

Berkeley School Board Questionnaire  
c/o Green Party of Alameda County  
2022A Blake Street ~ Berkeley , CA 94704

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Current occupation: Public School Teacher

## **Motivation**

Why did you choose to run for this office?

**As a proud product of Berkeley schools (Washington, Longfellow, and Berkeley High), and Public School Teacher, I am committed to the academic and holistic success of all BUSD students. My firm belief is that education levels the playing field, provided that all students are afforded a quality education that is both equitable and accessible. As a member of the Berkeley School Board, I will be a champion for closing the equity gap, an advocate for educational and workforce pathways, promote fiscal accountability, and support best policies and practices that ensures the success of all students in our schools.**

## **Qualifications**

Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for being a School Board Director.

**As a graduate of the Berkeley Unified School District, I had a first-hand experience of education in BUSD, which helped to prepare me for this position. As a public elementary school teacher, I am well versed in the Common Core Standards, and I work every day to deliver instruction that is culturally responsive, relevant, and yields optimal results, a perspective that is needed on the Berkeley School Board. As the President of my school's site council, I am well versed in School policy leading a governance body comprised of students, parents, faculty and staff members that develops our budget and fiscal accountability plan (LCAP). In this leadership role, I assess and evaluate student data, school improvement plans, and engage all stakeholders around school decision making that is student centered.**

## **Priorities**

What do you believe are the major issues facing the District? What are some specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, et.) you intend to accomplish while in office?

**There are a number of issues the District is facing. A few of the issues are as follows:**

**Although BUSD serves a high number of EL students, we are currently seeing a change in demographics in Berkeley where low income and working class families are being pushed out due to the extreme cost of living. As a direct result, our EL students and families are decreasing. To this end, there is a huge need for an update to the district's Master Plan for English Language Learners. One of my first priorities would be to have an updated Master Plan that is reflective of the population that we serve, and that uses best current practices for sites with high numbers of EL students.**

**There is more work to be done in our Special Education Program. There was a recent study of our SPED program, where the consultants found that we are under supporting some of our SPED students while over-identifying others. Approximately 136 of our students were over identified which directly effects budget and services.**

**According to the California Dashboard, BUSD at the secondary level had only a 1 percent increase in graduation rates for African American students, but had a 4.4 percent increase in suspension rates. As well as a 1 percent increase in suspension rates for our socioeconomically disadvantaged students. This tells us, that there is more work that needs to be done to interrupt the School-to-Prison-Pipeline. The district needs to adopt and support mentorship programs for at-risk students, reactivate Student Court, and offer professional development trainings centered around Restorative Justice for faculty and staff through programs such as RJ Ed. The district has done extraordinary work through the lens of Restorative Justice, which serves as a visionary model that should be adopted by all schools. However, the data shows us that there is more work to be done in order to provide a transformative education for all students.**

What specifically do you think the School District can or should do locally to fight climate change? To reduce the District's carbon footprint to zero?

**There are a number of things that the School District can do to fight climate change, and as a graduate of Berkeley High School's School for Social Justice and Ecology I am committed to helping reduce the district's carbon footprint through the use of solar panels, promotion of waste reduction and encouragement of active travel just to name a few.**

The Berkeley City Council may need temporary facilities for meetings during Council Chamber refurbishment. Are you in favor of allowing the City Council to use School Board Facilities to hold meetings when not being used by the School Board? Do you think the City should pay for this use?

**Yes, I am in favor of sharing School Board Facilities.**

How do you think issues of homelessness in Berkeley impact the schools? Do you have suggestions on solutions to Berkeley homeless issues? Is there a role the school system can play in easing the homeless crisis?

**Homelessness has a huge impact on our schools. According to the California Dashboard, Graduation rates of BHS homeless students declined significantly by 6.6%. It is no secret that our homeless students are at a huge disadvantage, and there is more that the District can do to support our homeless students. I am interested in learning more about what other School Districts are doing to support homeless students and fight the homeless crisis.**

Do you have issues or concerns regarding the interactions between Berkeley Police and students? If so, do you have suggestions for solutions?

**Interactions with the Berkeley Police Department, and Berkeley Unified School District students have not always been favorable, and I believe there is more than can be done to help facilitate better and safer experiences for all parties. Berkeley High School has a phenomenal pathways program that can be used for relationship building while promoting career preparation towards a career in law enforcement and promoting community policing, furthermore resulting in more positive interactions between BPD and BHS students.**

What are your positions on the three Berkeley Ballot Measures?

\$135M Affordable Housing Bond?

**I strongly support this measure.**

Police Commission Charter Amendment?

**It is my understanding that this will not be a measure on the November ballot.**

Amending the Rent Control Ordinance to Cover Newer Buildings?

**I currently have not decided a position on this measure, but will after careful review.**

## **Endorsements**

Who are you endorsing for the Senate, for Governor, for AD15, and for the Berkeley City Council?

**As a non-incumbent in my first School Board race, I am focused on my vision for the BUSD and running a successful campaign, and will not be endorsing any candidates at this time.**

Who has endorsed you?

**I have been endorsed by the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, the Alameda Building and Construction Trades Council, Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Mayor Jesse Arreguìn, The entire current School Board, Councilmember Lori Droste, Councilmember Ben Bartlett, Councilmember Kate Harrison, Councilmember Linda Maio, Councilmember Susan Wengraf, Shelia Jordan, Elizabeth Echols and a host of other elected officials and community leaders. A complete list is available at [www.kadijahbrown2018/endorsements](http://www.kadijahbrown2018/endorsements)**

### **Anything Else**

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

**I would be honored to receive the Green Party Endorsement.**  
Are you a member of the Green Party?

**No.**

**Pledges - Have you signed either of the following pledges?**

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

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

**I have signed the pledge for peace.**