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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@yahoo.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoo.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 snailmail 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

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Current occupation: **Executive Director, Alliance for Community Development**

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 to be the next District 4 Oakland City Councilmember for two reasons: (1) I know how to better support local problem solvers and entrepreneurs who create**

community-driven solutions and (2) I have experienced the consequences of moving too slow in preventing displacement and protecting low-income people, and people of color, and know I must act now, with everything I have, to preserve the beauty of Oakland I see in our neighborhoods today.

We are facing an unprecedented onslaught of challenges. Community members are being pushed out of their homes and communities, resilient, multi-generational networks are fragmenting, our elders struggle to survive, our young people have limited access to employment and opportunity, community conflict wherein individuals call police to report non-violent, low-level neighborhood issues continues, income and wealth inequality, particularly when looking at income in communities of color and immigrant communities, is staggering.

To address these challenges, I believe the most powerful action is built by a community, for their community. In both District 4 and city-wide, the most compelling, outcome-driven solutions are community-led, community-centered, and community-driven. These solutions take investment of community time and energy, but with that investment comes critical buy-in. I find these solutions are rooted in love for family, friends, and neighbors, and often have inclusion, access, and equity baked in from the beginning.

I have seen this driven, solutions-oriented thinking in two groups: in District 4 problem solvers (resilient, highly organized, resolute volunteer community comprised mostly of older residents, varying in income level) and in the diverse entrepreneurs I have worked with for years citywide (a highly creative, determined, resourceful low-income community seeking economic independence and empowerment). These impact-driven community members have much in common. I have listened to both groups intently over the years and by and large, they are inspiring independent thinkers, frustrated by their interactions with the City of Oakland. When they reach a point in their development when interaction with the city becomes crucial, they express concern that city-engagement will hinder, rather than help them build their vision.

Second, it is most powerful when the individuals sitting in representative government represents the lived experience of the people they are asked to represent. Although District 4 is viewed as a wealthy district, I know from speaking with District 4 residents and getting to know them well that there is financial hardship in this district. We are living in one of the most extreme times of wealth inequality and very few Bay Area residents feel they are safe from displacement. It's important that the individuals holding these council seats understand through first-hand experience the challenges of housing insecurity, poverty, racism, sexism, and classism. It's critical that we provide solutions that take these experiences into account and prioritize the solutions we know address these issues.

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?

**At the 10,000 foot level my legislative priorities are: preventing displacement and ensuring housing for all; supporting equity and jobs through local economic empowerment and social entrepreneurship; increasing attention and support for fire prevention within our built and natural environments; and building trust for safer communities by growing our capabilities in restorative justice, rehabilitation, and crisis intervention.**

**Specifically, immediate action includes:**

**(1) Scheduling the housing preservation package to be heard in committee, if it has not yet been passed by January 2019. District 4 residents I have met with at house parties consistently identify homelessness as the number one issue of importance at this time. This preservation package, including Condo-conversion regulation, SRO conversion regulation, and the regulation of short term rentals, had been moving individually from the city administrator's office to the city attorney's office to various councilmembers' offices, and despite years of discussion, has not moved forward. It's painful for me to see this languish, as these are critical pieces of the puzzle when tackling anti-displacement, prevention of increased homelessness, and protection of rental housing stock. Moving these forward as a package has been proposed by East Bay Housing Organizations and I have signed onto a letter of support. I provided pro-bono legal research for the short term rental regulation portion in 2014 and am frustrated to see that it has not yet moved forward. I would also consider additional funding for tenant legal defense as an element of this package, depending upon the status of funding for tenant defense at that time.**

**(2) Gathering information and building internal support with my colleagues on the council and in the administration for year-long pilot program based in the Business Assistance Center, led by local community organizations, geared towards making business support and capital more accessible to all. The city has property available that it has not made effective use of for years. This space must be used to help communities build wealth equity, which allows community members to stay in their communities, increase local jobs, and increase city revenue. Together with 20 other business support providers, we submitted a 40 page report to city leadership laying out challenges and recommendations for how to better serve all local business and support all entrepreneurs, specifically aiming to better serve women, people of color, immigrants, the formerly incarcerated, LGBTQ individuals, veterans, and young people. As a Councilmember, I would continue to support this cause.**

**(3) Discussing with community stakeholders, and then scheduling a (revised as necessary) ordinance to incentivize City procurement with local worker cooperatives which I worked on as a staff person and has not yet become local policy. This work is driven by the Sustainable Economies Law Center, who launched a Worker Cooperatives**

**Policy Brigade, training local community members to engage policymakers and advocate for equitable business models as part of their Transformative Policymakers Project.**

**(4) Discussing with community stakeholders, and if unresolved by January 2019, requesting additional project management and administrative staffing in the fire prevention unit in order to move our vegetation management draft forward with greater community input, in order to earn and re-build community trust. This trust is pivotal in bringing forward the next wildfire prevention assessment district, which financially supports critical fire prevention efforts.**

**(5) Discussing with community stakeholders, and then bringing forward several of the police accountability policy solutions I worked on as a staff person which were not implemented to incentivize advanced educational attainment, to increase training requirements in crisis intervention and de-escalation training, training from social workers, and training from individuals certified in substance use and mental health treatment, as well as implement strategies for hiring and promoting a higher proportion of women.**

