

HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL Questionnaire

**GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY
2018 ENDORSEMENT DECISION**

Please email your responses to GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com. In the subject line, please include "Hayward City Council".

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 8/23/18, to:

Hayward City Council Questionnaire
c/o Green Party of Alameda County
2022A Blake Street ~ Berkeley , CA 94704

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Current occupation: Business IT Consultant

1 --- Qualifications: Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City Councilor. If you are a current City Government elected official, what issues can you point to in your time as an elected official that have had a positive impact?

As a former foster child, I've relied on the community I grew up in and worked hard to overcome many challenges life threw my way. As a longtime resident of Hayward, I understand the needs of the community and will make Hayward a leader in the Bay Area.

I've dedicated time to community organizing. I work to ensure housing for low and extremely low-income individuals, provide seniors programs to stay active, have immigrants get involved in the community through civic engagement, and to support victims of domestic violence as they find safety and start to live their lives. I've organized around these issues and many more including education, the environment, civic engagement, and women's rights.

I'm at the intersection of social impact, technology, and community organizing. She has a unique and very broad background that lets her tackle any problem head-on. Currently, I work as a Business Information Technology Consultant for Santa Clara County. I've successfully saved the County millions of dollars in enterprise-wide agreements with technology contracts such as Microsoft, Adobe, Amazon and many more.

Recently, I was named as one of **San Francisco Business Times' 2017 Most Influential Woman in Business** (for my work in non-profits), highlighted in **San Francisco Magazine's "The Resistance" Issue** (for community organizing), named **40 Under 40 by CSU East Bay**, as well as an American Graduate Champion by KLRU via a grant by the Corporation of Public Broadcasting for my passion for education. I've received numerous other awards such as the **Unity Award by CA State Senator Bob Wieckowski** and **Inspirational Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Kansen Chu** - to name a few.

I was honored to be selected to be a part of the **White House Roundtable** of Afghan American Leaders as well as being invited to **the White House's Annual NowRoz event**.

I attended public school and graduated with my B.A. in Political Science. I also went on to receive my Masters in Business Administration at **California State University, East Bay**.

Experience:

- Abode Services - Board Member
- Tri-City Volunteers - Board Member
- Hayward Democratic Club
- Hayward Chamber of Commerce
- Women's March Bay Area
- The Hayward Collective
- United Democratic Campaign - Executive Director
- CSUEB - Diversity Center
- Alameda County Human Relations - Chair
- Alameda County Public Health - Commissioner
- Alameda County Democratic Central Committee
- 2016 Unity Award by California State Senator Bob Wieckowski
- 2017's Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business
- 2018 CSUEB 40 Under 40

2 --- Local groups: Are you affiliated with any of the active Hayward or other local citizen or environmental advocacy groups?

I'm an active member of the Democratic Party and serve as an Associate Member to the Democratic Central Committee. I am also a member of the Hayward Democratic Club and serve as an At-Large Member. I am a member of the Eden Area Interfaith and serve as a Spiritual Independent Member. I have been involved with the Hayward Collective pushing for housing rights for seniors, renters, and students. I was the Chair of the Human Relations Commission for years, served as a Public Health Commissioner and was on the Keep Hayward Clean & Green Taskforce.

3 --- What are some of the largest issues in Hayward that need to be addressed now? What creative ideas do you have to address these issues?

I believe housing is the most important issue to residents and then public safety. Hayward's average household income for a family is \$65,000 and yet the average cost of a home is over \$650,000, which means that the families in Hayward need to make more than \$90,000/year to purchase a home in Hayward. Renters also face a great deal of difficulty. Hayward is 1 of 15 California cities with a Rent Control Ordinance. Thirty years ago that same ordinance protected 22,000 homes and today it protects less than 2,000 in a city with a population over 160,000 people. Seniors, students, and working people are

struggling to keep up. I will work on this issue by working with stakeholders, developers, and hole groups accountable to serve the residents of Hayward first. We need to expand these safety nets to protect our most vulnerable – students are sleeping in their cars and seniors are unable to earn more – these groups deserve more.

As for public safety, I believe in community policing, I'd like to use data in a more mindful way, expand bike patrols throughout Hayward and also create a Chief Advisory Panel where people can speak to the Chief directly, regularly, and publicly. Transparency is a big part of this campaign.

4 --- Who has endorsed you so far (groups and individuals of note)?

- California Young Democrats
- CA Congressman Ro Khanna
- CA Superintendent Delaine Eastin
- CA State Controller Betty Yee
- CA Senator Kevin DeLeon & Jim Beall Jr.
- CA Assemblymembers: Bill Quirk, Rob Bonta, Ash Kalra
- Bay Area Mayors: Lily Mei, Libby Schaaf, Jesse Arreguin, Gabriel Quinto
- Council Members of the Bay Area
- Building Trades of Alameda Council
- Partial List Only & Titles are for ID purposes only.

5 --- Why did you choose to run for this office? What strength/skills would you bring to the Council?

I'm a progressive millennial candidate and I believe my voice and those of my peers were not being addressed or even considered. The more time I spent learning the issues, I realized seniors, students, and many working people were in the same position, they weren't being heard. I believe I'd bring a strong sense of community service, business minded, and regional solutions to local problems as we are not the only city struggling to meet the demands of our community. I have a track record of team work and leading to consensus building, Hayward City Council will be a perfect opportunity to make a positive impact for the community.

6 --- Given the issues with campaign finances at the national level, we regard transparency in fundraising as highly critical at this time -- how much money do you currently have for this race? Are all your donors publicly listed on your website? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?

I support restricting dark money from political races. I have taken ZERO Corporate Funds. I am running a clean money campaign.

