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Current line of work: Workers' Rights and Environmental Attorney
 Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District

1) Why are you running for State Assembly? What are your qualifications? What have you accomplished in any offices that you now hold or have recently held?

I am running for State Assembly because this a critical time for California lead in pursuing progressive change in our country, and I believe I have the unique experience and qualifications necessary to bring this leadership to Sacramento from the 15th District. I am a workers' rights and environmental attorney, an experienced three term elected official, the former Sierra Club California Chair, and a committed public health advocate. I have dedicated my career to fighting for working people, our environment, and other progressive causes at the local, state, and international levels.

As the son of a public school teacher and a professor, I have a deep commitment to education, to social justice, and to improving the lives of those in our community. My values reflect the progressive values of our District.

As a workers' rights attorney, I have fought for workers who were discriminated or retaliated against because of race, sex, or disability, denied their fairly earned wages and overtime, meal breaks, and rest periods, denied their health and disability insurance benefits, and I have helped ensure workers who were injured on the job receive the workers' compensation benefits due to them. I recently led negotiations leading to the Berkeley City Council raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, including paid sick leave protections. As a Berkeley Health Commissioner, I have led the fight to save Alta Bates hospital from closure.

I am currently serving my third term as an elected Boardmember at the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), the governing body that ensures clean and reliable water in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. At EBMUD, I helped double water conservation rates, protect our water quality, and expand solar energy. I helped develop America's first food-waste-to-energy converter, which turns food scraps into renewable energy. I also lowered utility rates for low-income families and protected tenants in foreclosed buildings from having their water shut off.

I worked as part of a coalition that passed the landmark law requiring half of California's electricity to come from renewable energy. I have worked to help implement AB 32, California's key climate protection law, and my advocacy led to the passage of state law that cleaned up toxic pollution from diesel trucks.

As Chair of Sierra Club California, I led Sierra Club's efforts to pass environmental state laws, and represented Sierra Club at U.N. Climate Conferences throughout the world, where I urged participating countries to reduce global warming.

2) Where are you getting the money to run your campaign? Are there any sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you refuse to accept? Do you accept money from developers or corporations, or their PACs?"

I have raised money for this campaign from local environmentalists, workers' rights and public interest attorneys, individuals working at solar companies, public health leaders, teachers, transportation leaders, LGBT community leaders, small business owners, labor leaders, and retired community members. I am not accepting contributions from fossil fuel corporations or corporate PACs and am running a people-powered campaign.

3) Are you interested in the contributions and the opinions of individual constituents in your district? What must a constituent do in order to meet with you?

I believe that as a public servant, I have a responsibility first and foremost to my constituents who I am elected to serve. I would make myself as accessible to constituents as possible, and would ensure that I am fully transparent about my voting record with voters as well. If elected, I would regularly hold town halls to engage the community on the issues facing the district. Any constituent who is interested in meeting with me now, may feel free to email me at [andy -at- andykatz.com](mailto:andy-at-andykatz.com) to set up a meeting with me at my campaign office in Downtown Berkeley.

4) Please give us your position on the following issues.

-- Budget deficits

California must address the structural budget problems that lead to underfunding the social safety net and public education. It's unacceptable that important health and human services programs for our low-income, seniors and disabled residents remain underfunded. It's unacceptable for California to be in the bottom of the nation in per-pupil spending. We need to close corporate tax loopholes and the loophole in Proposition 13 so commercial property owners pay their fair share in taxes so we can reinvest in universal health care, care for aging seniors, affordable housing, and public education.

I will actively advance measures that will restore revenues to the California budget. I support closing the commercial property tax loophole in Proposition 13, to raise up to \$8 billion. I will campaign for closing corporate tax loopholes (\$6 billion), and promote making it easier for schools and local governments to raise property taxes for operational support with a majority or 55% vote.

I will support progressive taxes over mechanisms that have a regressive impact. It's time to reform California's income tax brackets, which place an increasingly disproportionate share of the tax burden on low- and middle- income earners.

-- Controlling the corrupting influence of profit-driven prescription drug and vaccine manufacturers

I support efforts to use California's market power as a health consumer through Medi-Cal payments, in coalition with other states, to demand transparency and accountability so prescription drugs are safe and affordable.

-- Fracking, and other environmental regulations

I would firmly stand in opposition to any attempts to frack our beautiful California lands or drill for oil on our coasts.

The world is not on track to meet the 1.5 to 2 degree temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. The long-term consequences of global climate change will be catastrophic to our planet's ecosystems and unjust for the most vulnerable people. California has the potential to lead global efforts that transform technology globally. When we act locally, this benefits the health of all Californians, especially environmental justice communities.

I strongly support SB 32, which requires cuts in greenhouse gas pollution 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and the original goals of SB 350, including cutting petroleum use by half. These goals are on a path towards the S-3-05 Executive Order goal of 80 percent reduction in emissions by 2050. I would support science-based legislation to accelerate AB / SB 32 goals, such as setting a target of 60% GHG reduction by 2035. I would introduce or support legislation to require a 60% RPS by 2030, and 80% by 2035. Before 2030, California law should require 100% renewable energy by 2040 or sooner.

Conservation and water use efficiency needs to become a way of life throughout California. I worked to target deep efficiency savings in EBMUD's 2040 water supply plan, and the 2013 – 2016 drought provided the moment to accelerate these efforts. We replaced 1 million square feet of lawn through enhanced customer rebates, and stepped up social marketing, far exceeding the state's 20 percent by 2020 goal. The legislature should require deeper water use efficiency for both urban and agricultural water users to help stabilize our demand as the supply becomes less reliable.

