

BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL D7 Questionnaire

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

2018 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoo.com. In the subject line, please include "Berkeley City Council D7".

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:

Berkeley City Council D7 Questionnaire

c/o Green Party of Alameda County

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Current occupation: graphics and web designer / technical support administrator

1. Motivation

Why did you choose to run for this office?

I am a lifelong fighter for social justice. As a gay woman immigrant I have had to fight for my relationship and my rights my entire life. As a matter of fact, my family and I had to leave the Philippines because of my work fighting against the Marcos military dictatorship; which put my life and the lives of my loved ones in danger. 18 years ago I moved to Berkeley that welcomed me and allowed my wife and I to love, work, and thrive. I am driven to run for this seat. I want to give back and I have a lot to offer:

2. Priorities

What do you believe are the major issues facing your district? The City?

Affordable housing, innovation and transparency in Berkeley

What are some specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, et.) you intend to accomplish while in office?

Public policy issues addressing affordable housing, environment, public transit, public safety, economic development, fiscal responsibility, and technological innovation.

3. Qualifications

Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for being a City Council member.

My experience of more than 20 years in business has shaped me into a broker of ideas, and originator of projects. I continue to collaborate effectively with my colleagues, because I am a good listener and I deliver. My wife and I, with friends and acquaintances, founded a co-housing community 18 years ago. This innovative style of homeownership built on our ability to compromise and create solutions and allowed us to live the life of our dreams. I bring this value to the council putting Berkeley first, putting District 7 First.

4. Land Use

What do you think are the most important land use issues facing the city today?

The City and the University have different missions: what conflicts/challenges do you foresee on land use policy, and how would you address these?

What is your position on the building of housing on The People's Park?

I'm running for City Council to preserve the values and infrastructure the city of Berkeley already enjoys. At the same time I'm willing to explore affordable and safe housing for students and displaced Berkeley residents.

5. Automobiles

What policies should the city take to reduce automobile use and make the city friendlier to pedestrians and other non-automobile transportation?

Bike riders need to feel safe. Increased safety to bike riders generates more bike riders and promotes other non-automobile transport, like walking.

Should the city promote electric car use, and what policy and infrastructure changes would you support, if any?

Yes, in fact, the City must promote electric car use. I would support the installation of more charging stations, and policies that promote public use of charging stations and stations next to residences that rely on on-street parking.

6. Safety and Infrastructure

What are the most important public safety issues facing the residents of Berkeley?

To feel safer walking around Berkeley.

What kinds of programs are useful for creating a safe environment for all people?

Educating people about being more conscious about their environment; more street lighting;

What infrastructure should be a high priority for city management?

More street lighting; Safe shelters for homeless, affordable housing and street resurfacing that includes measures, such as bios-wales and other green measures, that result in reduced volume, and cleaner, storm water runoff.

7. Affordable housing

What is your position on building market-rate housing versus affordable housing?

Market value housing does not include housing for fixed income seniors and disabled communities and low wage workers. Affordable housing is a real dialogue about wages and rents.

Does building mostly market-rate help or hinder affordability in Berkeley?

It hinders; it gives false promises of housing those who need it the most and have incomes below market value rents.

What affirmative steps would you take to increase the availability of new or refurbished affordable housing in Berkeley?

Build, build, build - to increase affordable housing. I would work with non-profit organizations and developers alike, and support policies that result in more affordable housing units.

Are there any particular demographics that you would target for this housing?

Yes, the demographic would be seniors, disabled populations and low wage parents.

Are there any particular neighborhoods that you would target for this housing?

I will be representing District 7 - affordable student housing will be a priority.

Do you think Berkeley can/should tackle gentrification? If so, how?

Yes, Berkeley can tackle this issue.

Gentrification is a national issue, Berkeley can continue to be the example on how to deal with complex social issues such as gentrification by beginning to have difficult dialogues. I pledge to create space for such dialogues as a council member. Neighborhoods have a history, a people, a unique culture to enjoy it, learn about it and work to preserve it. Listen to the Voices of Your Neighbors

People like to talk about being a "voice for the oppressed." That's misguided. The oppressed have their own voices. We just have to hear the voices of marginalized people. Open your minds. Truths aren't always spoken calmly.

Do you support SB 827?

