

Alameda County Green Party Questionnaire

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Current occupation: Management Analyst, Alameda County Probation Department

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 because I know Oakland needs leaders who will fight our most serious problems, not fight amongst themselves.

I'm frustrated at the lack of progress on many of our most chronic challenges: seniors are pushed out of their homes; families priced out of our neighborhoods; young girls bought and sold for sex on International Boulevard; shootings never seem to stop; and many young people of color need jobs, even though Oakland's economy is booming.

It's time to stop fighting each other and start fighting together for solutions.

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 believe the city's main priorities are making our city safer, generating more supportive services to mitigate the growing homeless population, and promoting development of more affordable housing to stop the mass displacement of longtime Oakland residents from their homes and communities.

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'm a proud mom and public safety professional with a focus on public policy. I have lived in Oakland for over 20 years and in District 6 for almost 9 years.

I went back to school when my son was a teenager and got a Master's in Public Policy from Mills College. I wrote my thesis on priority-based budgeting for the City of Oakland's Budget Advisory Committee.

I'm also a serious problem-solver.

In my day job, I work on advancing policy reforms to help young people and adults who are involved in our criminal justice system.

In my volunteer time, I've served on Oakland's Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Oversight Commission, which many of you know as Measure Z, which comes from parcel tax and parking lot surcharges – basically, making sure that funding for vital public safety programs is properly allocated.

Part of the work on the Commission was gain a better understanding in how our preventative programs were working getting reports and updates from law enforcement, evaluators, and our community-based organizations – in order assess what we were accomplishing with our youth and adults.

I've worked closely with our Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils and with all levels of law enforcement.

I've also served on the boards of the Family Violence Law Center and the League of Women Voters and a daytime shelter for homeless women, first as a volunteer, then as a board member. And I co-organized the Feed the People Burritos Project to feed homeless people in Oakland. In some ways, that's a small response to a huge problem, but I believe that feeding people who are hungry is one of the most basic things we are called upon to do as compassionate human beings.

As a community leader, policy expert and mother, I strive to bring people together to make real progress:

- I have been a leader in efforts to reduce crime and delinquency among at-risk youth – working collaboratively with law enforcement, community-based organizations, elected officials, and local leaders.
- I have worked with Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils, the mayor, councilmembers, law enforcement and others to help ensure the success of vital public safety programs.
- In addition, as a Commissioner, I made recommendations and reviewed programs, reports and evaluations funded through Measure Z: The 2014 Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act.
- I have teamed up with emerging leaders to increase the number of women elected and appointed to office in California.

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 served as a Board Member for the League of Women Voters of Oakland. I believe we need more women in elected positions, and I continue to support organizations who further this goal.
- I recently joined the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

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 co-organized the Feed the People Burritos Project to share healthy, home-prepared food with homeless people in Oakland.
- I brought parents and educators together at my son's school – Montera Middle School – to raise funds for important programs that help students succeed.

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?

I would recommend taking the priority based budgeting approach. We cannot continue to fund programs in the same manner, if they are not working or outcomes have not changed.

There is an opportunity to advance to more expansive budget process regarding priority setting. Oakland should take full advantage of community members who are actively engaged in the budget process.

How much additional revenue should the City aim to take in, and how would you generate it?

No doubt we will need to generate additional revenue to address the homeless crisis in our City. At the same time, there are multiple existing parcel and sales taxes already in place that Oakland residents want to see more for their paid services.

Incentives for existing Business Improvement Districts to partner and join efforts in eradication of homelessness.

Alameda County provides the necessary social services for the immediate needs for homeless, but hiring incentives to employ the homeless.

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

- Our city's youth are greatly impacted by the violence that occurs in homes and on the streets. My first priority is to reduce the number of youth who are forced into human trafficking. 46% of all prosecuted human trafficking cases in California since 2011 came from the Alameda District Attorney's office. This is unacceptable, and as District 6 Councilmember I will work to step up efforts to fight human sex trafficking, including adopting a zero tolerance policy for

perpetrators and buyers of sex to control the demand, improving awareness efforts and coordination with community-based organizations, OUSD, NCPCs, OPD, parent teacher organizations and school principals. Additionally I plan to work with local community colleges to develop more student and workforce housing.

- I will also work closely with community organizations like the Family Justice Law Center to bolster efforts to reduce the number of youth in our city who are exposed to and experience violence.

8. Police -- Describe the current relationship between Oakland residents and the OPD?

- The relationship between OPD and the city's residents is strained. Many of our residents are frustrated and don't trust our police force, which leads to more challenges.

Do you suggest any changes?

- I think the city is making strong strides to better oversee our city's police department. As a Councilmember I will work to improve coordination between the OPD, city government, and community organizations and foster more positive relationships between the police and citizens.

