

9OAKLAND MAYOR Questionnaire

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

Please email your responses to GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoo.com. In the subject line, please include "Oakland Mayor".

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 snail mail your responses so we receive them by 8/23/18, to:

Oakland Mayor Questionnaire
c/o Green Party of Alameda County
[2022A Blake Street ~ Berkeley , CA 94704](#)

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Current occupation: Mayor of Oakland

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?

Oakland is at a defining moment in our history. We need a mayor who builds public trust in our local government and work to improve the quality of life for every Oaklander in every neighborhood. We have made a lot of progress these past four years in building and protecting affordable housing, helping our Oakland youth afford college, and rebuilding our city's infrastructure, and we have more work to do together. I have the passion, experience, and plans to continue the tangible progress on many of the challenges facing our city, from housing and homelessness to policing and inclusive, sustainable economic development.

I will never stop fighting for every member of the Oakland community. In the face of immense national pressure and threats, I have refused to back down from protecting our immigrant community and our Oakland values. As your Mayor, I will continue to fight for these values of diversity, inclusion, and making Oakland a more equitable city for all. I will continue to call out President Trump and his policies as racist and bigoted, and be a strong national voice of the Resistance.

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?

The Oakland Mayor should restore public trust in our local government and work to improve the quality of life for every Oaklander in every neighborhood. As your Mayor my top priorities are:

1) Addressing Housing Affordability & Homelessness: Oakland is facing a housing affordability crisis. That's why we came together in 2016 to pass city and county measures that protect affordable housing and expand new affordable construction. And that's why I launched the 17K/17K plan, which is on track to provide 17,000 new units of housing and protect 17,000 residents from displacement by 2024. We're pulling in regional partnerships to bring an end to homelessness. This includes preventing homelessness in the first place with emergency rental assistance, as well as building more permanent supportive and affordable housing for our lowest income residents. It also includes an effective and compassionate approach to street-level homelessness, including mobile outreach and sanitation services, opening a new Rapid Rehousing Center, as well as innovations like our Tuff Shed Shelter program.

2) Clean and Safe Streets: I am committed to ensuring everyone lives in a beautiful neighborhood with safe, clean public spaces and streets by working towards putting an end to illegal dumping in our city. We've added more pick up crews and added more trucks and specialized equipment to remove trash from dump sites and stepped up enforcement.

3) Keeping the Oakland Promise: I helped write the Oakland Children's Initiative to triple the number of college graduates from Oakland within the decade, ensure our early educators better work protections and wages, and dramatically increase access to and quality of preschool for Oakland's most struggling families.

4) Holistic Community Safety: Oakland has seen improved safety — last year was our safest since 2005 — but we still have work to do. As Mayor, I will continue to strengthen neighborhood policing that prevents crime by building trust, identifying the specific needs of our neighborhoods, and intervening before crimes even occur.

5) Responsive and Trustworthy Government: I have always fought to make Oakland a more transparent and responsive city — from holding community budget meetings across the city to implementing a new 311 system.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City. 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?

An Oakland native, I was elected as Mayor in 2014. Since then, I have taken dramatic steps to offset the cost of living crisis, address and reduce crime, increase educational opportunities for students across the city, and improve our city's infrastructure and transportation system.

As your Mayor, I have helped to develop unique housing plans to protect existing housing and produce more transitional housing for our most vulnerable residents. We created the first Department of Transportation and passed a \$600 million infrastructure and affordable housing bond. In 2017 alone, the bond filled nearly 20,000 potholes. And we launched the Oakland Promise, which has received national attention for its efforts to triple the number of college graduates from Oakland by 2025.

Prior to being elected Mayor, I represented District 4 on the Oakland City Council in 2010. As an Oakland City Councilmember, I submitted the application that brought Code for America's civic innovation fellowship to Oakland. Along with City Attorney Barbara Parker, I made Oakland the first city to serve as a Kiva Zip micro-lending trustee supporting small Oakland-grown businesses. Bringing a lifetime of volunteerism and over fifteen years of executive and legislative experience in Oakland city government, I have focused her entire life

and career on making Oakland better.