Yes. I support the concept of SB 827. The major reason we have such shortage of housing in Berkeley is that for the past 40 years, there was a constant block against development. As a result, we are now in a

massive housing shortage. I always say that the law of supply and demand is upon us. Because the supply is very low – and the demand so high, skyrocketing prices of housing, of rental units, are just making Berkeley less and less affordable. We have in fact become just like any rich City in the Bay Area – very expensive to live in. We need to build more housing – and more affordable units – otherwise, this housing crunch will continue to spiral – and the diversity of Berkeley will severely be impacted, if not already.

8. Rent Control

How important is it to keep Berkeley's form of strong rent control and eviction protections?

Very important

How important is keeping an elected rent board?

The rent board is an important safety net for renters in Berkeley.

Do you support any candidates for the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board?

If so, which one(s) and why?

Still learning about the candidates for rent board

What is your position on the effects of Costa-Hawkins on the affordability of Berkeley units?

It is destroying the rental market

Do you support Proposition 10, the repeal of Costa-Hawkins? **Yes**

9. Homelessness

What do you think can and should be done about "Homelessness" here in Berkeley?

Build more affordable housing units. At the same time, provide a comprehensive mobile mental health and social services unit with dedicated case workers. This is an expensive model. However Berkeley is a small enough city with its own health department - we can be the pilot city that sets the smart practices around homeless mental health patients and how we can guide them to living healthy productive lives.

What is your position on the Police raids on homeless encampments? What is your position on the evictions of houseless RV dwellers in the Berkeley marina?

We must increase affordable housing so people do not have to live out of their RV's on public property or on the street. They deserve affordable housing, and a safe place to live.

Do you think the Pathways Project is a good use of city funds?

I think the Navigation Center model is a good one. Though the Pathways Project might have its issues, I will use lessons learned from it to work towards a navigation center model that works for Berkeley.

Have you made an effort to talk to the homeless and listen to their priorities?

On occasion, yes – but not a whole lot. But I have talked to and listened to people who work with the homeless. But it was my compassion for the homeless that has fueled my activism. I find it

unconscionable and unacceptable to have people living on the streets when this is such a rich country. This should not be allowed to continue.

What essential services should be a high priority for the homeless?

Mental health services, social services with dedicated case workers who can help them apply for federal programs that they are already good candidates for.

What long term city priorities can be made to meet their needs that are independent of regional, state or federal funding?

A round the clock mobile mental health crisis intervention center.

10. Food Policy

What policies would you support to re-localize our food system?

Slow food movement. Home cooking entrepreneurs, and creative approaches, such as pop-up dinners.

Do you support labeling of GMO foods, similar to Vermont's law? Yes Vermont is a great example

11. National Policy Statements

Should the Berkeley City Council take positions on national and international issues?

Yes, if we don't speak up no one will. Also – the feeling of solidarity and support is very uplifting for those in other countries fighting against oppression and exploitation in their countries. It does not make them feel so alone and isolated in their fight for justice. Berkeley has a tradition of speaking up nationally and globally. I'm eager and, will have the greatest pride, to carry on that tradition as a Berkeley City Councilmember.

12. Police

The trend in recent years has been for state and local law-enforcement agencies to procure military-grade weapons as well as high-tech surveillance equipment (drones, among others), and to adopt military-style tactics and training. This is generally but not exclusively under the aegis of Urban Shield, UASI, and NCRIC.

Do you agree with the recent Berkeley City Council vote to allow Police to participate in Urban Shield for 2018?

Yes, but I want to see controls put on the militarization of police. I support the Berkeley Police in the mission to serve the community of Berkeley. The police service should meet the needs of Berkeley, with community based services, not fall back and become the depository of military equipment or extreme military practices.

Do you think participation in this training competition should be determined by the City Council, the City Manager, or the Berkeley Police Department?

I think the City Manager should determine participation in Urban Shield, with policy direction from the City Council.

Do you think the Berkeley City Council should sign MOUs (memorandums of understanding) with NCRIC (Northern California Regional Intelligence Center), with ICE (Immigration and Customs) and with UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative)?

Right now – all I am familiar with is the workings of ICE – and for that I unequivocally, say NO!
As for NCRIC and UASI – I will need to find out a little more about them and make my decision about what signing an MOU's would them mean.

How should Berkeley balance the right to privacy against police interest in surveillance equipment?