We should not flood habitat and open space with new dams. That's why I fought against the proposal to build a new dam on the Mokelumne River. We must preserve our rivers so that fisheries can thrive, and I will introduce legislation to complete the Wild and Scenic designation of the Mokelumne River.

The legislature must strengthen the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to ensure that groundwater resources are utilized for storage but not overdrafted. Once the land has subsided and compacted after excessive pumping, that resource can never be restored. I'm proud of EBMUD's success negotiating directly with San Joaquin Valley leaders to achieve an agreement for groundwater banking, but the legislature needs to provide leadership to address the lack of progress elsewhere in the State.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is an important landmark law that provides the public with disclosure about significant environmental impacts, requires mitigation of significant impacts, and an opportunity to engage in the process about decisions affecting the environment.

-- Income, wealth, and tax inequality

The quality of our schools, community services, and social safety net depends on adequate revenue. I support taxation through progressive income tax brackets, closing corporate tax loopholes, and reforming Proposition 13 to reassess the tax basis for commercial property. I will promote making it easier for schools and local governments to raise property taxes for operational support with a majority or 55% vote.

-- Minority rights

I support repeal of Proposition 209 to allow California schools and employers to help address inequality with affirmative action. I support changes to our anti-discrimination and equal pay laws that would increase access to the courts by extending the statute of limitations, and limit defenses to discriminatory pay practices. We must address equality for all by providing a quality education in all communities, and rigorous enforcement of civil rights.

-- Police and prison reform

I support reforms to eliminate private prisons, cut our exploding prison population, and invest in prevention efforts. I support police accountability reforms including use of body cameras and independent civilian oversight.

-- Proportional representation/ Ranked choice voting

I support efforts to reform our electoral system so voters can elect their representatives more democratically. I supported adoption of ranked choice voting in Berkeley. I support repeal of Proposition 14, which has had impacts on the cost of campaigns.

-- Rent control

I support repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act so that cities can protect low-income renters from losing their homes and communities can preserve affordable housing. I have litigated eviction defense cases, and in the Assembly I will work to pass legislation protecting renters from unfair evictions, improve habitability requirements, and will find the funding to guarantee every renter facing eviction legal representation.

-- Single payer healthcare

I am in favor of universal, single-payer health care in California. The United States has lower life expectancy than other western and developed countries that have nationalized health plans. The

current American health care system involves significant duplication of administrative expense, and even the Affordable Care Act fails to cover all people living in our communities, putting our country at risk of a two-tier health care system where ability to pay determines the quality of care.

I will be particularly attentive to health care quality and the process for a patient enforcing the right to access medically necessary care. If a ballot measure is eventually required to implement or conform financing, I will provide leadership to succeed in this important campaign for universal healthcare.

-- Tuition-free higher education

I am committed to reversing the financial barriers impacting student access to an affordable education for students from middle-class and low-income families. It's an outrage that UC and CSU fees resemble private school tuition, and are more than three times the levels compared to when I enrolled 20 years ago. I support efforts to expand tuition-free higher education and will fight to tax the ultra-wealthy and corporations to cover these costs to provide for the advancement of opportunities for our young people.

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?

I support repeal of Proposition 14, which would allow candidates from small political parties to become nominated with proportional amounts of signatures.

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. A public bank would allow for community reinvestment for public benefit.

7) Are there any other important challenges facing California? What will you do to address them? Anything else you would like us to know about the goals of your candidacy?

I will fight to stop hospital closures, starting with saving Alta Bates. I will introduce legislation strengthening consumer protection, and safeguarding privacy. I will be a champion for environmental justice, addressing pollution and safety at sources including the refinery in Richmond and the Port of Oakland.

8) What endorsements have you received?

Organizations

AFSCME, Local 444

Elected Officials

Marge Atkinson, Albany City Council (ret.)
Vin Bacon, Fremont Vice Mayor
Fred Collignon, Berkeley City Council (ret.)
Scott Donahue, Emeryville City Council
John Fricke, Emeryville City Council (ret.)
Greg Harper, AC Transit Director
Bob Lieber, Albany City Council (ret.)
Alan Miller, Stege Sanitary District Director
Nick Pilch, Albany City Council
Gordon Wozniak, Berkeley City Council (ret.)

Community Members

Ruth Abbe, Alameda
Heinrich Albert, Oakland
Brandon Arbiter, Oakland
Jeremy Blanchard, Oakland
David Blake, Berkeley
Ethan Buckner, Oakland
Craig Castellanet, Oakland
boona cheema, Berkeley
Henry Clark, North Richmond
Erin Diehm, Berkeley
Sonia Diermeyer, Oakland
Amy Dunn, El Sobrante
Theodesia Ferguson, Berkeley
Thomas Francis, Berkeley
Toni Gomez, Oakland
Teresa Hardy, Oakland
Keith Johnson, Berkeley
Lawrence Kolb, Oakland
Jack Krasner, Oakland
Tracy Lemmon, Oakland
Kent Lewandowski, Oakland
Alexander Lyons, Berkeley
Tom Linder, Berkeley
William Morrow, Oakland
Alana Pinsler, Berkeley
Christine Schwartz, Berkeley
Justin Sonnicksen, Oakland
John Steere, Berkeley
Alan Tobey, Berkeley
Michael Warburton, Berkeley

Stephen Wollmer, Berkeley

9) Anything you would like to add?