I have over \$45,000 thus far and would like to raise the maximum or close to it (expenditure limit in Hayward is roughly \$72,000). The individual donor information is available to the public on the City of Hayward's website under Government, under elections, under candidate information (\$100+ donors are listed such the law requires). Every donation \$100 or more is listed on my 460 report pursuant to the Fair Political Practices Commission of California.

7 --- The Hayward Police Department has been steadily increasing bike patrols in the Downtown area, which has helped with connecting with the community and has shown to be very effective. Do you support expanding these patrols in other neighborhoods around the City?

Yes, I'd advocate for more bike patrols in other neighborhoods in Hayward. I'd advocate for more training to improve Police/Community relations throughout the city and with our diverse communities. I'd push for additional social work training to improve reactions to mental health issues, de-escalation and communication.

8 --- Do you consider environmental stewardship and sustainable development as core parts of your vision for Hayward's future?

Yes, Hayward is in a fault zone and a flood zone. It is important we plan accordingly with the protection of the environment being a core tenant of any decision. Hayward is a leader in environmental stewardship. I'll continue to advocate and support sustainability and ensure any new developments are also incorporating this mentality.

9 --- Will you work closely with EBRPD and HARD to expand protected open space and add to the Bay Trail wherever possible?

Yes, I will work with them to protect and expand Open Space and the Bay Trail. I have already met with several board members and hope to continue this professional relationship and partner whenever possible.

10 --- How do you plan to get the city to expand solar panel coverage of roofs of all city owned buildings, as well as parking lots, as soon as practicable?

We need to push for solar, other green technologies to be implanted through our Capital Improvement Program but also support CA bills that would like all new residential developments to have solar. We need to be proactive and I plan on doing that on every decision.

11 --- How do you plan to encourage industries with huge roof areas (especially in South Hayward) to also get solar panel coverage of their roofs?

There area lot of programs that allow for industries to move towards greener technologies from going electric to solar. I believe we need to partner more with these larger agencies to provide financing or other incentives for businesses to move into this direction but also help smaller businesses at the same time.

12 --- Are you committed to making sure any further parking comes with commensurate levels of EV charging infrastructure, making provisions for future EV ownership growth?

Yes, I've been driving an electric vehicle and this would be a wonderful asset to build for future infrastructure changes as we move from fuel to EV.

13 --- Will you make sure that any future development (infill or rehab) is LEED certified or Green Point Rated, and further that provisions are made for significant water conservation and reuse of water on site, given that climate change models show California will be getting steadily drier into the future?

Yes, we need to promote every mode of going green as possible. California native plants, recyclable water usage, and LEED development.

14 --- The Downtown Traffic Loop has been a disaster for Hayward with documented slower traffic on routes in and around the downtown, and a degradation in level of service in the reverse directions (such as north on Mission) to "F," which is being hidden by the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Pedestrian crossings are longer and more difficult; people have to drive longer distances to get through downtown and to downtown; there is cut-through traffic in neighborhoods, murderous lane changing challenges, and jack-rabbiting speeds between lights. Downtown is an expressway, not a destination. Will you work with Councilmember Marv Peixoto to end the Loop?

Yes, there are specific changes that can be made. The Loop is not only dangerous to pedestrians but also hurts businesses in many areas. I'm an advocate of making A Street and B Street 2-ways, expanding sidewalks, increasing a main parking structure to promote walking and sitting outside to promote business in our downtown.

15 --- The City thoughtlessly decided to destroy a multimillion dollar building, the old library, which has potential to serve as a community center. It could be saved by change orders and saving of demolition

costs, but first needs to be studied concerning its value, the interest of people in making it work, costs and other planning to see how it compares with other options. Will you support spending \$3,000 for an appraisal so that we will at least know the value of the building before it is too late?

Yes, Hayward's new library is an advantage to the city but there still is need for a community center, meeting places, and a place to gather for different purposes.

16 --- The Maple Main project and the Lincoln Landing projects are proposing large scale parking structures, with buildings five and six stories high for the North side of Downtown. They have huge increases in parking and subsidizing parking. There are viable alternatives for lower rise buildings for a comparable population, designed to encourage walking and shuttle bus to downtown and BART rather than driving up Foothill out of town. Will you support parking reduction and alternative transportation? Will you support parking ratios of one half space per unit or lower based on alternative mobility policies?

Yes, I would support the promotion of alternative transportation. I do also understand that our larger transportation infrastructure is not quite there yet. I will promote rideshare, shuttle, and other programs as well.

17 --- Taxis and ehaul, and carshare/rental, are increasingly important for mobility with less car-dependency. Will you support big projects like those above only if they can credibly achieve over 50 percent reductions in Vehicle Miles Traveled and 50 percent or fewer trips by personal car? How much greenhouse gas reduction by new developments will you support, and how will you do it? Will you support the long-overdue relocation of the taxi stand at Hayward BART, designating a place close to the exit of the station for pickup, and implementation of Flywheel by Hayward cabs?

Yes, we need to reduce gas reduction as we continue to develop. I believe we can do this in the next few years and I hope that with all the aspects of "going green" we can make a huge dent within a few years.

18 --- Will you support rapid bus -- fast, frequent, free -- in the downtown corridor and to Cal State Eastbay? Will you support land-based finance and RFP management of operations? Will you support early public involvement in discussion of City application for funds from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program?

Yes.

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

I strongly believe in partnerships and forward-thinking strategies. I'm happy to be able to speak to anyone that would like to reach out to me and find some common ground.
Learn more at www.AishaWahab.com

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

Sincerely,

Greg Jan
Green Party of Alameda County

(Please RSVP now, and respond to GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoo.com by Thursday, August 23).