

## ALAMEDA CITY COUNCIL Questionnaire

### GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2018 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

<http://acgreens.org>

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Current occupation: **Strategic Planner / Facilitator**

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

**I chose to run because my community of friends and neighbors, and business were as frustrated as I with where our city wasn't going. They said they want to see new blood and the face of change in city hall.** I am running to bring leadership back to our city government, and a vision for a better, more vibrant Alameda; to return integrity and trust back to our city government; to improve our parks, our libraries and open spaces; and to work hard within the community to bring new ideas and solutions forward to address our housing and traffic issues so that homeowners, renters and all Alamedans can have a safe and secure place to live.

One attribute that distinguishes me would be "openness." I am an inclusive collaborator with an optimistic approach to creative problem solving. This helped me achieve both big and small scale community based projects and initiatives with large results: from adopting blue sky strategies to win the Kids First! The Oakland Fund for Children and Youth campaign charter amendment and children's fund with 75% of the vote, to organizing the first Townhall on Immigration with our County Sheriff. This has help me be resilient to other's opinions and approaches.

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?

Once elected, I intend to:

- **Housing - Make a commitment to working families and individuals and build already approved affordable housing units.** Build the 400-plus units of affordable housing at the Alameda Housing Authority's North Housing site next to Admirals Cove (former military property) and Alameda Landing. Work to increase development projects workforce and affordable housing percentages to 20-25%, to exceed state minimums.
- **Safety - Support our police department with the data driven tools to better protect our community streets.** Support the formation of a police oversight committee.
- **Traffic - Safer, less congested streets and help commuters.** Fast-track Alameda's "Transportation Choices Plan"; Support more bus service off and on island.
- **Environment - Fight for greater environmental protections and smart energy solutions.** Work to move up our timeline towards utilizing clean and renewable energy

sources; support the implementation of more citywide initiatives to reduce our human impact on our beaches, waterways and landfill; seek sustainable funding sources for CASA-Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda to ensure and sustain its independent policy development contributions to our city.

- **Cannabis - Ensure that Compassionate Care is a policy and not a slogan.** Direct City staff to make local prioritization a priority to ensure that residents seeking to establish a business receive a higher consideration. Support the 68% of Alamedans who voted for safe access to cannabis on the island with the establishment of the city's first Cannabis Commission.
- **Promote more local solar power and energy storage.** Work with our AMP to reduce electrical transmission costs, lessen the pressure on the statewide energy grid, avoid negative impacts to carbon-absorbing deserts caused by solar farm construction, and become a producer/contributor of renewable energy and not just a consumer.
- **The Arts - Support our increased commitment to a more vibrant Alameda.** Call for greater public arts and cultural arts funding percentage of 2% on all new developments over \$100,000.

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

**Pass a resolution to protect working families' and individual's housing needs.**

We can protect housing policies that make housing accessible to people at various income levels, especially local workers, teachers, our police and firefighters, and our military members.

- Strengthen policies that protect renters from unjustified eviction while assuring both renters and landlords have fair access to mediated grievance processes.
- Expedite development projects and increase the workforce and affordable housing to 20-25%, to exceed state minimums.
- Establish zoning policy that enables homeowners and landowners to build or situate on-site alternative housing solutions like co-housing and co-working spaces, tiny homes, tiny prefab housing, and shipping container condo solutions.

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

**My priorities for parks and open spaces are to Invest in our Parks and Trails.**

- \* Open the Bay Trail around Alameda Point.
- \* Create the long-awaited regional park at Alameda Point.
- \* Fund and complete Estuary Park and Jean Sweeney Park.
- \* Prepare the design and cost estimate and seek funding for De-Pave Park (ecological shoreline park) on the Seaplane Lagoon at Alameda Point.
- \* Preserve and enhance all wetlands and water-related habitat.
- \* Assure the successful execution and oversight of existing open space projects (Jean Sweeney, Site A - Phase One (eight acres of parks and open space),).
- \* Protect and preserve Bay waters and vegetation as nurseries and spawning grounds for fish and other aquatic species, both as a part of habitat preservation and to encourage continued use of the Bay for commercial fishing production. [Guiding Policies: Open Space for the Managed Production of Resources 5.2.a, [https://alamedaca.gov/sites/default/files/document-files/files-inserted/general\\_plan\\_ch5.pdf](https://alamedaca.gov/sites/default/files/document-files/files-inserted/general_plan_ch5.pdf)]

\* Support policies on future housing development to ensure the maximization of open commons and rooftop access for landscaped community spaces for recreation, community agriculture, and increased urban habitat.

