

OAKLAND MAYOR Questionnaire

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2018 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Name: [Nancy Sidebotham](#)

Address: [6375 Hillmont Drive](#)

Phone: [510 635-2678](#)

Email: nannystu@sonic.net

Website: nancysidebotham.com

Current occupation: [Tax Preparer](#)

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 has been in a strangle hold for way to long and incompetancy being the norm. The truth is rarely alluded too and most who have a personal agenda which is always at the expense of Oakland residents. When I run, I speak with knowledge and history along with educating those willing to listen...We continuously have carpetbaggers and those willing to run using the position to further their ambitions. I am running because of my love for Oakland and knowledge acquired living here for over 50 years. My involvement in the politics of Oakland began in the 1980's. AS to the incumbent, she was a piss poor aide as well as being fired from a couple of her positions. She used her mothers examples as her own and if Jerry had not backed her she would not have been Mayor. While Mayor she fronted for Jerry who was actually running Oakland through Claudia Cappio, who left because of the difficulties working in an environment that was controlled by poor leadership and vindictiveness. Leadership comes with responsibilities and love for who and what you represent.

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?

The first thing I would address is to ask for a complete audit of Oakland budget and departments. Another idea I have is to set aside a specific area to set up a Business Park so that Oakland can start growing it's economic base. Oakland has no sales tax base and when compared to surrounding communities and cities, Oakland presents itself as Alameda County's welfare city while all around flourish. Oakland has the weather, the location, and diversity, all the necessary principles to be a flourishing City but the lack of leadership and vision along with those who claim to care about the city continue to make sure that failure at the expense of greed continues to dominate.

What do you believe are the main priorities for the City?

The main priorities are economic development, infrastructure repairs and maintenance and a full staffing and wages comparable to other Bay Area cities which would lift the moral and draw qualified workers to rebuild this City.

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 have run for office a number of times and as to why I have not "won" a seat is because I don't allow anyone to control me. I have never lost an election because I become better known and continue to fight for Oakland and anyone who knows me asks for help because I am known for getting things done. As mentioned above my political involvement started back in the 80's when Henry Gardner was City Manager and there was only one staff person for the whole Council. Oakland was still a vibrant city and after Henry retired it started it's down hill spiral. Oakland has always been a "Machine" run City that works for a few while leaving others out of the growth pattern. The City leadership has always played Districts, groups, neighborhoods against each other to keep them off balance.

Over the years I have worked on a whole slew of projects. I have been involved and not only learned but also been part of the many successes that have brought about change in various communities. Visit my web site to see the list of activities I have worked on with others over the years.

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 am a member and a former Board member of MGO. I have Chaired my NCPC (Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council) for over 15 years, I am also on the City's Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee. Do I feel I am worthy of support from any of these groups, that is up to them.

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 participate as a volunteer when the need arises.

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?

We have bled the property owners dry which has been one of the basis for gentrification. The outrageous amount of property taxes that are paid are crippling residents and causing many to leave. Oakland needs a sales tax base and has literally none yet we have a number of Chamber of Commerce and elite group of Rotarian's who do nothing to help rebuild the once thriving businesses that Oakland was known for. We cannot continue to ask property owner to foot the bill and pass Measures that never see the light of day unless wisely written so that the funds cannot be stealthily moved at the expense to what was sold to the voters. Oakland needs to stop hiring through nepotism and start hiring qualified workers and pay them the wages equal to other Bay Area Cities. Oakland also needs to hire Oakland residents who know Oakland and stop the external hiring of people who know nothing about Oakland and think they can come in and change things which eventually blows up in their faces and causes the residents pay. Oakland lives on grants, bond measures and extremely high property taxes and has nothing to show for it.

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

Oakland and other cities are set up to maintain: public safety, economic development, park and recreation and infrastructure. Youth is the pervue of parenting and schools. Having a Youth Commission to speak for youth involvement in a government function is an educational step and part of a voice how parts on how parts of government such as park and rec affect involvement. Schools board members need to address this; as Civics are no longer taught in schools as well as other classes and programs which educate, help prepare and make youth aware of what is needed to succeed and or survive in today's world.

