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Current occupation: **Emeryville City Councilmember**

1. What are three major issues in Emeryville that need to be addressed now? What creative ideas do you have to address these issues?

**a. Affordable housing / homelessness**

**i. Continue to support Emeryville's broad-reaching homeless strategy, as set forth by the Housing Element in our General Plan. Council recently voted to increase funding to this strategy, in recognition of our growing local crisis.**

**b. Public transportation access/non-motorized transportation**

**i. We recently opened yet another leg of Emeryville's Greenway, Peladeau Park, thereby increasing connectivity in the City for pedestrians and cyclists. We're also considering a variety of improvement to 40<sup>th</sup> Street (including bus-only lanes and separated bike lanes) and studying bus-only lanes for the Hollis Street corridor.**

**c. Open space / parks preservation**

**i. I will work to continue to leverage public / private partnerships to preserve public spaces and create new opportunities for parks, such as the park at the new Sherwin-Williams development, where we will be combining city-owned property with a private housing development to maximize publicly accessible park space.**

2. Who has endorsed you so far (groups and individuals of note)? Who are you endorsing in local races?

**a. Assemblymember Tony Thurmond**

**b. Emeryville Mayor John Bauters**

**c. Emeryville Vice Mayor Ally Medina**

**d. Emeryville City Councilmembers Scott Donahue and Christian Patz**

**e. Sierra Club**

**f. Alameda County Building Trades Council**

**g. Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin**

**h. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf**

**i. Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb**

3. How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?

**I have raised \$4000 to date, I plan to raise \$20,000. Many of my donors are community members, family members, friends and leaders in labor. Scott Donahue and I are running as a slate and our expenses are shared.**

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

**In the four years since I've served on City Council, I have advocated to solve complex problems and collaborated with my Council colleagues to maintain our quality of life. I worked with neighbors to pass Emeryville's Measure C, a \$50 million housing bond to build more affordable housing and prevent displacement. Our city is financially solvent and we have a balanced budget. Affordable housing and sound fiscal policy continue to be my top priorities, as is public transit accessibility and making Emeryville a destination for small businesses. I serve as the City's representative at East Bay Community Energy, our local Community Choice Aggregator. As a board member at EBCE, I am one of the elected officials involved in the oversight of the agency and the launch of greener, cheaper energy for Alameda County businesses and residents.**

**I am running for office again to work on solving more issues within our city and work on a regional level with neighboring cities to solve many of the regional issues that affect communities all around us.**

5. What major Emeryville development of the last 10 years do you least respect and why? Most respect?

**I am disappointed that there are no affordable units in the pipeline at the "Intersection" development at the corner of MacArthur and San Pablo.**

**On the same note, the development that I look forward to most is 3906 San Pablo, which is 100% affordable housing. Emeryville has created its fair share of market-rate housing in recent years, but all Bay Area communities need to be part of the solution in creating affordable housing.**

6. How can we attract more families into Emeryville?

**As the parent of two elementary school students, it is important for families like mine to be able to afford to live and work in the area. Affordable housing, like the housing that my Council colleagues and I have worked hard to bring to Emeryville, is how more families will be attracted to our city. In addition, working with the school district and strengthening the relationship between the City Council and the Emery Unified School District will be vital in improving our K-12 system and benefitting young families.**

7. Traffic is a major problem in Emeryville and with all the development in the pipeline it seems likely to get worse. How would you work to lessen this?

**Scott Donahue and I have advocated for decreasing our dependence on motorized transportation in the following ways: increased access to public transit and shuttles like the Emery Go-Round, working to bring Ford Go-Bikes stations to Emeryville and improving pedestrian and bike paths. The development that we have planned for Emeryville will encourage residents to bike, take shuttles to MacArthur BART, or take AC Transit buses in an effort to reduce traffic and the harmful air quality that cars produce. We also negotiated a free shuttle to West Oakland BART from the upcoming Sherwin-Williams project.**

8. Without the re-development agency, how can small business be encouraged to come to Emeryville?

**A focus of our re-election campaign is to work with small businesses and attract them to Emeryville. For example, with the recent legalization of cannabis, we have a unique opportunity to work with business owners to bring their business to Emeryville by availing them of retail spaces and strengthening partnerships between small business owners and Council. Council has also recently passed a new Economic Development strategy, and has re-instituted our popular façade grant program. We are also working on a careful approach to the taxation of cannabis businesses, as this industry is already over-burdened by State and County taxes.**

9. Do you believe that transparency in city decisions has improved in the past five years? Does this still need improvement? What changes would you suggest or support?

**I have worked hard to increase transparency by being accessible and visible to the community. My children attend school in our community, I attend events regularly with my Council colleagues and am always available to any community member to listen and hear their concerns for our city.**

10. How do you see the role of the city manager in Emeryville with regard to both connection to the city council and the public? Can you comment on changes in this with our new city manager and your opinion.

**I see the role of City Manager as being an important public face to the City. Council recently hired Christine Daniel, former Berkeley City Manager and Oakland Assistant City Administrator. Christine has a strong background in good government practices. She is known for making herself a fixture in the communities that she serves. I also believe that as municipal technology evolves, we are all on a path to open data, whereby information on how our resources are used will be at the fingertips of anyone with access to a computer. As a member of the City's Budget and Governance committee, I have advocated for transparency, as well as for a Public Information officer, who could help the City to communicate at an effective level. I'm happy to say that Public Information has now become a top Council priority.**

11. Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics? Have you [Taken the Pledge to Amend](https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend)? ( <https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend> )

**Yes and yes.**

12. How do you think the Emeryville community should react to the new city charter?

**The voters of Emeryville made the City a charter city in 2014 in order to be able to instate a Real Property Transfer tax that is competitive with those imposed in neighboring cities. The City's charter gives it powers over municipal revenue, but in all other respects, its powers are limited to its previous constraints as a "general law" city. I don't see any reason why the community at large would be concerned with this singularly-purposed change, which they already supported at the polls.**

13. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

**I serve as the City's representative to StopWaste (Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Energy Council and Recycling Boards). We have recently expanded Alameda County's plastic bag ban, and are currently working to bring the theories and practices of Circular Economies to our local communities. I am also proud of my economic justice work in Emeryville. In 2015, Council raised the minimum wage to the highest city-wide minimum wage in the nation. Our lowest paid workers in Emeryville now make \$15/hour. In 2016, the year I served as Mayor, we instituted a Fair Workweek policy that gives retail and fast food workers 2-week notice of their schedules, so they can plan their lives.**