

**OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 Questionnaire**

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

Please email your responses to [GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com). In the subject line, please include "Oakland City Council D6".

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:

Oakland City Council D6 Questionnaire  
c/o Green Party of Alameda County  
2022A Blake Street ~ Berkeley , CA 94704

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Current occupation: INCUMBENT

**Note:** You may respond to any question with a link to your website or other posted positions. For the yes/no questions, please answer "yes" or "no" and if you wish to add to your answer, feel free to do so.

1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for City office? If you are running against an incumbent, what are your main dissatisfactions and differences with him or her? I'M RUNNING BECAUSE OF ALL THE ANTHONY'S WHO LIVE IN MY DISTRICT WHO ARE HOPING THAT THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE SEE ELECTED OFFICE AS A CALLING AND NOT A JOB. FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO NEED SOMEONE WHO IS WILLING TO RISK BEING UNPOPULAR AND MAKE DECISIONS AND CAST VOTES BASED ON WHATS RIGHT AND JUST. TO BE A VOICE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FELT LIKE THEIR VOICE WAS NOT BEING HEARD.

2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected? What do you believe are the main priorities for the City? I'M CURRENTLY WORKING ON A HOUSING INITIATIVE I INTEND TO INTRODUCE IN THE FALL. I HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING FOR FULL FUNDING OF JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS SO WE CAN PUT OAKLANDERS INTO LIVING WAGE CAREER JOBS SO THEY CAN AFFORD TO STAY IN OAKLAND.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City. I HAVE DEDICATED 40-PLUS YEARS TO PUBLIC SERVICE. I HAVE WORKED AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT SO I UNDERSTAND THE INNER WORKINGS OF EACH'S PROCESS. I HAVE ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIPS TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS ISSUES FACING MY CONSTITUENTS. I AM COMMITTED TO BEING A VOICE FOR ALL MY CONSTITUENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN MARGINALIZED. I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT PRESERVING OAKLAND FOR OAKLANDERS. WHILE GROWING OUR CITY. I HAVE A DEMONSTRATED RECORD OF BEING A PROBLEM SOLVER AND HAVE CHAMPIONED ISSUES TO ADDRESS INCOME INEQUILITY, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY, LITTER AND DUMPING, AND EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY. 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? I AM THE INCUMBENT

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER. BOTH THE DEPARTMENT OF RACE AND EQUITY AND THE CANNIBIS EQUITY PROGRAM HAVE HAD POSITIVE AND SUSTAINED IMPACT. BOTH HAVE GARNERED THE CITY NATIONAL RECOGNITION. THE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST. MY WORK ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY.

4. Local groups -- Are you affiliated with any of the active Oakland groups? Such as TOLA, Make Oakland Better Now, Oakland Justice Coalition, Block by Block, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, GO Public Schools, OCO, or any other. Describe your involvement and why you feel this group is worthy of your support. I'M A MEMBER OF THE OAKLAND JUSTICE COALITION.

5. Local activities -- Other than local politics, are you involved in any other Oakland based community activities that you would like to share with us? This can range from volunteering in your school to being in your church baseball league. I STARTED THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT FEEDING MINISTRY AT MY CHURCH. FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS I VOLUNTEER ON WEDNESDAYS TO FEED THE HOMELESS.

6. Budget -- If you were on the Council for the next budget in 2018, how would you act differently from the council members dealing with the budget in 2016? How much additional revenue should the City aim to take in, and how would you generate it? REBECCA KAPLAN, NOEL GALLO AND I ADVANCED AND ADVOCATED FOR THE PEOPLES BUDGET. WE WORKED WITH A COALITION OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS THAT DEVELOPED A BUDGET BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. THE OTHER MEMBERS REJECTED THIS BUDGET TO ADVANCE THE MAYOR'S BUDGET. I WOULD CONTINUE TO ADVANCE THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET.