I began my career as an attorney at the largest law firm in Oakland, but left my legal career to build and run the first centralized volunteer program for Oakland public schools at the Marcus Foster Educational Institute. I have served as Chief of Staff to the Oakland City Council President, as a top aide to Mayor Jerry Brown, and as Public Affairs Director for the Port of Oakland.

In step with my belief that a more open government is a better government, I have written laws to shed light on budget deliberations and campaign donations, as well as crafting Oakland's open data policy.

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 longtime member of Wellstone Democratic Club and Board Member of the AICo Democratic Lawyers Club, as well as many other local Dem clubs. I was an early board member of Make Oakland Better Now and have worked closely with OCO for more than two decades.

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 have two children in Oakland public elementary and middle schools, where I have volunteered in the past. I serve on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Advisory Board of the Oakland Promise and Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland, and Co-Chair the Youth Ventures JPA and Oakland Thrives Leadership Council. Before becoming Mayor, I had served on the Board of Directors or Advisory Boards of more than a dozen Oakland-based non-profits, ranging from Pro Arts and Mocha to Sentinel Fair Housing, the League of Women Voters and Oakland Public Education Fund.

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?

As your Mayor, I have worked closely with the City Council to address Oakland's most urgent priorities — including homelessness, affordable housing, dumping, infrastructure, and public education — in order to make Oakland more equitable for all residents. Last year, we allocated \$8.6 million in state grants to address the city's homelessness crisis, as well as more than \$1.4 million will be spent on efforts to combat illegal dumping.

I will continue to work with all stakeholders, as Mayor, to create a vision for our city — to prevent displacement in our neighborhoods, engage with civic and community leaders across Oakland, maintain economic, racial and cultural diversity and lead the way in responding to the housing and homelessness crises facing our region. Undertaking this delicate balance of competing needs can only move forward if we maintain an open dialogue with various stakeholders and have strong leadership to forge a forward-looking consensus.

This year, I've helped craft or am helping to lead campaigns to generate more revenues by seeking approval for Measure AA a parcel tax that exempts affordable housing and low income residents and seniors, to fund quality pre-school and high school and college completion for low income families, as well as Measure X, which will create a more progressive real estate transfer tax. In recent elections, I worked to pass a parcel tax to expand funding for the Libraries and helped craft and run the campaign for Measure KK, an infrastructure and

affordable housing bond. I'm also supporting the vacant property tax, and oversaw the implementation of Oakland's first residential impact fee for affordable housing, transportation and infrastructure.

I also have raised millions of dollars for homelessness and college completion from successfully lobbying the state as well as philanthropy.

7. Youth -- What would your priorities for youth be for Oakland government and how would they be implemented and paid for?

As your Mayor, I have worked to employ all proven best practices to ensure more children in Oakland graduate high school with the expectations, resources, and skills to complete college and succeed in the career of his or her choice. Historically, only 10% of OUSD 9th graders were earning college degrees by age 23. This was clearly unacceptable, and in coalition with a number of partners in OUSD and the community, we launched the Oakland Promise to address this issue. The Oakland Promise is a cradle-to-career initiative to triple the number of college graduates from Oakland. In 2017 we awarded 5,000 early scholarships to kindergartners, connected 3,800 middle and high school students to internships and college resources through Future Centers, and sent 400 public school graduates to college with more than \$3 million in multi-year scholarships, as well as with persistence supports like peer support groups and personal mentors. I will fight to see that the Oakland Promise's vision is fulfilled for every public-school student. Already, during my first term, we have seen African American college attendance increased by 14%. As your Mayor, I helped write the Oakland Children's Initiative that will ensure our early educators better work protections and wages, as well as dramatically increase access to and quality of preschool for Oakland's most struggling families.

