

ALAMEDA MAYOR Questionnaire

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

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Current occupation: Council Member/Business owner

1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for this seat? What personal attribute makes you best suited for the position?

I've enjoyed being on the City Council these last four years, but I have seen deterioration of the atmosphere at City Hall recently that is impeding our mission to serve the City. My style, demeanor, twelve years of City Council experience and multi-national business experience are unique among the candidates and would be helpful in restoring balance to City Hall. I am fully committed to civility and focus during Council meetings and in City Hall so we can make decisions in the best interest of Alameda.

2. Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected?

New ideas are needed to address unfunded pension liabilities, affordable housing and overall sustainability of our city services. We have a very active community and active City Councilmember with many new ideas, but our systems for implementing and monitoring these ideas are slow and inefficient. I want to use some of our resources during this short period of increased revenue to improve our systems with a goal to speed them up.

3. Housing affordability - What further measures can Alameda take to provide more affordable units?

I think the biggest need is for affordable, deed restricted units. As Mayor I will work hard to build consensus on the Council to agree on this and set reasonable policies to meet the need. Alameda's current Regional Housing Needs Allocation is 1723 units. With the approval of Alameda Marina, Alameda exceeds this number; however, the number of affordable units as designated in our housing element appears to be short.

Alameda should give preference to the Alameda Housing Authority construction projects (North Housing Parcel, Rosefield Village re-build, etc.) and to those private projects with higher than mandated percentage of deed restricted affordable units.

4. Open Space -- Alameda has opportunities for improving public recreation and open spaces. What are your priorities?

As Mayor, my priorities for open space are:

- 1) Get the agreement in place of East Bay Regional Parks District to establish a park on the approximately 150-acre Northwest Territories of Alameda Point, to by whatever means needed*
- 2) Help EBRP in any ways needed to complete its projects at Crab Cove and Breakwater Beach*
- 3) Begin the Bay Trail from Breakwater Beach around the west and north of the remaining Federal land at Alameda Point, around the Northwest Territories and to the Main Street Ferry Terminal*
- 4) Start planning for De-Pave Park (west of the Seaplane Lagoon) and refurbishing and opening the former Navy campground near Breakwater Beach*
- 5) Resolve issues and make improvements at the three Fernside and three Eastshore water access paths*
- 6) Expand Towata Park by improving the current park and the adjacent City-owned lot*

These goals will need continued partnership with EBRPD via the City-District Liaison committee work and leadership from the Mayor, to continue Council direction supporting ARPD in seeking grants and getting developer fees for City park projects

5. Transportation -- Do you have any specific priorities to increase public transportation and reduce traffic in the city?

I voted for the current Alameda Transportation Choices Plan because it sets goals to increase use of public transportation and alternatives to cars and untangle traffic. To meet the goals of the Plan, among them, reducing drive alone trips in cars, increase bicycling, walking, carpooling, and bus and ferry use, reduce the total number of cars on the road, mitigating impacts of development, and improving safety, I will insist that we follow the prioritization strategy in this Plan until new data and evidence support adjustments.

As Mayor, I will also insist on critical review of progress to Plan in public so that we can be sure what is implemented meets the current and future needs, changed if circumstances demand change and to measure project effectiveness when completed.

The Plan's implementation section provides the potential funding means and since the impact of new development must be mitigated, I would continue the partnerships that helped to fund the return of Line 19 bus service and include partial funding for the new Sea Plane Lagoon Ferry Terminal. In special circumstances, where practical, I think that the City should contribute to transportation solutions from its own funds (as with Line 19 when developer could not make the payment).

6. Climate adaptation -- The city is about to update its climate action plan. What local climate change adaptation should the city be pursuing now and what funding strategies would you advocate?