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

- Yes

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

- Yes

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)

- Yes

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)

- Yes, if amended to include a State oversight commission to review the cases of misconduct

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

- No

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

- Police misconduct is unacceptable and there is too much history of this within OPD. I strongly support the Police Commission's efforts to work with city

government to oversee OPD and ensure our officers are treating all residents with dignity and respect to bolster public safety in our communities.

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?

- It's in the city's best interest to work closely with developers to ensure that new housing developments going up in our communities include affordable housing that current residents can afford. Too many of our city's long time residents are being priced out of their homes. At the same time the Bay Area is facing a massive housing shortage and we simply need more supply to meet the region's growing demand. We can't stave off development, but we have to foster relationships with developers to work directly with our city government and community organizations to ensure communities aren't impacted negatively.

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?

As our next District 6 Council Member, I will fight for more attention to the immediate needs of our district and push Oakland to use its leverage to make real progress on longer term, regional solutions. My plan includes:

- Actively coordinating the handling of immediate needs in District 6 Instituting a weekly homeless count for District 6 so that we can address immediate needs
- Increasing outreach services to homeless people and improving coordination with county, city and community-based organizations
- Providing adequate housing options for homeless people – temporary and more permanent options – instead of shifting them from one encampment to the next
- Working with community colleges, Mills College, senior organizations and groups such as Causa Justa to develop more affordable housing options for students and the working poor
- Actively promoting District 6 as a prime location for workforce housing
- Working with our regional and state leaders and partners to push for smart, regional solutions to the housing crisis.
- I support Proposition 10 and repealing Costa Hawkins

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

- Too many of our city's residents are exposed to toxic environments.

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>)?

- I would have to know more about the overall impacts to the community.

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

- I would rate residents satisfaction of our city government as a 5 out of 10.
- During my campaign I have walked District 6 and spoken with many of my fellow neighbors about the state of our community. Many are frustrated by the in-fighting that occurs within our city government and want to see more substantive action to making our District safer and more economically robust.
- Community members are understandably frustrated by the growing homeless population in our city and want the city government to do more to mitigate the crisis we are experiencing.
- Residents also want more opportunities to create and sustain local businesses that give back to our communities.

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

- I will hold monthly coffee meetings to regularly meet with District 6 residents and hear their concerns and suggestions for improving our district and city as a whole.

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?

- When I'm elected Council Member I plan to develop productive relationships with all city officials as well as regional, state, and federal officials and develop evidence-based solutions to our city's problems.

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 been endorsed by State Senator Nancy Skinner, BART Board Director Lateefah Simon, Council Member Annie Campbell Washington, Port Authority Commissioner Bryan Parker, Berkeley City Council Member Lori Drostie, City of El Cerrito Mayor Gabriel Quinto, City of Alameda Vice Mayor Malia Vella, the Alameda County Lawyers Democratic Club, the Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 595, Iron Workers Local 378, Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, Block by Block Organizing Network (#2), and the Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 104.

18. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise?

- Thu far, I have raised \$47,000 and plan to raise around \$136,000 in total. I should also receive an additional \$15,000-\$20,000 from public financing.

Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

- The money has and will continue to come from personal contributions and union organizations
- I am qualified to receive public financing, which will be anywhere from \$15,000 to \$20,000
- For a complete list and record of my campaign contributions to date, please [click here](#).

19. Checks and balances -- How do you view current the relationship between the Council and Mayor?

- There is too much fighting occurring within our city government. When I'm elected Council Member I plan to develop productive relationships with all city officials as well as regional officials and develop evidence-based solutions to our city's problems.

Any comments on the same question for the Auditor and City Attorney?

Auditor and City Attorney are both elected positions and are separate from the Mayor and the City Council.

Are there any changes they would propose to the city charter?

- Term Limits for City Council Members

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

- Yes, Oakland needs campaign finance reform. Our elected officials should not be in the pocket or beholden to corporations who don't have the best interest of our city. I support getting corporate money out of politics.

Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics?

- Yes

Have you Taken the Pledge to Amend (<https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend>)?

I will take the pledge and know that I have previously signed other petitions regarding this. What we need is a long overdue Constitutional Convention to amend more than just taking money out of politics. A Constitutional Convention would not be prudent at this juncture, until we elect leaders who are concerned about people and our future.

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

I am a problem solver and not someone that takes "no" for an answer and I do not give it as a response. There is always a way to figure out a solution to a problem or a compromise that can be found to benefit a majority.

I have a clear understanding that being elected to a representative body to any governmental body is an honor and a privilege. It is not my right, but it is my responsibility to serve the public to the best of my ability even when making the right decision, also means making the hard decision that might not be "politically" advantageous. I am running to serve the people of District 6 and the great City of Oakland. I am excited to get to work and represent the city I love.

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

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

- No

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

- I would support the use of eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis only if the city is willing and able to work closely with residents who will be impacted and that we can ensure they can relocate within the city and aren't displaced from their community.

d. Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?

- Ranked Choice voting exists in our current voting system. It concerns me that since 2010 voters still find it confusing and educating them is required.

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