The right to privacy is a fundamental right and should be protected at all times. However, we have seen disastrous results when privacy protections have also protected criminal elements. The example I am thinking of is the case of the woman and her kids kept locked up in the backyard of the criminal husband and wife team. That should never happen again.

What is your position on the Police Review Commission (PRC) Charter Amendment (item 70 on the July 24 agenda) that the Council is considering for the 2018 ballot?

I did not support it. I am not in favor of giving ultimate control to a very important division in the functioning of our City to a group of individuals whose loyalty is to the Councilmembers who appoint them. If those individuals are elected members, then I will likely support it. But not in that form.

Do you favor creating a PRC that is independent of City Manager control?

I support a PRC that has an advisory role. The PRC should advise City Council and the City Manager, but ultimately, the City Manager lead and follow policy set by the City Council.

13. Race

Do you support The Movement for Black Lives Platform? Yes

Is there anything that you have personally done to help your understanding of problems with racism and white supremacy in our society?

Yes, I have lived by life fighting against injustice. I have marched and spoken out against white supremacy and against racism. I will continue this work, with every breath I take. As a Filipino immigrant, I experience first hand the impacts of racism to me and my family. I support the "Black Lives Matter Movement" and join my neighbors in posting placards and marching in demonstrations. I'm concerned about the combination of racism with xenophobia and anti-Muslim hostilities. This must stop.

14. Climate Change

What specifically will do you think Berkeley needs to do locally to fight climate change?

Berkeley is a leading example of trying to fight climate change. We must support and continue these efforts.

15. Berkeley Ballot Measures

What are your positions on the Berkeley Ballot Measures?

\$135M Affordable Housing Bond? **yes**

Police Commission Charter Amendment? **This is not on the ballot**

Amending the Rent Control Ordinance to Cover Newer Buildings? **Yes**

16. State Propositions

What are your positions on State Propositions?

Prop 1 Housing bonds? **yes**

Prop 2 Bonds for homeless prevention housing? **yes**

Prop 3 Water/Environmental bonds? **yes**

Prop 4 Bonds for children's hospitals? **yes**

Prop 5 Homebuyers transfer tax assessment? **yes**

Prop 6 Repeal of fuel tax and vehicle fee increases? **NO**

Prop 7 Permanent Daylight Savings? **Yes**

Prop 8 Dialysis Clinic Refunds? **yes**

Prop 10 Repeal of Costa Hawkins? **Yes**

Prop 11 Ambulance workers on call? **yes**

Prop 12 Bans sale of meat from confined animals? **yes**

17. Endorsements

a. Whom do you support for State Assembly District 15?

Nobody. But when I get to the polls – I will make my decision.

b. Are you endorsing anyone else in your own race, considering that we have instant runoff voting? Who has endorsed you?

I am friendly with my co-candidates we have not endorsed each other. I have the endorsement of State Controller Betty Yee, Berkeley Councilmember Lori Droste, Peralta Trustees Karen Weinstein and Nicky Gonzales Yuen, East Bay Regional Parks District Director, Dee Rosario, and many more.

18. Campaign Financing

Will you obtain public financing for your campaign?

Yes. I am a participant of Berkeley's Public Matching Program.

19. Health Care

*Do you oppose Sutter Health's plans to close Alta Bates? **YES***

If so, do you have any ideas on how to motivate them to keep it open?

Great minds in Berkeley have already been working hard to keep it open. When I was a Commissioner on the Health Commission, we already were out there opposing the closing of Alta Bates. Now that I have just been re-appointed on the Commission and when I am elected as a Councilmember, I will fight

hard with the same purpose and join those who are already continuing the fight to keep Alta Bates open.

Do you support single-payer healthcare in California? YES, not only in CA, but in the whole country.

20. Anything Else?

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

My vision of Berkeley is for it to become a City that is truly diverse; represented in all levels of government; welcoming of all cultures and that we represent the best example of how we can expand and protect our environment in the process. I will build alliances to advance smart economic development to improve quality of life services without further burdening homeowners, tenants and students. I will seek, fight for and implement solutions to our community's housing needs. I will be determined to stand for equity in many areas that affect our community - in housing, job opportunities, and services.

21. Have you signed either of the following pledges?

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

I think I have signed this one but the link does not work, so I can not check.

Thank you!

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

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

Sincerely,

Greg Jan

Green Party of Alameda County

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