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)

Despite it all the resident's of Oakland need the police to help them address crime issues. Slashing the police budget would not strengthen community relationships, it would weaken it. In several communities throughout Oakland including communities of color, the police are more responsive to the needs of the residents than any other City agency. Ceasefire has reduced the use of force by police in Oakland because it allows individuals involved in violent crime to turn their lives around by engaging in an open dialogue not only with police but other organizations that provide resources. If Restorative Justice is a tool that helps than by all means use it. Procedural Justice also encourages officers to deescalate a situation through communication and not through use of force. Assembly bill 931 is another tool in an arena where guns are so prevalent and anger, lack of hope and fear are a driving force behind the violence and crime in today's society.

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)

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?

Because police officers are public figures the public should know about past misconduct of an officer as long as it does not violate the law that protects their personnel record. The current police commission needs more training on state, local and labor laws and until they willingly take that training they do not have the right or knowledge to fire anyone. Any situation involving police misconduct is based on what the media puts forth not on facts. Wait until the facts come out before finding an officer guilty of misconduct. If an officer is found guilty based on factual information, then the commission has the right to take the appropriate action for officer misconduct.

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?

Money talks and because developers have the money to allow a struggling City to stay afloat, why not allow them to violate zoning, code and permit regulations. They should be held accountable and pay for any violations they commit. This also a very broad question as there are so many kinds of real estate developments, so a real answer would be very lengthy. However, building for building sake just to increase the property tax base is shortsighted, inefficient and costly. Loosing our distinguished architecture that has made us Oakland in this frenzy will ultimately be looked at with regret.

Oakland has a Green Building ordinance, most developers seem to be "let's throw this up for maximum rental/sale per square foot" without a thought of how we will look in five years. I see no encouragement for developers to create new centers of activity in other areas of the City. Tax incentives/regulations relaxing is not transparent.

Cities can contribute immensely to the quality of life of residents and workers through building codes that address such minutia as materials utilized, grab bars, etc. as well as "big items" in terms of height, set backs etc. Neighborhood groups need to be actively involved in zoning/permitting for so many reasons which are way to many to list.

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?

This has been blown way out of proportion and landlords have been held as culpable...when it has been the Federal legislation that has warped greed at the expense of workers and renters. I am a landlord and work with my tenants and supported them knowing what their situation is. Rent control has been a detriment to progress and abused by many. This is a discussion that many will never agree on and the fall out will hurt Oakland in the long run. The Feds set this in motion and the powers that be have accelerated it out of control! Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand is a good read on where we are today.

I personally am not in favor of repealing Prop 10.

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

Garbage, dumping, misuse of the waterways the allowing of coal transmission through poorer neighborhoods has an impact on those neighborhoods and the health of our most vulnerable population, children and seniors. We must keep our streets clean, that is what attracts businesses to cities. Poor environment equates to poor leadership.

It is interesting to note that the topics covered by the City Charter for Public Works covers sewers, storm drains, creek protection and underground utilities. Creek protection, specifically, has engaged substantial and positive citizen action and involvement.

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**

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>)?

As long as these non-profits don't look to the City for financial assistance. Too many non-profits in Oakland rely on funds from the City budget. These non-profits should at other ways to secure funding for their organizations....not continuously have their hand out. Maybe non-profits need to look up how a on-profit is supposed to operate.

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

Overpaid, overrated, and ineffective. Controlled by developers and not interested in the concerns of the voters until election time rolls around. Voter registration and actual "souls of the poll" statistically tell a dismal story. Either people are so disengaged and disgusted or simply don't recognize or know their responsibilities as a city citizen. I think the intense working hours and commutes that many have contributes to "no timers" disease. the fact that we do not teach civics or consistently engage our youth in government is a negative contributing factor. We have so many new residents who may not have been here long enough to develop their awareness, analysis and ranking systems.