8. Police -- Describe the current relationship between Oakland residents and the OPD? Do you suggest any changes?

There is a painful history of abuse of power between policing in general and OPD in particular in Oakland, and we all recognize that there is tremendous work to do to create a relationship of trust in light of this long and difficult history. I was careful to hire a Chief that fully acknowledges this history and harm that has been done by police in Oakland's communities of color and is taking active steps to change that relationship. The changes we are engaged in to change that relationship are many, including how we recruit and train new officers -- more proactive efforts to recruit Oakland natives, new screening and training requirements for new officers, community service requirements for new officers -- as well as changes in policies that have significantly reduced what many call the oppressive "footprint" of policing in communities of color -- like new regulations to reduce unnecessary stops, searches and handcuffing; precision policing strategies; new chase policies to reduce the likelihood of use of force and officer involved shootings. These changes are reflected in our 72% reduction in police use of force, our more than 90% decrease in discretionary stops, and our 3,000 fewer nontraffic stops of African Americans in just the first 6 months following the recent implementation of Precision Policing policies.

Do you support diverting people from prosecution if they participate in a restorative justice program?

Yes. I'm a fervent believer in Restorative Justice and have partnered extensively with RJOY, sponsoring restorative justice circles in community centers throughout Oakland following Ferguson and Nia Wilson's murder. I'm also working with Probation Chief Wendy Silles on a pre-arrest diversion program for youth and young adults in Oakland.

Do you support a change in the use of force policy of the Oakland Police Department?

I've helped implement several changes already. In partnership with our Independent Citizen's Police Commission, we are continuing to evaluate further changes, particularly changes that can eliminate the effects of implicit bias.

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)

I have not analyzed it yet, but I believe all departments should be required to adopt the same types of restrictions, data collection and sharing and trainings that Oakland has recently adopted to reduce our use of force.

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)

I have reviewed this bill and have publicly supported it.

Does the current police commission have the right to fire a police officer for misconduct?

Yes. They have the right to issue a different discipline whenever their agency director and the Chief disagree on appropriate discipline.

What are your thoughts about police misconduct and how do you feel Oakland should deal with it?

It should not be tolerated in any way! There is so much work needed to create trust between policing generally and communities of color that acts of even one officer destroy trust with the entire department. The OPD sexual misconduct scandal was outrageous! It did irreparable harm to our community and the department. Those officers should never have been accepted into the profession.

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?

Holding developers accountable to the City's zoning, code, and permit regulations is a given and just a start. We are constantly assessing ways to change existing laws to better serve the community, like our recent adoption of impact fees for affordable housing and infrastructure, as well as other zoning incentives for affordable housing and secondary units. Robust community benefits as well as a public lands policy is also what we will be doing on top of enforcing our existing laws.

As your Mayor, I have worked with broad-based coalitions to bring all stakeholders to the drawing table in order to foster new ideas and encourage new investment desired by the surrounding community, as well as to support existing businesses that currently serve as the core of our neighborhoods. In the industrial neighborhoods in East and West Oakland I support maintaining industrial land to attract well paying jobs to Oakland. Downtown,

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?

Oakland is facing a housing affordability crisis. We've already seen too many Bay Area communities become unaffordable for middle and low-income residents, and our most vulnerable residents suffer in unsafe and overcrowded conditions as well as in growing homeless encampments. That's why we came together in 2016 to pass city and county measures that protect Oaklanders from being forced to move out of affordable housing as well as building more housing for our most vulnerable – including more transitional and permanent housing for the homeless.

As your Mayor, I have fought tirelessly to both increase the supply of new and affordable housing and protect Oaklanders from getting evicted or displaced from their homes. That's why I launched the 17K/17K plan, which is on track to provide 17,000 new units of housing and protect 17,000 residents from displacement by 2024.

We'll pull in regional partnerships to bring an end to homelessness. This includes building more permanent supportive and affordable housing for our lowest income residents, as well as preventing homelessness in the first place with emergency rental assistance — and I am proud to have recently secured a \$9 million eviction prevention fund to provide emergency rental assistance to Oakland's most at-risk residents. It also includes an effective and compassionate approach to street-level homelessness, including mobile outreach and sanitation services, opening a new Rapid Rehousing Center, as well as innovations like our Tuff Shed Shelter program.

We're nibbling at the edges unless we can reform Costa Hawkins. I believe that expanding rent control to newer units and to single-family homes and condos would help protect thousands of Oakland renters from large rent increases, which often cause displacement. As your Mayor, I will continue to support this campaign in order to ensure its success.