As Mayor, I will pursue with the Council to:

- 1) *Define the problem: Obtain the best scientifically based projections for sea level rise and other climate change factors directly and highly impacting Alameda (i.e., storm water/tidal surge run-off, extended drought, strong winds, etc.).*
- 2) *Identify, evaluate and rank solutions that mitigate the impact on Alameda*
- 3) *Propose and solicit potential funding sources for solutions leading off with an infrastructure bond and potential changes in how we spend current General Fund or Other Public Works fund dollar.*

I see this as urgent and urge it to be a high priority. We must combine public participation with credentialed experts in the field of climate change adaptation. I will look to our peers (Foster City which recently passed a significant infrastructure bond and any other shoreline cities) and internationally for approaches that have been successful in mitigating sea level rise, drought or other climate change conditions.

I will also seek additional regional, State and Federal funds for the evaluation, planning and implementation activities (an effort which has better chance of succeeding when Alameda passes its own bond).

7. Income inequality -- What do you propose the city could do to lessen the income gap in the city, including in city government?

I voted for moving to a higher minimum wage in Alameda, but that is woefully short in closing the income gap. I have asked for Alameda to push for tax relief by lobbying League of California Cities, regional bodies, and our County, State and Federal representatives to enact legislation lessening the burden on those who can least afford it. I fully support Senator Kamala Harris's Rent Relief Act (joined with Senators Feinstein (D-CA), Blumenthal (D-CT), Hassan (D-NH)). I will continue to support and seek other ways to close the income gap and expand the middle class.

8. Electoral Reform -- Currently, Alameda uses a plurality system of voting in which a mayoral candidate could win with as little as a third of the vote. Would you support moving to a ranked-choice voting system for Alameda's mayoral race? Explain your reasoning.

I favor a primary system and run-off, because it provides a clear platform for contrasting two candidates as opposed to the more complex algorithms used in rank choice voting.

9. Viability -- Please name your major endorsements so far and how you plan to win. Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept, if any.

I will not accept campaign contributions from individuals or entities which have contracts or agreements with the City. I will not accept campaign contributions from individuals or entities in negotiations with the City.

I followed these same principles in my successful election to the Alameda City Council in 2014 (I was the top vote getter, besting the two other candidates which each out-spent me by more than 4:1).

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

See attached biographical summary

Biography

Frank first served on the Alameda City Council from 2002 through 2010. In 2014 was again elected to the City Council.

Frank was born in Oakland and raised in East Oakland's Fruitvale district. After attending local schools (Oakland 's St. Elizabeth Elementary and High School), he attended the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in Biology, playing on the Cal 1973 JV football team and studying marine algae at the Bodega Marine Laboratory. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Biological Science in 1977. He became active in the Oakland Community Organization network, working on school improvements, truancy reduction and crime prevention. Frank served on the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission and the Alameda County Transportation Authority (ACTA) citizen advisory commission.

With more than thirty years working in the biotechnology industry, Frank started his own consulting firm in 2004 to assist firms who are navigating the highly regulated drug product development and approval process. Frank continues to operate this successful Alameda based business.

Upon moving to Alameda in 1994 with his wife Kris and their sons, Frank became involved in the community, first with the Alameda Free Library. Frank co-chaired the successful Measure O campaign to build the first new main library in Alameda in over 100 years. Mayor Ralph Appezatto appointed Frank to the Alameda Economic Development Commission, where he served for four years, two as Chair and was the lead on delivering the City's Economic Development Strategic Plan to the City Council. He then served two years on the Planning Board prior to being elected to the City Council in 2002. Frank was re-elected to the City Council in 2006. During his first terms in office Frank was a leader in efforts to restore the historic Alameda Theater and saw to completion of the Main Library and improvements at the branches. Frank also promoted a Fiscal Sustainability Committee to find ways for long term stability in the City budget.

A life-long Democrat and active member of the community, Frank continued to serve. After leaving office in 2010, Frank worked three months as a class room assistant in a school in El Salvador, worked in supporting Alameda's Sister City Association and was active in signature gathering to re-zone excess Federal property near Crab Cove.

In 2014 Frank returned to the City Council and was voted by the City Council to serve as Alameda's Vice Mayor for the first two years of his term. Frank serves on the City Council liaison committees for the East Bay Regional Parks District and AC Transit.