7. Youth -- What would your priorities for youth be for Oakland government and how would they be implemented and paid for? I HAVE LONG ADVOCATED THAT RECREATION CENTERS AND SCHOOLS BE OPENED LATE TO BE RESOURCE CENTERS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH. PROVIDING NOT JUST PROGRAMS BUT THE SERVICES THAT YOUTH AND FAMILIES NEED. TO THAT END, I HOST A MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM AT ONE OF MY RECREATION CENTERS. I ALSO HAD A WASHER AND DRYER INSTALLED SO THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN WASH THEIR CLOTHES FOR FREE. I ALSO HAD WASHING MACHINES INSTALLED AT SCHOOLS IN MY DISTRICT AND HAVE PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS.

I ALSO PUSHED FOR FULL FUNDING OF JOB TRAINING FUNDING OF JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A CAREER; NOT JUST A JOB.

WE NEED TO MAKE SURE OUR YOUTH HAVE SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

8. Police -- Describe the current relationship between Oakland residents and the OPD? THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OPD AND CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF OAKLAND ARE STRAINED AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO ABSENT MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; MORE OAKLAND NATIVES ON THE FORCE; GREATER TRANSPARENCY; END TO RACIAL PROFILING; AND GOOD OFFICERS HOLDING BAD OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE. Do you suggest any changes? Do you support diverting people from prosecution if they participate in a restorative justice program? Do you support a change in the use of force policy of the Oakland Police Department? Do you support Assembly Bill 931 that would require that police use deadly force only when there are no alternatives? (See [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB931](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB931)). YES.

Do you support Senate Bill 1421 that would honor the public's right to know about confirmed officer misconduct and serious uses of force?(See [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180SB1421](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1421)) Does the current police commission have the right to fire a police officer for misconduct? What are your thoughts about police misconduct and how do you feel Oakland should deal with it? I BELIEVE THAT ALL RESIDENTS SHOULD, WHEN THEY HAVE CONTACT WITH AN OFFICER, BE GUARANTEED CONSTITUTIONAL POLICING WHICH AFFORDS THEM THE RIGHT TO BE FREE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE UNDER COLOR OF AUTHORITY.

9. Development Projects - Financial and real estate interests currently play a controlling role in shaping Oakland development projects. What are your thoughts and views about holding the developers accountable to the city's zoning, code, and permit regulations? I THINK THE CITY SHOULD ADOPT A COMMUNITY BENEFITS PACKAGE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE ABSENCE OF A PROJECT. I BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY OFTEN GETS SHORT CHANGED UNDER OUR CURRENT PROCESS. THE CURRENT PROCESS ALLOWS FOR INDIVIDUAL GROUPS TO NEGOTIATE FOR THEIR INTEREST, TO THE EXCLUSION OF A WHOLE COMMUNITY. BENEFITS IN THE ABSENCE OF A PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE FOR A MENU OF BENEFITS TO CHOOSE FROM BASED ON A SET CRITERIA.

10. Housing & Gentrification -- Increasing rents, dislocation, and gentrification have been in the news. What policies do you advocate to assure that Oakland tenants are protected and that Oakland remains an economically and racially diverse city? Do you support State Proposition #10 that would repeal the Costa-Hawkins Act, a 1990s law that barred rent control expansion? I SUPPORT AND HAVE ENDORSED PROP 10. I HELPED TO CREATE THE OAKLAND COMMUNITY LAND TRUST TO ENSURE THERE ARE PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. I HAVE SUPPORTED TENANT PROTECTION MATTERS THAT HAVE COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL AND VOTERS. I HELD BANKS ACCOUNTABLE DURING THE FORECLOSURE CRISIS. I CREATED THE DEPARTMENT OF RACE AND EQUITY SO THAT WE CAN CONSIDER ALL SEGEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHEN DEVELOPING POLICY SUCH THAT THAT POLICY NOT DISPLACE THEM. WE CAN MOVE THIS CITY FORWARD WITHOUT MOVING OUT OLD OAKLANDERS.

11. Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment? CONTINUE WITH OUR ZERO WASTE GOALS; JOIN WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS IN COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION; ADDRESS THE HOMELESS AND LITTER ISSUES PLUAGING OUR CITY.

