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**OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 Questionnaire**

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

Please email your responses to [GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com). In the subject line, please include "Oakland City Council D4".

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 City Council D4 Questionnaire  
c/o Green Party of Alameda County  
[2022A Blake Street ~ Berkeley , CA 94704](http://2022ABlakeStreet.com)

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Name: **Matt Hummel**

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Website: **matt4d4.com**

Current occupation:  
**Carpenter**

**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?

**I am running for Oakland City Council because I love Oakland and I can not stand idly by as our brothers and sisters sleep in the cold. It's a disgrace to our shared humanity. I'm running to ensure the implementation of a public bank. I believe it is one of the only ways we are going to be able to finance the changes necessary to squarely take on climate change and other financial challenges we are facing. I'm also running because we need review and renew how we seek safety in our city. We must make Oakland safe for all of its residents. That means giving police the right tools. We must direct training towards deescalation techniques and crisis intervention. The demilitarization of our police is also important if trust is to be gained.**

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?

**I envision an Oakland where its citizens have housing security, aren't afraid to call the police and live in alignment with nature. To tackle our big problems we must believe in our institutions and their ability to fix things. This is difficult when all one needs to do is walk outside trip over a pothole or worse, human waste. I will prioritize rebuilding that trust and belief on our local government.**

#### **Fight for Fiscal Accountability-**

- **Establish a Public Bank of Oakland**
- **Face the city budget and pension issues**
- **Prioritize the health and well-being of all residents**

#### **Uplift all Oaklanders-**

- **Housing is a human right**
- **Address infrastructure and quality-of-life needs**
- **Increase Crisis Intervention Training for cops; Create a Psych-Tech team**

**Provide a Grounded and Service-Oriented Perspective in the City Council-**

- **Put the needs of the people first**
- **Create sustainable solutions to the housing crisis**
- **Implement term limits for city council**

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?

**I was a campaign coordinator for Gov. Jerry Brown's first mayoral campaign and Strong Mayor charter initiative. I ran campaign headquarters and GOTV for BART Board member Tom Radulovich's SF Supervisor run. I was integral in getting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard passed. Through one-on-one conversations, I generated over 700 hand-written letters from constituents in conservative Orange County. Those letters stopped a committee block and allowed California to be the first in the world with an RPS and a beacon the world copied. I ran GOTV for the East Bay Regional Parks for a parcel tax and second in charge of the Just Cause campaign. In 2008, I was hired by CALDEM to run Oakland's campaign headquarters as well as its GOTV. I have personally volunteered for Lee, Bonta, Swanson and Chan. For over eight years, I have served on the Cannabis Regulatory Commission and am currently serving in my second term as Chairperson. For the last four years, we have rewritten all of Oakland's cannabis ordinances with the desire to bring the whole community, with equity in mind, out into the light with legal and safe jobs. Our commission has written a police information bulletin and set practices of harm reduction including complaint based on enforcement of cannabis ordinances and nuisance letters instead of armed raids.**

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.

**Causa Justa, the Democratic Party, Oaklanders First, Vulcan Free Radio, EBALDC, Spaz Collective, 15th Street Artists, Art Murmur, Space Cat Voter Guide and the Oakland Warehouse Coalition. I'm fairly active in these groups.**

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 am thoroughly involved with the art scene and invest a great deal of love and energy to it. I have helped throw hundreds of events in Oakland over the last 20 years.**

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?

**The budget needs a long term plan to ultimately move spending on policing towards life enrichment. Our \$40M in yearly debt needs to be addressed as well. Public banking is a major revenue stream I want to develop.**

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

**Safe neighborhoods, healthy food, summer jobs, and recreation centers are important. Moreover, many of our children live in a world of PTSD that is hard to imagine. The municipal bank would help fund programs to give our youth the tools they need to have a healthy life and future.**

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

diverting people from prosecution if they participate in a restorative justice program? Do you support a change in the use of force policy of the Oakland Police Department? 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](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB931))

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](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1421))

Does the current police commission have the right to fire a police officer for misconduct? What are your thoughts about police misconduct and how do you feel Oakland should deal with it?

**Reform is taking too long. Community policing is essential, but we need to stop policing our selves out of and into trouble. Life enrichment for everyone must be the goal. I agree with AB 931 and I support any measure to train police that deadly force should be rare and the last resort. Also I support SB 1421. If there is to be any accountability, it's essential that the public is notified about confirmed police misconduct and serious uses of force. In addition, we still need to fix the arbitration problem, and I will fight to change the next police contract to drop arbitration when prosecuting civil rights violations. The city must ensure recommendations of the Stanford study (SPARQ) on OPD be followed to the letter. We need to reform the whole way we police and carry out our criminal justice system. Restorative justice is the filter we need to look through. Our drug policies must be in the mold of harm reduction, not police action. We must stop all broken window strategies, except when it means helping a kid to fix a window they broke. The current police commission has the power to fire the police chief and to discipline police officers. Any police misconduct that isn't followed up with grave consequences will continue to erode the trust the people of Oakland.**

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?

