This will enable the system to adapt to new demands, increase capacity and make expansions much cheaper. This change would also make the customer experience much better by increasing point to point speed while decreasing customer wait time. The noise levels are absurd on BART and damage people's ears. Buses don't have this problem.**

23. Will you oppose two-tier systems in pay or benefits at BART?

**I'm not sure what types of tiers this question is about. I do think more productive employees should get paid more.**

24. Please describe your viewpoint on Transit Oriented Development.

**I love it. My motivation for campaigning is to make streets safe enough for kids to bike to their friend's houses. The better transit service BART can provide, the fewer cars people will need to get around.**

25. Please describe the sources of the financial contributions your campaign has received. Please identify any sources from which or from whom you would not accept donations.

**I'm not raising money for my campaign. I'm running this campaign like I wish all campaigns were run. The process should be an afterwork commitment, that doesn't require hundreds of thousands of dollars to win.**

**I'm asking for people to donate money in my campaigns name to local non-profits. I won't restrict any of these donations even if they are to ineffective or controversial non-profits.**

26. What endorsements have you received thus far?

**My fiance, who does not give her support without serious consideration. :)**