I will also fight to protect our small Oakland-grown businesses, artists and non-profit organizations from displacement. As an Oakland native, I'm passionate about protecting what makes Oakland, Oakland. During my administration, I was proud to hire Kelley Kahn as Oakland's first ever Director of Arts Spaces in order to expand and protect affordable spaces for artists to live and work in order to protect our city's vital artistic legacy.

Do you support State Proposition #10 that would repeal the Costa-Hawkins Act, a 1990s law that barred rent control expansion?

Yes, I have publicly endorsed repealing Costa-Hawkins and Prop 10.

11. Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment?

I have been proud to carry on Oakland's legacy of leadership around environmental stewardship and combating climate change. I've represented Oakland internationally on this issue and have become a nationally-known champion for the role cities can play -- at COP21 Paris Climate Accords, on the US Delegation to Habitat 3 in Equator, as a spokesperson for the coalition of 100 Resilient Cities, and soon at Governor Brown's Global Climate Summit. Oakland has among the lowest per capita greenhouse gas emissions in the country and has lowered emissions by 16% while growth and development have continued in the city — and we were just lauded as the third "Greenest City" in the United States. I have been proud to help lead a revolutionary effort to bring equity-driven green improvements to the city. From more than doubling the number of rooftop solar installations in Oakland since my inauguration to overseeing the completion of the first full-scale use of the CURB Model, the most robust technical and cost-effectiveness review of climate policy in North America, I am committed to delivering cleaner energy to all Oakland residents. I have also supported

Oakland's participation in community choice aggregation, which promises to be a game-changer in delivering cleaner power at lower rates while investing in the community.

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 believe the oppressive banking system needs to be disrupted. I've already taken steps towards public banking by establishing Kiva Oakland -- a crowd-sourced zero-interest lending platform that has provided more than 630 small Oakland entrepreneurs with zero-interest loans -- 90% of whom are people of color and 70% of whom are women.

I have had the opportunity to learn a great deal about this issue and engage with a variety of viewpoints over the past four years. I believe there is a great deal to admire in the work the Bank of North Dakota has conducted, and I look forward to seeing the results of a full feasibility study that gives us a clearer view of the best way forward for Oakland. Given the great deal of interest in public banking from other Bay Area cities, we should consult fully with other regional advocates to consider the benefits and drawbacks of Oakland vs. regional or state public banking before Oakland takes a unilateral step.

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: "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>)?

To be clear, the city discounted the sales price of its land by \$3.3 million in exchange for the developers putting that amount into deeply affordable housing to be built on the site. I am aware of Community Check Cashing and have been helping to publicize them. Cash checking is currently done in a predatory manner and will continue to fight to outlaw it. I helped write Oakland's groundbreaking Anti-Predatory Lending Law in the early 2000's which was unfortunately struck down by the California Supreme Court. I would be willing to look for

ways the City of Oakland can further expand affordable financial services for our residents and well as reduce the harm of predatory check cashing.

14. Satisfaction of Residents -- How do you think the average resident feels about city government? How would you rate the satisfaction level?

People can have varying feelings based on the issue and their circumstances. With the threat of displacement and growing income inequality, renters in all cities are feeling frustrated that all levels of government aren't better able to protect them.

In Oakland, residents are deeply concerned by the homelessness crisis, illegal dumping, continued policing disparities, the unequal distribution of economic development in Oakland, and the continuing challenge many families have in making their rent. Also many are proud of how our city has stood up to Donald Trump and his racist agenda of hate. Many are encouraged by progress in the past four years in several areas, most crime reductions, a more thriving downtown and desperately needed housing under construction that could prevent more Oaklanders from being displaced. We are on track to achieve our targets in the 17K/17K plan to build 17,000 new housing units and protect 17,000 Oaklanders from being displaced, we have expanded resources for the homeless. I am concerned, however, that this progress is quick to be overshadowed by negative experiences, such as if you've had a friend evicted from their home, had a bad interaction with a police officer, or drive by a homeless encampment on the way to work. The continued concerns many Oaklanders have on these issues only underlines the importance of continued progress and strong, responsible leadership. Even if everyone was satisfied with the current situation in Oakland, I would keep fighting for more progress on housing, homelessness, policing, education, and economic development.

