

## Green Party Questionnaire for State Assembly, 15th District

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### 1) Why are you running for State Assembly?

I am running for a few reasons yet mainly because my commUNITY asked me to step up and run. After the last disappointing election cycle and downright frightening last 18 months of #45 & crew slowly destroying our nation...we've all had to face the dismal facts: we have a bunch of old men, old white men to be exact, deciding what's right for the rest of us. And as a woman, a mother, a multiethnic, multicultural American - all demographics this occupant of the White House has denigrated, it's disconcerting to think about how hard women y people of color fought for the right to vote and how hard we still have to fight for representation - not even just equal representation, any representation. And that's not even considering the enhanced barriers of Black/Brown Women or Women w disAbilities or Muslimahs. So, while the election y subsequent actions were draining, they were also weirdly inspiring y motivating. In our communities, we are so used to being disappointed by so-called leadership that our expectations are always low from the onset. The intentional hurt y ugliness #45 invokes y provokes is no less shocking to us than the inhumanity thrust upon all of us bearing Black y Brown skin, for several centuries.

So, when our commUNITY begged for a TRUE leader to step up, I answered the call for REAL change. For ME, this isn't just about resisting, it's about insisting y persisting in Change, Real Change: changing a state legislature infamous for its misogyny; changing economic conditions from merely getting by to stability with a call for fair wages y paid benefits; ending the criminalization of Black & Brown bodies by ending mass incarceration via reducing jail y prison populations y ending racial disparities in the criminal (in)justice system; divesting in prisons y incarceration & reinvesting in community services incl. education, training, reentry programs, mental health y addiction treatment; access to quality paid healthcare (incl. preventative care & mental health care services) for everyone since we know economic security is directly linked to our healthcare.

I'm running to address these issues y be an issue for EVERYONE. The truth of it is we all need

to do strong introspection about our Values y what matters. I've done that. When we talk inclusiveness, we cannot be one-dimensional or only exercise inclusivity when convenient. Our government y elected officials need to reflect ALL of us, including Women, especially Black y Brown Women, Muslim Women, Women with disAbilities - because when our government looks more like the people it is working to serve, our communities, our economy, & our country thrive.

What are your qualifications? After 25y+ working in the public y private sector for Sony, Siebel, & Goodwill negotiating contracts, as a policy maker, compliance official, EEO Officer, & a mediator; plus working directly in the commUNITY with everyday people effecting real change, I am not only qualified in the 'traditional' sense yet in the exceptional sense.

I've been an equity y human rights champion my entire life - since my days as a young Girl Scout petitioning the Missouri State Senate for equity funding for girls sports programs in our schools continuing as a volunteer STEM champion with youth and an EEO Officer in my professional career and disAbility advocate. I have worked on the ground, at the grassroots level, fighting for racial m, social y economic justice in our communities esp. in marginalized areas affected by disparate treatment & I will continue to fight for unwavering civil rights protection, just immigration, evolutionary changes in our educational systems, creation of career opportunities (I've created 1000s over the past 15y for people w/disAbilities & in re-entry programs & others considered 'unemployable'), fighting wage inequalities so all are paid fairly + equal pay for equal work, rebuilding our criminal justice/juvenile justice system, protecting people with disAbilities & the ADA, healthcare, small business, restoration & protection of voting rights, clean money politics, know your rights campaigns, Rapid Response networks, fighting environmental injustices y conditions to build sustainable futures, & initiate regulations to make our communitiessafer & more welcoming with meaningful gun control & community security/civil forces.

What makes me MOST qualified though...I GET THINGS DONE. No matter what challenges or obstacles exist, I find a way to get things done without compromise. The multiethnic, multicultural wife of an 'A' Longshoreman for nearly 25y, we've reared three well-adjusted, intelligent, socially-responsible, positive children - a Morehouse grad y MBA student; a third year Morehouse engineering student, & my 16yo Albany High senior. Along the way, managing a full-time senior director-level professional career for ~25y, volunteering & mentoring in the community for ~25y, managing a nonprofit for ~12y, dealing with two bouts of cancer, the fallout of 911 y the social y career discrimination of being a HijaziMuslimah in the workplace that ensued, living with pain y disAbilities - and in spite of all the challenges, in spite of all of the things this society devalues I STILL RISE AND STILL I GET THINGS DONE. IF I AM NOT QUALIFIED, NO ONE IS.

What have you accomplished in any offices that you now hold or have recently held? N/A

2) Where are you getting the money to run your campaign?