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

**Increase our transportation options on, to, and off the island** (increased ferry service, bus service, island shuttle service; fund the study of a second tube to Oakland for emergency egress; implement more resilient housing development policies that mandate EV chargers in every new development, one car garages, and increased public transportation to major transit thoroughfares and hubs.

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?

**Wetland Restoration** - (CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife) Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program. \$12.75 million for projects designed to restore or enhance coastal tidal wetlands, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta wetlands, or mountain meadows for the purpose of achieving quantifiable greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits and providing important co-benefits. Funding: The California State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Program  
<http://scc.ca.gov/files/2018/04/Climate-Ready-Announcement.pdf>

**Living Shorelines, including wave energy** reducing shellfish shoals and seaweed beds in the tidal waters as part of Horizontal Levees with freshwater and saltwater marsh elements. These provide more protection in small wave locations like Alameda and cost less to implement than sea walls and traditional levees. Living systems provide much greater resilience in the event flooding due to heavy storm events or king tides, because living systems act as giant sponges and can absorb more water than standard hardscape storm drains and mechanical pumps are designed to handle.

**Remove GHG Emissions** - Purchase & install 2 moss wall CityTrees per BIA and commercial Districts, each one, does the equivalent job of 275 trees, in less than 38 sq ft, they filter the air of fine dust, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide (up to 240 metric tons per year each). Eight (two per 4 districts: Downtown, Westside, BayFarm, Mariner Square) would provide the air purification and biological carbon sequestration equivalent of planting 2200 new trees in our city.  
<https://www.construction21.org/articles/h/pollution-sucking-smart-trees-bring-clean-air-to-london-and-brussels.html>

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

In our city, strategies to lessen the gap of income inequality would include expediting new development, including small and tiny homes, building more workforce and affordable housing an increasing the developer quotient to 25%, embracing Just Cause and dropping the sales tax.

In city government, we would need to take a hard look at how salaries compared to our city size, location and workforce size to begin exploring a conversation on this.

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 would support a discussion on ranked-choice voting system. In a nonpartisan race, I would rather recommend we move to a primary system and send the top two candidates into a general election runoff. I have not voted in ranked-choice but understand its intended use as an electoral tool.

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.

I will refuse to accept any corporate pac contributions nor from foreign nationals, state lobbyists registered to lobby the California State Assembly or persons under the age of 18. I would also refuse to accept any contributions from any person or group known as a hate group or known for their abusive or divisive character or mission.

Major endorsements: Hon. Henry Levy, Alameda County Treasurer, Hon. Sheila Jordan (Ret.) Alameda County Superintendent, ACOE, David Kakishiba, Fmr. OUSD School Board Member (Ret.)

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

I ask for your vote to represent you on City Council. Raising two children in Alameda, I bring new blood and a progressive voice for change to our city.

For over 30 years, I worked as a community and legislative leader for children, youth and working families including for Senator Barbara Boxer and then State Senator Barbara Lee. Locally, I have supported the arts community through Rhythmix Cultural Works; Advocated for our environment on CASA - Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (Plastic Straw Ban, Local Climate Action Plan); Supported our school children through PTA, LCAP, AUSD Black Achievers Alliance Roundtable; Facilitated our Townhall on Immigration with Police Chief Rolleri through ACLU People Power; Supported the 68% of Alamedans who voted for cannabis on the island through ASCA-Alameda for Safe Cannabis Access.

I pledge to continue to work hard for our community, for good governance, transparency and openness for our city. Thank you.