I also recognize that Oaklanders have a lot of hope about what their city government can do. I perhaps see this hope most directly realized in the Oakland Promise, where we've raised millions of dollars to send thousands of Oakland kids to college. We've eased the stress for our most struggling parents by giving our babies college savings accounts and crafting Measure AA that, if passed, will give them free quality pre-school. And it's working -- with double digit increases in college enrollment for our African American and Latino students. The Oaklanders I have talked to are almost always optimistic about the difference the city government can make in their lives and that of their neighbors.

15. Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland?

I have always fought to make Oakland a more transparent and responsive city -- from holding community budget meetings across the city so that more Oaklanders have a say in how their tax dollars are spent to partnering with Code for America to make Oakland city government more transparent and user-friendly. I will continue to make it easier for residents to report problems like potholes and broken streetlights and hold managers accountable for fixing them with our new 311 system. I have held dozens of "Mobile Mayor" office hours around Oakland to make it convenient for residents to meet me, seek help, express concerns, provide suggestions, or ask for advice without having to come down to City Hall.

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 a strong working relationships with and support from all my area Mayors, the next Governor of California and a majority of the City Council and a strong partnership with Oakland's representatives at other levels of government. I am endorsed by the Assemblymembers and State Senator that represent Oakland, as well as many that don't. We have effectively worked together on a number of bills and measures to raise new

transportation funds for Oakland projects, fight the commercial sexual exploitation of children, secure funding for affordable housing, and pursue a variety of other key Oakland interests. I am proud to be endorsed by all three of these admirable leaders. I also have an excellent relationship with our County Supervisors, and I was proud to work with them to successfully pass Proposition A1, a countywide affordable housing bond to raise \$580 million. I continue to work closely with our federal representatives to pursue Oakland's needs at the federal level, and I am proud to have been endorsed by Senators Harris and Feinstein and former Senator Boxer.

I know I will not always agree with all my colleagues, but I never fail to respect the passionate good intentions that underlie their actions. I am also always a receptive listener to new ideas.

17. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you? Who are you endorsing, from statewide races all the way down ballot to local races? 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.

I am proud to be endorsed by a number of community and civic leaders, including:

Elected and Appointed Officials

U.S. Senator Kamala Harris

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

Former U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom

State Controller Betty Yee

State Senator Nancy Skinner

California Assemblymember Tony Thurmond

California Assemblymember Rob Bonta

Mayor of San Francisco London Breed

Former Mayor of San Francisco Willie Brown

President of San Francisco Board of Supervisors Malia Cohen

Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb

Oakland City Councilmember Larry Reid

Oakland City Councilmember Abel Guillen

Oakland City Councilmember Annie Campbell Washington

Supervisor Keith Carson

Supervisor Wilma Chan

Director, BART Board District 3 Rebecca Saltzman

Board Member, California Wellness Foundation; Former Director, Alameda County Public Health Department; Community Leader Arnold Perkins

Business/ Community Leaders

Founder PolicyLink, Angela Glover Blackwell

President of the Greenlining Institute Orson Aguilar

Former NAACP President Ben Jealous

MC Hammer

Founder of Code for America & Mini Maker Faire Jennifer Pahlka

CFO, GPB Scientific Lee Aurich

Senior Program Officer at East Bay Community Foundation Dan Quigley

Emerge America President and Founder Andrea Dew Steele

*Former Executive Director of Emerge California Kimberly Ellis
Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society Director John A. Powell
World Renowned Sculptor Bruce Beasley
California Coastal Conservancy Regional Manager Joan Cardellino
Co-founder, Burning Man Festival John Law
Commonwealth Club of California Programmer Adam Hirschfelder
Oakland Budget Advisory Commission Chair Edward Gerber*

Organizations

*Oakland Builders Alliance
Teamsters Local 70*

(All titles for identification purposes only — does not imply endorsement from organization or business)

Check libbyformayor.com for updated lists.