Grassroots Fundraising from local community members Are there any sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you refuse to accept? Yes; no traditional large corporate or illegal corporation or funds from organizations whose business is deemed antithetical to the core values of our collective commUNITY interests (basic human y civil rights to all persons re of racial, social, religious, gender, sexual preference, relationship, age, ability, housing, economic, educational, national origin, or documented status - or any or exclusionary factor. I will also not accept funds from any individual with these proclivities or associations thereto. No funds from haterelated or ethically-challenged orgs or orgs holding financial interest in foreign nations where human rights violations are an issue; no funds from those involved in violations of human or animal rights; no funds from those whom profit from incarcerating or enslaving through unfair wages others. Lastly, no funds from wealthy 'corporate' politicians masquerading as individual concerned citizens.

Do you accept money from developers or corporations, or their PACs? No; neither the official developer or corporation or individuals representing the organization(in an attempt to mask the true source of the funding).

3) Are you interested in the contributions and the opinions of individual constituents in your district? Absolutely; whether a voting constituent, a student, one re-entering from the (in)justice system or on parole/probation, undocumented residents, our unsheltered neighbors or those disenchanting with the electoral process. Actually, I'm interested in the opinions of everyone - even those outside the district since the laws we would vote on would affect ALL, not just those within the confines of this district. What must a constituent do in order to meet with you? Anyone who wants to meet with me has only to send a message (via email, website contact or FB messenger) & we can meet for tea. I'm generally very responsive and respond within a few hours to a day. A Leader must work IN the commUNITY. It is imperative in order to represent strongly. A Representative must be accessible y approachable. Leadership is hard; you cannot pick & choose when its time to step up or which constituents deserve a voice or to be heard. EVERYONE deserves to be heard y considered. I am there to not only meet yet HEAR.

4) Please give us your position on the following issues. Indicate your sponsorship and/or votes on any previous relevant legislation, and plans for future legislation:

-- Budget deficits: The chief reasonings begins deficits is ineffective planning y uncontrolled spending. Establishing a firm budget y earmarking funds based on a concrete plan led by the expressed needs of the commUNITY. As a member of the Budget Justice Coalition, a primary concern is not only where y how the funds are allocated yet the rationales applies then to advocate

for transparency in the processes. Also to push elected officials towards a more values-based budget reflective of public wants/needs.

-- Controlling the corrupting influence of profit-driven prescription drug & vaccine manufacturers: Set a pricing which limits technically-acceptable fees for individual purchases & reimbursements for medical providers; include regulatory restrictions on % increases and resale distribution; impose fines (civil & penal) & possible incarceration for violators and any who attempt to price gouge consumers (this show is apply to all levels of the management workforce benefiting from the deception including executives, board members, partners, & possibly chief stockholders)

-- Fracking, & other environmental regulations: The inherent environmental dangers pose too great a risk to permit fracking or similar extraction methods. We need to strengthen these regulations to prohibit interference with natural grounds & habitats which cause substantial damage & irreversible damage.

As well, enact significant regulations to address coastal habitats incl the way we handle the development of the coastal line/midline. We've paid a great deal of attention to drilling along the shoreline yet not as much to commercial real estate development & tourism, both of which should be strategically reviewed to ensure the natural landscape & marine life isn't further harmed as an unintended consequence when the coast changes due to climate changes (likely irreversible).

I would also support more aggressive regulation of the oil industry to restrict deposits of oil waste into aquifers. I would extend these regulations to other commercial entities, manufacturers & private homes that contribute to pollution - those whom dump used motor oil down drains, oil leaked from vehicles, car wash solutions down drains, fertilizers & insecticides, plastic debris, sediments and other hazardous waste dumped into our waterways & eventually our drinking water, poisoning our marine life & destroying our coastal ecosystem.

Since many of these violations are occurring in marginalized or underserved communities or nearby industrial areas, enforcement is spotty - and environmental injustice is High. We need to ensure these communities are not being unfairly targeted or treated unequally by passing and enforcing regulations & imposing fines for violators.

-- Income, wealth, & tax inequality: We need specific regulations which address income disparities especially those based on gender or national origin. We have seen an increase in violations towards women as well as undocumented workers. The levied penalties should be

substantial so as to deter future violators. We need to enact tax reforms, even if initially only on the state level, to deal with fraudulent redistribution of wealth perpetrated by the 1% crew. We need to enact legislation which limits the maximum profit (maximum wage) of certain industry heads to a % of its lowest wage earners - that way they will re-evaluate their own definition of 'minimum' wage. -- Minority rights: People of Color are guaranteed the same rights under the constitution as every other person yet the old white men running this Country tend to forget that small fact. The continual criminalization and marginalization of Black, Brown and Native people and the systematic diminishing of our rights through backdoor laws, legal slight of hand, incarceration for offenses once thought non-offenses...