**Oakland has negotiated for development in the past from a perceived weak position. Instead of bringing concessions *from* developers, we have been giving breaks *to* them. I do not have that perspective. I know Oakland's value. Also, as a construction worker and remodeler myself, I see all the time the need to hold developers accountable.**

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

**I favor rent control and the repeal of Costa Hawkins. I worked 12 hour days to get Just Cause passed, and have personally been responsible for building out housing for artists and activists in intentional communities for years. I would fight to enable regulated tiny home enclaves and more secondary units. Also, easier subdivision of parcels to allow for the purchase and ownership of those smaller homes. The municipal bank could refinance home loans and also fund truly affordable housing stock.**

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

**A moral and just ecology must be the guide for every policy decision. Environmental justice is social justice. When we loose track of that, we lose our moral compass and go down many the wrong path. Oakland's goal to be a "Zero Waste community" is important and we have done good work, but still have a long way to go. What it took to reach the original 50% reduction rate is not sufficient for Oakland to reach its current 75% goal. Bold action is necessary. I agree with the January 2018 United Nations study that says public banking will be vital in this cause.**

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?

**Yes!!! Just like last time, I love this question. Susan Harmon of Friends of the Public Bank of Oakland, has remarked when asked about my 2016 campaign for the at large position on the council, “Not only did Matt get the public bank ball rolling in Oakland by challenging Rebecca Kaplan to match his enthusiasm for the Public Bank of Oakland, but under his leadership as Chair, the City’s Cannabis Commission early on endorsed the idea of a public bank.”**

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>)?

**Criminality is bad. Institutionalized criminality is exponentially worse. We need to clean house of all the exploiters. I support CCC and also think the municipal bank could help foster these institutions.**

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

**The council, like the police, must be held to a higher standard. Otherwise good people get alienated from joining the job of fixing Oakland. They want nothing to do with city hall, they perceive that the game is rigged. Unfortunately often it's true. We have to rebuild trust. How can you vote to pay for something if you can't trust the money will go to it?**

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

**Accountability and transparency are the key. The people want and deserve leaders who they trust are telling the truth and ones whom they can easily communicate with. My door at city hall will always be open. I will also promote roaming office hours in the district.**

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 worked with all of the city council members as Chair of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission. I also have good relationships with all the candidates running for the district 4 seat. I think creating**

**working majorities is possible and we have an opportunity to create some of the most progressive policies in Oakland for a long while. If ever. What's needed is recognition of shared goals, and discreet policies to address them, citywide.**

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 have received testimonials from multiple community members please see [matt4d4.com](http://matt4d4.com).**

**I'm generally aligned with the Space Cat Voter Guide. Specifically, for mayor I rank #1 Cat Brooks, #2 Saied Karamooz, and #3 Pamela Price.**

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).

**When I ran for the Oakland City Council At-Large seat in 2016, I raised less than \$10,000 and made a good showing citywide. Our campaign spent 65 cents per vote received. The other campaigns spent between \$2 and \$10 per vote. I expect to raise at least double that this time and there is far less ground to cover in this race. I will raise contributions through a network of friends and compatriots built through years of street level work. My time on the Cannabis Regulatory Commission, has also been fruitful, and many are grateful for the leadership of our commission fighting to make sure people aren't left out of the so called "green rush". I currently have a few thousand raised. I have promised to not take any donations from Phil Tagami and will not take any other money from similar polluters.**

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?

**Checks and balances are integral to a healthy democracy. That is why I worked to change the Oakland city charter to a "strong mayor" form of government. The relationship between the executive and legislative branches determines if we get the city we need or end up in more petty turf battles. I have found the current Auditor to be highly problematic, and the City Attorney combative and unhelpful. I'm open to possible charter changes if they are determined to be building more small "d" democracy.**

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>)?

**Yes. I participated in a study held by Oakland's Ethics Commission on campaign finance. We could give every resident vouchers to allocate to their favorite candidates for example. Oakland needs campaign finance reform badly. Money is the root of all evil. It is most clearly evident in politics. Quid pro quo isn't the only effect. The appearance of corruption is enough. It alienates us and turns us from true lovers of justice and progress and creates cynical insular citizens instead. What ever it takes to fix this, I support it.**

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

**Wetland restoration and a healthy Delta will mitigate some effects of climate change, but we need to recognize when spending millions on a waterfront developments, housing or a stadium, the water level is rising.**

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. \$15 approaches sustenance. We must do much better.**

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

**No. I think the constitution is plenty.**

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

**Most definitely. We also need probate court reform to protect the wealth and homes of Oaklanders.**

d. Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?

**Yes and I'd especially want ranked choice voting for the presidential elections.**

e. Would you support Proportional Representation?

**Yes I support transition to a parliamentary system.**

f. Do you support Community Choice Aggregation?

**Yes. I also would like to move away from PG&E and towards municipal power.**

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

**Yes. I've installed a few over the years myself.**

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire, as much as you can.

Sincerely,

Greg Jan  
Green Party of Alameda County

(Please RSVP now, and respond to [GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com) by Thursday, August 23)