A list of the people who I have endorsed is as follows:

*Oakland City Council, District 2: Abel Guillen
Oakland City Council, District 4: Charlie Michelson (1st), Pamela Harris (2nd), Joseph Simmons (3rd)
Oakland City Council, District 6: Loren Taylor (1st)
Natasha Middleton (2nd)
Marlo Rodriguez (tied for 3rd)
Mya Whitaker (tied for 3rd)*

*15th State Assembly District: Buffy Wicks
Berkeley City Council, District 1: Rashi Kesarwani
Governor of California: Gavin Newsom
Lieutenant Governor: Eleni Kounalakis
State Board of Equalization, District 2: Malia Cohen
Superintendent of Public Education: Tony Thurmond
Attorney General: Xavier Becerra
State Treasurer: Fiona Ma
State Controller: Betty Yee*

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).

My budget is \$454,000, as I have accepted the spending limits contained in the Oakland Campaign Reform Act. To date, I have raised \$387,000. I intend to raise the rest of my funds through donations from ordinary Oaklanders and from fundraisers at the homes of our Oakland supporters. I believe in contribution and spending limits, as well as public financing of campaigns, and believe that Citizens United is a travesty and big campaign spending is threatening our democracy. I have returned campaign contributions in the past and will do so again if needed. I have pledged to not accept money from Phil Tagami.

19. Checks and balances -- How do you view current the relationship between the Council and Mayor? Any comments on the same question for the Auditor and City Attorney? Are there any changes they would propose to the city charter?

I believe we currently have a good system of checks and balances between the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, and Auditor. Our “strong mayor” form of government gives the Mayor the executive powers necessary to make sure city programs are administered fairly and effectively. The Mayor also serves as a powerful voice for Oakland and on behalf of the city to the community- as we saw when we effectively communicated about impending ICE raids to the community. Most voters hold the Mayor personally responsible for the successful execution of city programs, so this form of government helps promote democratic accountability. At the same time, the Mayor’s powers are checked by the power of the Council, which legislates policy, controls the purse strings, confirms members of boards and commissions, and can reorganize the structure of city agencies — and, as Mayor, I have diligently and judiciously fought to make our government more equitable and transparent. We have a democratically accountable City Attorney that is able to provide fair and impartial legal advice to both the Mayor and City Council without fear of repercussion. The City Auditor is also democratically accountable and helps make sure that government is being run efficiently and in full compliance with applicable rules.

20. Money in elections. -- Does Oakland need campaign finance reform? If so, what kind? 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>)?

I strongly support Oakland’s campaign finance regulations, which are considerably stricter than state or federal guidelines. I support overturning Citizens United and ending the outsized role of corporate money in politics.

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. I was a co-chair of the Fight for Fifteen statewide campaign that successfully convinced the legislature to raise the minimum wage statewide to \$15/hour.

b. Do you support the California Peace Officers Bill of Rights?

No, I believe that the law should be changed to make it easier for departments to warn prosecutors about problem officers and that the law should be changed to make it easier for the public to learn about investigations into officer misconduct, as this is key to restoring faith in our police force.

c. Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis?

Probably, I would need to learn more about the specifics of this proposal to take a firm position, but I look forward to discussing it with you. I have been a strong supporter in the past of the city’s efforts to hold mortgage companies responsible for their part in the foreclosure crisis and the city’s efforts to crack down on banks that allow their properties to become blighted.

d. Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?

Yes. I believe that it helps ensure that elected officials have broad support in their constituencies, that it reduces negative campaigning, it ensures more people participate in election choices, it reduces the need to raise money and thus reduces the influence of money in races, and that it saves Oakland the expense of hosting run-off elections.

e. Would you support Proportional Representation?

I would need to learn more about the specifics of this proposal to take a firm position, but I look forward to discussing it with you.

f. Do you support Community Choice Aggregation?

Yes. I have been a strong supporter of East Bay Community Energy and look forward to working with it as we seek to reduce carbon emissions, invest in local renewable power, and reduce rates.

g. Would you vote to allow more grey water systems?

Yes. I support grey water and other water recycling initiatives as a key opportunity to conserve our key natural resources and build a more drought-resilient water supply network.