-- Police & prison reform: Prison: The belief in 'reform' is a belief the present system is working. We need to rebuild this system of oppressive injustice which disproportionately impacts Black & Brown people. Whenever there is money tied into locking people up, it is not a question of whether it will happen, just when and how many. We must remove the financial incentives which hinge a man's liberty on his wealth or the state's ability to profit from his unfortunate mistakes/errors in judgement.

Police: There's no question we have a fundamental lack of trust & respect between our Black & Brown communities and law enforcement. This must be healed in order to move forward. Much of the healing must be initiated by the officers whom have often been at the end of causing the harm. Police must see themselves as part of the community. They must go into the community and seek to understand us not simply to push fear or intimidate. They must see community members who do not look like them as human beings - fathers, sons, husbands, brothers - like themselves, and treat them accordingly. When mistakes are made, they must own up to them and not make excuses. They must identify any officers who do not represent the best interests of the whole and let them go. They should be strong proponents of punishing those who participate in corruption or collusion or otherwise break the law.

-- Proportional representation/ Ranked choice voting: This is a fairer way than straight ticket voting although I would prefer Ward or district representation in every city area so all areas have the opportunity to be fully represented (vice only select cities in the Bay Area)

-- Rent control: I support rent control measures IF there are parallel state initiatives which empower local municipalities to enact ordinances and protections incl. appropriate civil penalties for violations. I would support a statewide uniform vacancy control ordinances across the state so

there is at least a baseline set of agreements all Landlords are working from then i

-- Single payer healthcare: I support yet all healthcare plan must include mandatory mental health options y preventative care services -- Tuition-free higher education: Any support of tuition free education hinges on the provision of equity-based access to higher education. As it stands, there is a dismal number of students of color admitted to the UC system, making it an elitist institution for white y done Asian students. Black, Brown y Native students are often left out. So, as a Black/Brown/Native person, I object to my monies paying for more white students getting free education while even more students of color get pushed out of higher education and economic empowerment.

Fix the equity issue starting with preK to 12, then we can discuss free higher education. After implementing equity, I frankly believe those who can pay, should pay so that those who cannot are given a break. A rolling scale of tuition is the fairest method.

5) An unanticipated consequence of the passage of 2010's Prop. 14 is that candidates from small political parties now need to gather vastly more signatures-in-lieu of the filing fee -- for example, 7,000 valid signatures for statewide candidates instead of the previous 150. Will you help us lower this number?

Yes; I will initiate legislation to lower this number to an amount equal to that of other candidates running for similar offices so regardless of party affiliation, the base level of signatures required does not automatically include a bias against candidates those not aligned with the traditional two parties. It is an unfair y inequitable assessment meant to be exclusionary in favor of a weighted two-party system. As an independent-leaning candidate, I find the entire process discriminatory y elitist led by corporate political operatives hellbent on retaining the status quo for a certain privileged set of individuals (which most certainly does not include Women of Color & ESPECIALLY does not include Muslim Women of Color!)

6) Will you introduce and sponsor, or co-sponsor if already introduced, legislation creating a public Bank of California, similar to the state-owned Bank of North Dakota?

Such an entity would hold the State's money instead of depositing it in Wall Street banks, and make infrastructure loans, loans in partnership with community banks, and other loans based on the best interests of the people of California, not banker profits. Yes; This is an option worth serious consideration. We would only have to figure out the insurance issue. Given it is a 'public' bank, I would like an interest-free loan option for student loans to be considered. (If successful,

we could expand to incl. home loans.)

7) Are there any other important challenges facing California? What will you do to address them?

Housing is likely the greatest challenge. It is not an organic crisis. It has come about by a combination of factors incl. changes in development regulations & permitting. More importantly though, many of the displacements have occurred because of the decision-making of elected officials who have put prioritized commercial y market-rate housing over low-income housing. Low income housing existed in Richmond, Oakland y Berkeley. Richmond City Council sold the HUD housing to an investor who is changing same to market rate housing. Oakland has sold its property to investors and market rate housing is being developed. So, again, this is not organic. This is a man-made crisis; We can fix it.

The approach has to be multifaceted. First, we need to address the shortage by ensuring the annual 200k units will be built y built in areas desirable to those needing housing. Then we need to ensure the pricing is reasonable for those seeking space. And we need to incentivize builders to complete the projects on time yet deliver a quality product

For those areas not committing to build, they will be mandated to provide funding (at a premium rate) to a housing fund for the state to build in areas where land is readily available.