12. Public Banking - Inspired by the Bank of North Dakota (BND) <https://bnd.nd.gov/>, a feasibility statement to create a Public Bank of Oakland is currently before the Oakland City Council. The Public Bank of Oakland would hold the city's deposits -- in contrast to having them held by Wall Street Banks as currently done. It would make fiscally responsible loans in the best interest of the residents of Oakland -- in contrast to Wall Street banks' record of risk and ruin. Profits made by the Public Bank of Oakland would be returned to the General Fund of the City of Oakland, or used to further buttress the loan capabilities of the bank, much as the BND does (the BND has returned over \$400M to the General Fund of the State of North Dakota over the last 21 years <https://ilsr.org/rule/bank-of-north-dakota-2/>, while substantially increasing its capitalization and its loan outreach.)

Are you in favor of making Oakland one of the first cities in the nation to create a municipal bank? I VOTED FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF A PUBLIC BANK.

13. Local Payday Lenders -- Oakland is awash with for-profit Check Cashing and PayDay Loan emporiums (a simple Google query on "Oakland Payday lenders" shows 20). These outfits provide emergency cash and other financial products to those who cannot obtain it otherwise - at outrageously high interest rates and/or extremely high fees. Professor Mehrsa Baradaran, in her book How the Other Half Banks, quotes the astounding statistic that unbanked families who must use these services spend on average over \$2000 per household per year -- more than it spends on food. [NALC.org](http://nalco.org/): "Author makes the case for postal banking" <http://tinyurl.com/h9e6a2p>.

It is not widely known, but Oakland is home to the only non-profit check cashing and payday lending storefront in the country - Community Check Cashing <http://communitycheckcashing.org/> in Fruitvale Plaza. It provides the same services for-profit operators do at 33% - 50% of the cost, while paying its employees a living wage.

Will you support build-out and capitalization loans by the City of Oakland to expand non-profit check cashing to other storefronts around Oakland -- much as the City Council gave a 50-year, \$3,300,000 interest-free loan to the East 12th Street developers (see Oakland City Council agenda, June 15th, 2016 <http://tinyurl.com/jzy398p>)?

14. Satisfaction of Residents -- How do you think the average resident feels about city government? How would you rate the satisfaction level? A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING; HOMELESSNESS; LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING; BLIGHT. IN THESE AREAS I THINK THE LEVEL OF SATISFACTION IS LOW.

15. Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland? FOR THE LAST 16 YEARS I HAVE:

- ATTEND COMMUNITY MEETINGS ALMOST WEEKLY.
- MY OFFICE PHONE NUMBER RINGS TO MY CELL PHONE SO CONSTITUENTS CAN REACH ME WHEN THEY NEED ME NOT JUST 9 TO 5.
- I RESPOND TO MY OWN EMAILS.

16. Governance -- What kind of relationship could you have with other office holders? Who do you see as a working majority on council and who can you work with? I HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST.

17. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? DISTRICT 6 RESIDENTS, ROB BONTA, SANDRE SWANSON, LOCAL 55, SEIU 1021, IFTPE LOCAL 21, ACCE, OAKLAND RISING, BWOPA, ILWU LOCAL10, LOCAL 304, NUHW, BOBBY SEALE TO NAME A FEW. Who do you expect to endorse you? Who are you endorsing, from statewide races all the way down ballot to local races? PROPOSITION10. Include your #2 and 3 choices (if applicable) for your own race and note that this year the City races are Council seats, School Board seats and City Attorney.

18. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

19. Checks and balances -- How do you view current the relationship between the Council and Mayor? CURRENT COUNCIL IS CONTROLLED BY THE MAYOR AS SUCH THERE IS NO CHECKS AND BALANCE. Any comments on the same question for the Auditor and City Attorney? CITY ATTORNEY IS TOO INVOLVED IN POLICY MAKING AND NONLEGAL DECISIONS. Are there any changes they would propose to the city charter?

20. Money in elections. -- Does Oakland need campaign finance reform? YES. If so, what kind? REAL FINANCING; NOT REIMBURSEMENT. GREATER TRANSPARENCY ON INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES. Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics? YES. Have you Taken the Pledge to Amend (<https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend>)?

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

22. Please answer "Yes" or "No" to these questions, and follow with an explanation if you want to add one:

- a. Do you support raising the minimum wage to a living wage? YES.
- b. Do you support the California Peace Officers Bill of Rights? NO.
- c. Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? YES.
- d. Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?
- e. Would you support Proportional Representation?
- f. Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? YES.
- g. Would you vote to allow more grey water systems? YES.

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