

## ALAMEDA MAYOR Questionnaire

### GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2018 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to [GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoo.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoo.com) In the subject line, please include "Alameda Mayor".

We prefer that you convert your answered questionnaire into a .pdf document, so we can post it directly to our website. Or simply include your responses in the body of an email, and we will do the conversion.

If it is not possible for you to email, please snailmail your responses so we receive them by 8/23, to:

Alameda Mayor  
c/o Green Party of Alameda County,  
2022A Blake Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

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**Current occupation:** City of Alameda Councilmember, Attorney, Arbitrator

#### **1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for this seat? What personal attribute makes you best suited for the position?**

I'm running for Mayor to provide the stable, constructive leadership Alameda needs to address the housing crisis, increase public transportation options, and create jobs for people at all income levels. For six years on the Alameda City Council and six years on the Planning Board, I've proven that I'm a thoughtful, independent leader with the integrity, focus, and determination to find compromise and get results. I listen to and consider all sides of an issue before making a decision. I have a thorough understanding of the critical issues we face and a deep commitment to Alameda.

As a Council Member, I championed new development at Alameda Point that is eradicating blight and creating employment, housing, and recreational opportunities. In city policy and contracts, I've insisted on bold solutions to reduce traffic congestion and protect our environment by expanding public transportation and adding bike lanes. For the past two decades I've worked to improve life on this island--serving as Planning Board President and member, leading campaigns to build our Main Library and Save Alameda Hospital, and volunteering for our schools. I know how to achieve results and I'm committed to continue working in the best interest of all Alamedans as Mayor.

#### **2. Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected?**

For housing, I want to help create a program in Alameda, or Alameda County similar to the Silicon Valley Housing Trust that is working to create a strong affordable housing market in the

greater Bay Area, as a non-profit housing lender, with programs serving the homeless, renters and first-time homebuyers.

For transportation, please see Response #5 re bicycle-pedestrian bridge from Alameda to Oakland.

**3. Housing affordability** - What further measures can Alameda take to provide more affordable units?

Addressing our housing crisis is a moral imperative. This includes housing supply, affordability, and homelessness.

Many Alameda families struggle to pay for housing. Rising costs are driving seniors and young people from our city, or onto our streets. These are local, regional and state issues. We must employ all the tools at our disposal to create much needed new housing.

I represent Alameda at the League of California Cities and serve on the League's Statewide Policy Committee on Housing, Community and Economic Development which gives me a regional and statewide perspective on resolving our housing challenges. We need to increase funding sources for affordable housing construction, by passing State Propositions 1 and 2 on the November ballot that provide funding for affordable housing and more mental health programs and services for homeless individuals.

I support fairness for renters and voted to end "just cause" (no cause) evictions. While I did not achieve a council majority - I was the lone "yes" vote - I will attempt to do so again, if elected Mayor.

Ending Homelessness requires dedication and compassion. There is no one cause for homelessness, and no one solution. We must find multiple, creative solutions. One excellent example is a proposed senior assisted living facility and respite center to be built on surplus federal property on McKay Avenue in Alameda.

**4. Open Space** -- Alameda has opportunities for improving public recreation and open spaces. What are your priorities?

As noted in Response #1, I championed new development at Alameda Point that is creating new recreational opportunities while eradicating blight. These recreational opportunities include both passive (nature trails and a wildlife preserve) and active recreation (a sports facility with swimming pool and sports fields). Alameda is currently adding two parks to its extensive network of public parks - the Jean Sweeney Beltline Open Space Park that includes walking and bike paths, a community garden, picnic areas, playgrounds and more, and Estuary Park which includes a Challenger League Field for youth and adults with special needs.

As an elected representative of an island community, it is also important to me to open our shoreline to the public, by including public access and amenities, and continuation of the Bay Trail in all new waterfront development.

My priorities for improving public recreation and open spaces are to ensure adequate funding to complete construction of Jean Sweeney and Estuary Parks, and ongoing maintenance for all our parks and open spaces that are not funded by some other source like developer impact fees.

**5. Transportation** -- Do you have any specific priorities to increase public transportation and reduce traffic in the city?

I will continue advocating for and encouraging fewer single occupancy auto trips within and outside Alameda. This requires reliable public transit options. My priorities include increasing ferry service — we are adding a third ferry terminal at Alameda Point — and AC Transit service. Development impact fees are paying for the resumption of the Line 19 bus in our Northern Waterfront area. I support the citywide Transportation Management Authority funded by residents of new developments that helps underwrite shuttles to BART and queue-jumping busses.

I support construction of a bicycle-pedestrian bridge from Alameda Landing to Jack London Square to help reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles leaving Alameda through the Tube each morning. The City hired a bridge designer to create possible designs. If this proposal is determined to be feasible, we will look for funding sources next.

**6. Climate adaptation** -- The city is about to update its climate action plan. What local climate change adaptation should the city be pursuing now and what funding strategies would you advocate?

As an island community, Alameda is vulnerable to flooding resulting from sea level rise due to climate change caused, in part, by greenhouse gas emissions. I support adaptations outlined in the Local Action Plan for Climate Protection, including reducing the use of gas-powered cars by improving public transit options (please see Response #5) and adding more bike lanes and cycle tracks.

We must also assure that our stormwater management system is well-maintained. Earlier this year I supported bringing an infrastructure bond to voters in November to help fund Alameda's infrastructure needs, including storm drains, sea walls, and levees, but the Council majority voted against this proposal. If elected Mayor, I will pursue an infrastructure bond in the future. It is essential that sufficient funding from the General Fund be directed to climate change adaptation strategies.

**7. Income inequality** -- What do you propose the city could do to lessen the income gap in the city, including in city government?

I support increasing Alameda's minimum wage to be commensurate with neighboring cities.

**8. Electoral Reform** -- Currently, Alameda uses a plurality system of voting in which a mayoral candidate could win with as little as a third of the vote. Would you support moving to a ranked-choice voting system for Alameda's mayoral race? Explain your reasoning.

I think that ranked-choice voting for Alameda's mayoral race should be considered, to assure that the mayor is the choice of the majority of voters. I would welcome input from the League of Women Voters on this topic.

**9. Viability** -- Please name your major endorsements so far and how you plan to win. Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept, if any.

The endorsement process is currently underway. So far, I have been endorsed by the Alameda County Democratic Lawyers Club, Mayors and City Council Members from the Bay Area and beyond, local board and commission members, business owners and community members. A

list of my endorsements to date can be found at my campaign website,  
[www.marilyn4alameda.org](http://www.marilyn4alameda.org)

I would not accept contributions from oil companies or tobacco companies.

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

In 2000, when I co-chaired the campaign to build a new Main Library in Alameda, the campaign was endorsed by the Green Party of Alameda County and Green Party members in Alameda volunteered on our ultimately successful campaign. I will always be grateful to the Greens for supporting our library campaign and would be honored to have my campaign for Mayor endorsed by the Green Party of Alameda County. Thank you.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Greg Jan

Green Party of Alameda County

(Please RSVP NOW, and respond to: [GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com) by Thursday 8/23).