

Berkeley School Board Questionnaire
c/o Green Party of Alameda County
2022A Blake Street ~ Berkeley , CA 94704

Name: Abdur Sikder

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Current occupation: Entrepreneur/ Professor

Motivation

Why did you choose to run for this office?

I am running for The Berkeley School Board because I want Berkeley School District to be a place where all children have an equal opportunity to have high quality education, all students are taught to enjoy learning not that they have to. As a parent, I know what kind of environment requires for students to become lifelong learners. I attended Schools in Bangladesh, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, and USA including UC San Diego, being a professor and a founder for profit Software company in Berkeley, I have the diverse background to understand all the stakeholders in BUSD.

Qualifications

Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for being a School Board Director.

My three children currently attend Berkeley public institutions. Having a Ph.D. in Computer Science and training in Teaching & Learning in higher education I have the skill, experience and commitment to ensure that we use our resources efficiently. I will listen to all stakeholders and will incorporate their suggestion in the decision-making process. Together we can achieve impossible. If elected I will work to have a safe, fun and friendly environment for our children to be successful including special need students. My goal is to facilitate practical oriented curriculum for our children to be ready to go to college or enter into workforce and live a productive life.

Priorities

What do you believe are the major issues facing the District? What are some specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, et.) you intend to accomplish while in office?

Allocating more funding for special need children and after school care.

What specifically do you think the School District can or should do locally to fight climate change? To reduce the District's carbon footprint to zero?

I think School District can have some awareness programs to encourage students, parents and residence about climate change and reducing carbon footprint to zero.

The Berkeley City Council may need temporary facilities for meetings during Council Chamber refurbishment. Are you in favor of allowing the City Council to use School Board Facilities to hold meetings when not being used by the School Board? Do you think the City should pay for this use?

Yes. I guess it would be nice if city can pay for the use of this facilities.

How do you think issues of homelessness in Berkeley impact the schools? Do you have suggestions on solutions to Berkeley homeless issues? Is there a role the school system can play in easing the homeless crisis?

Homelessness is a crucial issue in Berkeley and it has significant impacts on schools. We should work together to solve this critical problem. School system can help the city by providing strategic plan to resolve this issue.

Do you have issues or concerns regarding the interactions between Berkeley Police and students? If so, do you have suggestions for solutions?

I have concerns but I would leave it to the Police to address this issue.

What are your positions on the three Berkeley Ballot Measures?

\$135M Affordable Housing Bond?

Yes. I support this measure.

Police Commission Charter Amendment?

Yes. I support this.

Amending the Rent Control Ordinance to Cover Newer Buildings?

Yes. I strongly support this measure.

Endorsements

Who are you endorsing for the Senate, for Governor, for AD15, and for the Berkeley City Council?

Still working on it.

Who has endorsed you?

Anything Else

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

I am a progressive minded strong supporter of green energy.

Are you a member of the Green Party? Not yet.

Pledges - Have you signed either of the following pledges?

A. For democracy: <https://movetoamend.org/candidate-questionnaire>

Yes. I did.

B. For peace: <http://www.peacelegislators.org/pledge-form/>

Yes. I did.