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

By being accessible and focusing on ALL parts of the City, not just the hills where residents vote. Everyone in this City has a voice and they should be heard. Issues should be addressed immediately and not just sitting on someone's desk. We need to cut through the bureaucracy and help residents who pay the highest property taxes in the state for the services they need and so richly deserve. The citizens are our employers, not the other way around. I pretty much live my life as an open book and if one looks at the City of Oakland's Web site it is very explicite on what is expected in the "Function, Powers and Duties" of Oakland's government to it's residents.

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 would make it a point to have a productive, positive relationship with all of the other holders. The purpose of being an elected official is to represent the people, protect and oversee the City's assets/finances. Ideas proposed should be carefully vetted and carefully scrutinized before being put forth. Some of the ordinances passed in Oakland do not make sense and are not always at the best interest of the residents. I can work with anyone who is willing to work with me and currently there is too much dissent on the Council for there to be a working majority.

The Mayor and the Councilperson At-Large, should be conveners of thoughtful conversations, determining what should be handled city-wide and what should be left to District self-determination. They should not be running for "higher" office but

seeking resolutions, budgets and ordinances that facilitate a sustainable community on the "seven generation" principle.

Given my several decades of residency and community involvement, I have a relationship and deep knowledge of each Council person and their District. They know where/why I am disgruntled.....they know I know a lot of back story. That is why some truly do not want me elected. But I stand to represent "the People" so where someone is cooperative and looking forward, I would only be too happy to facilitate their goals, where not, I would need to stand as a cautionary signal on the highway.

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 Auditor.

Bruce Quan, Jr., Stephen Lowe, Josephine Lee, Barry Lee Donehower, Geraldine M. Wong, Patrick Lucey, Melanie Wallace, Joan Jenkins, Barbara Bond Hazel Jones, Ralph Kanz, David Raymond Kidd, Ken Pratt, Madeline T. Hovland, Gregg Novak, F. Matt Hummel, Carlos A. Grunwaldt, Hallie Williams, Dorista R. Reed, to name a few....I am endorsing Matt Hummel and Desley Brooks. AS to 2 and 3 in the Mayor's race..so far have not decided.

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).

How much money I have is not germane to the office I am running for and kind of smacks in the face of the upcoming question asked about campaign finance reform. How ironic and hypocritical is that? I will not be beholden to any person or organization because of the amount of money donated to my campaign. That is why this country and City is in the mess it is in: folks are bought and paid for.

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?

As previously stated, Divide and Conquer has done well. The City Charter actually mandates and balances some of the relationships - see Sections 207 and 218. I believe there needs to be tweaking of relationships of Mayor/Council/Auditor. The amount of pay outs the City has had to make over the last few years points up a serious problem between the City Attorney and the Council. Poor analysis and legal representation have put the Council in uncomfortable and untenable situations that have severely cost the tax payers.

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>)?

Campaigns have become a big business, no matter the jurisdiction. As corporate citizens, the business has become more important than the product. The internet and social media have changed the playing field. Newspapers and 500 TV channels look dramatically different than at the turn of the century. The experiment adopted in 1789 was for a smaller populace spread over a smaller geographic area. So, yes, we need to take a hard look at our representative democracy and determine how to make access and engagement in the process work for all. One cannot just say "campaign reform".

The entire country needs finance reform and since I live in Oakland that would be the first place to start. The Public Ethics Commission is a good start and as long as elected officials don't meddle in it, they should be effective. The politicians in Oakland are bought and paid for by the developers and controlled by Sacramento. Money should be taken out of politics and we need to focus on the needs of the residents we represent.

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

I am honest in my dealings with people and have a deep abiding love for Oakland that many of the candidates do not have. Oakland could be so much better if people had the same love for this City as I do. And finally, I would like you to know that I believe in the Four Pillars and Ten Values of the Green Party and wish you well in making them the political stance lifestyle for many.

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 with reservations**
- b. Do you support the California Peace Officers Bill of Rights? **Yes**
- c. Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? **No**
- d. Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? **No**
- e. Would you support Proportional Representation? **No**
- f. Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? **Yes**

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