

AC TRANSIT BOARD WARD 5 Questionnaire

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2018 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com. In the subject line, please include "AC Transit Ward 5".

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, to:

AC Transit Board Ward 5 Questionnaire
c/o Green Party of Alameda County
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Current occupation: Retired IT Transit Manager

1. Why do you want to serve (or continue to serve) on the AC Transit Board?

I want to insure Ward 5 gets the service it deserves including more flexible transit options. There have been so many changes here in Fremont and mobility is a key issue which needs the attention of someone dedicated to that. I also want to see better school service provided working with all of the school districts. As a daily DB Express rider for several years, I would like to see a regional transportation plan with all the agencies working together to provide a more seamless and cost-effective way to get people to ride transit that has to cross county borders. We have so many people that are driving cars long distances because they don't have options that work for them to get them out of their cars.

2. (For incumbents:) What actions of yours during your term are you proudest of? What have you accomplished during your time on the board?

3. (For non--incumbents:) Which of your past experiences are valuable for serving on the board? Have you been following AC Transit's actions the last 5 years? If so, what changes have you noted?

My 14 years working in public transit provides me with the education and experience that would benefit this position. I have worked with bus operations, planning and

scheduling, maintenance of equipment and with the financial systems of a bus agency. Some of the changes I've noted is their willingness to look at more sustainable options and as a board I think they are working well together.

4. Do you ride AC Transit and, if so, how frequently?

Yes, when I can. I was a daily rider before I retired. They no longer run close to my house so I don't take them as often to BART as I used to. Looking forward to the FLEX service coming to my area.

5. People without access to cars are AC Transit's captive audience. What are your ideas for increasing ridership of those with cars, sometimes referred to as "choice riders?"

We need to provide frequent and reliable services to get choice riders. This includes both the riders within our area as well as the riders who just commute through our cities to go to other counties. If we worked with other agencies to provide a seamless and affordable transit option for commuters I think we could capture some of those choice riders. And once people try the Transbay Service they tend to stay with it as shown by the increase of riders after the BART strike. I also think we need to partner with housing complexes to offer transit to their homeowners and keep the cars in the garages. The last area is to get more children walking and riding their bicycles to school so that we don't have so much school car service. Safe Routes to Schools needs to be in every school and supported appropriately. In addition, we need to partner with more employers who support having their employees ride transit. If the employers support it, the employees will take it.

6. What are your thoughts on AC Transit's current Transbay service? How do you think its ridership can increase? Do you think the ten double-decker buses ordered for this service is a good idea?

I think they provide a great Transbay Service that could be extended. When they moved to the new Gillig buses they lost a lot of seats and that was a negative. The double decker buses have more capacity which is a good thing. But I can't speak to the operation or maintenance of them to know enough to say if it was overall a good idea. Once people take and experience the Transbay Service they realize the importance of it. If the service is reliable, and they have a seat, you will keep those new riders.

7. After years of purchasing diesel buses with a few fuel-cell buses, AC Transit is ordering 10 new fuel-cell buses and five of their first battery- electric buses. Are you satisfied with that direction? Why or why not? What kind of priority do you feel should be given to expanding beyond the maximum 24 fuel-cell buses that the "pilot" system can eventually accommodate, and/or battery-electric or hybrid or alternative fuel buses, so that zero-emission vehicles begin to comprise more than a token, "bragging point" portion of AC's fleet?

I am glad that AC Transit is moving towards more zero-emission vehicles.

8. How can AC Transit improve service for youth, seniors, disabled, and low-income riders?

In Ward 5, we need more frequent service and options for the last mile in order to get more people on the buses. Providing reduced fares for this group is something that needs to continue.

9. Do you think AC Transit's marketing could be improved and, if so, how?

Communications and Marketing can always be improved. We can't communicate enough. But I'm not as familiar with these aspects so unable to comment further.

10. What is your opinion of AC Go, the expanded and redesigned marketing stratagem that began this year on June 26th?

It's a start....

11. What endorsements have you received thus far?

Bill Quirk, Assemblyman, 20th District

Al Nagy, Mayor of Newark

Elsa Ortiz, President of the AC Transit Board of Directors

Chris Peebles, AC Transit Director At-Large

Greg Harper, AC Transit Director Ward 2

12. Please add anything more you wish to tell us so we can make a good decision.

I am running for this position because I think not only is my background a good fit but my overall beliefs are motivating me to do this. I currently support alternative modes of transportation which include transit, bicycling and walking and I'd like to see us reduce our Greenhouse Gases overall but especially in transportation. The latest studies have shown that while overall we've done better and met our goals, transportation is way behind. We need to do better. I think I've shown that I support this goal by applying for and being appointed to the Fremont Mobility Task Force, by being a member of the Alameda County Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee as AC Transit's representative, and by volunteering and trying to help Safe Routes to School programs.