Since we know we need to continue to build y increase the pace of building, I will ease permit restrictions granted the environmental reports are clear. I will work with developers to create a viable timeline to construct housing that suits multiple use in all areas of the district. We need solutions which guarantee housing to single parent families, people w/disAbilities, elderly, parents w/small children, working families, young professionals, students, etc. I would propose a solution which includes sustainable green energy efficient buildings allocated at a 10-20-70 split - 10% low income (inc. Elderly & people w/disAbilities), 20% for moderate income, and 70% market rate. The market rate pricing will more than cover any 'perceived' losses though I do not suspect any losses would occur anyway. I would also build in incentives in the contracts for completing the project early and hiring local workers - registered small businesses (VOSB, WOB, MWBE, WBE), reentry people, high schoolers interested in trades, women returning to work after an absence, displaced homemakers, career changers, homeless people needing work, etc.

In general, I propose a revival of the state jobs program concept as well as hands-on building trades agreement.

My life has been dedicated to serving the People and I aim to always be that 'Voz de la Gente' (Voice of the People).

8) What endorsements have you received?

~75 from local activists /community influencers who are engaged in the actual work of the commUNITY

9) Anything you would like to add?

We are on the precipice of great change...What we do over the next series of months will define our future. It will not only determine how we truly feel about our own society and the liberation - or authoritarianism - we are facing, it will make a clear and definitive statement about who it is we want to become as a People, a Nation.

It has been 50y since the release of the Kerner Commission Report and its findings that white society had denied opportunity to BlackAmericans living in poor urban neighborhoods. It's most significant finding y most famous line, most repeatedly cited by theUS Supreme Court even as recently as the past 2-3y, "Our Nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white - separate and unequal."

The Commission also found, "What White Americans have never fully understood - but what the Negro can never forget - is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

That was in the 1960s. Now 50y later and we are still fighting the same fights, different faces - racism, sexism, gender bias, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, ableism, homophobia, nationalism, ageism...We have people who have been in charge, who've played political musical chairs during times discomfort & strife and still have resolved nada...We have so-called leaders who claim 'success' for things the voters have done (minimum wage, rent control, environmental standards) when the cameras are rolling yet mention nada of the failings y have done nada concrete to make significant change in the human condition. These same persons who have been in the midst of the decisión- making which has led us here, have had their opportunities to put all of these great plans y recommendations into effect. They haven't. They now want another chance, at a higher level, to not perform?

Me? I don't need Google to quote statistics on how Black & BrownMales are disproportionately impacted by the criminal (in)justice system or abused by law enforcement or unfairly treated as students of color in the (public) educational system. I have only to look at my own home and pray the 1 in 4 figure doesn't touch my two sons or husband, or since I've already been affected by gender-based violence, that the 1 in 3 women will be affected by gender-based violence/rape doesn't touch my daughter. To have reared them to 'defeat the odds' has not been easy.

As a Muslimah, a Hijabi Muslim Woman, the xenophobic rants of the current administration is

personal. With Jewish in-laws, anti-Semitic comments are personal. Having grown up in a military family, disparaging comments about our Veterans are personal. As one with disAbilities, making fun of people with disAbilities is personal. With a family of immigrants, nationalistic anti-immigrant rhetoric is offensive and I take it personal. I have stood with the commUNITY to fight and I continue to stand with the commUNITY to fight because I certainly know as a Black/Brown, Muslimah, multiethnic, multicultural, multilingual, educated Woman, Wife, Mother of 3 - I know the fear of being isolated y marginalized; threatened for being Muslim, discriminated against for being a Woman and a Person of Color. Yet, I'm not complaining or whining...I'm doing everything in my power to stand up against the usual tyranny. This is what motivates me, inspires me, why I fight. No hidden agendas. No ideologies. No philosophies. Just truth for the entire commUNITY. I'm here fighting for every one of us To no longer be silenced or feel less than. To know we have a voice. To know that voice counts. That voice matters. We matter.

Now is the time for real bold innovative leadership. Leadership which truly reflects the 'Voz de la Gente' (Voice of the people). Leadership that seeks to solve issues and not keep applying cookie cutter approaches or typical corporate rhetoric and no real resolution. While I may not have the 'loudest' voice in the room, It will be tough to find one more passionate...I live to Sirve la Gente (serve the people).

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us..." -Marianne Williamson

Ma Salaama, Cheryl Sent from my iPhone

Ms. Cheryl Sudduth

Principal Federal Policymaking, Contracting & Compliance {pronouns: she/her/hers}

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