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 a proven ability to blend community organizing and executive leadership functions, with experience as both an organizer and as an executive decision maker. As the executive director of the Alliance for Community Development, I have demonstrated my capacity to lead an 18 year old organization with \$6.5 million in assets, making challenging decisions regarding our strategic plan, shifting our programs to be more outcomes-driven, and fundamentally re-thinking our organizational culture.**

**At the same time, I have maintained my identity as a community organizer, leading the Alliance as an ecosystem-builder, ending our former program and launching a new membership organization with 215 individuals and entities requires members to commit to equity, diversity, inclusion, access, local leadership, and sustainability, before joining. Since I took over as executive director, our annual capital connections program, located in Oakland, has been a more diverse, more accessible annual event, with an emphasis on increasing opportunity both on the stage and during breakout sessions for women, people of color, immigrants, and people with disabilities.**

**Right now, each month, I am holding cross-neighborhood community meetings, in which District 4 stakeholders (residents, city staff, business owners, local employees, local investors, etc.) come together at a rotating District 4 location to discuss our priorities and our strategies for addressing those priorities. The purpose is to increase community dialogue across stakeholder group, breaking down siloes and increasing opportunities for collaboration to encourage a more decentralized, empowered community.**

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 of Wellstone and am under active consideration for Block by Block, I am an advisory board member for Oakland Grown and I am co-chair of the Oakland-based Resilient Wellness board. These groups intersect with my other close connections knowledgeable and active residents in neighborhood associations and the Firesafe Council who know my own skills and values from my prior work and are spreading the word. Many of the aforementioned groups intersect with former Jean Quan campaign volunteers who have the know-how to help build a similar community-driven campaign. I see these kinds of engaged local community-builders as my base: they have in common that they are inspiring independent thinkers, trying to make the city better but frustrated by their interactions with the city administration.**

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.

- **Board Member, Community Development District Block Grant Board, City of Oakland, Central District**
- **Nor-Cal FDC, Loan Committee Member**
- **Court-Appointed Mediator, UC Hastings Mediation Clinic**
- **Volunteer Constitutional Law Teacher, Fremont High School**
- **Board Co-Chair, Resilient Wellness**
- **Vice President of Membership, East Bay Young Democrats**
- **Advisory Board Member, Oakland Grown**

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?

**I will focus on growing citywide revenue, not by focusing on attracting huge outside corporations, but seeking equitable economic growth through investing in the expansion of our local economy through small business development and entrepreneurship. This investment may be challenging to win support for initially, but with a strong base of community support, and with clear data on the return on investment in terms of both a growing tax base and in terms of anti-displacement efforts, I am confident that we will see a more sustainable growing local economy that will alleviate some of this scarcity. Small business development and entrepreneurship support for business districts can**

**create good, green jobs for everyone with a special focus on people of color, immigrants, the formerly incarcerated, and low-income individuals.**

**We also need to re-design our budget process to be far more transparent and participatory. I would implement participatory budgeting for all District 4 residents, and would consider weighted voting from city staff and from residents.**

**I support revenue reforms including the reform of Prop 13 for businesses (split-roll), relief from Prop 13's institutional restrictions (removal of supermajoritarian requirements for state and local tax measures), closure of tax loopholes benefiting industry, substantial increase in the price of carbon, and greater taxes on high incomes and wealth**

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

**As a mother of two, I know youth programs are vital to build our next generation and keep the city liveable. I will fight for parks, pools, playgrounds, fab labs, paid internship programs, etc., as well as programs supporting the development of disadvantaged youth especially, but also bringing together kids of all income groups.**

**I have been endorsed by two major youth organizations because they see my commitment to not only support youth services and programs, but to bring young people onto more boards and commissions.**

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?

**Communities are safe when our community members do not feel that harming another or acting in a way that makes another community member is the best option available to them in a given moment. In my experience meeting with incarcerated individuals, most of the time, you make another person in your community unsafe when things are broken in your own life and you do not see a way to fix what is broken. You are hurting and so you hurt another.**

**When we create a community in which we address trauma and provide trauma-informed care, we restore justice, we create economic opportunities and pathways for capacity-building and living wages, we de-stigmatize mental health treatment, we stop locking community members away as if this will cause them to have more options in that moment. Public safety in Oakland requires that we identify the true levers of change: alleviating poverty, increasing economic opportunity, de-stigmatizing and decriminalizing what are often self-medicating behaviors, treating underlying traumas, and providing truly restorative programs which heal both the individual who felt unsafe or victimized and the person who engaged in the problematic or harmful behavior.**

**Our current model of policing does not function to serve the community's needs. For a large percentage of police activity, we need individuals trained in de-escalation and conflict resolution, mediation, communication, and other human behavior-oriented practices. For a smaller percentage, there may be moments in which the more traditional officer training of learning to quickly fire a firearm is appropriate. This ratio, however, and the culture which places disproportionate emphasis on firing of weapons, is not appropriate for our community. In my experience, even individuals within the policing community understand this and are open to seeing changes.**

**Yes, I support a use of force policy that requires de-escalation and use of force as last resort, as well as AB 931 and SB 1421, as well as AB 3131 that would counter the militarization of law enforcement.**

**The police commission currently has the power to recommend discipline, and has some ability to pursue such discipline over the head of the police chief, but given grievance procedures does not have a final say.**

**The restorative justice model is based on the understanding that when conflict takes place, the best way to understand why it took place and prevent it from occurring again is to sit down with all parties to discuss what emotions and understandings or misunderstandings were at play. Then the parties are able to make peace with their own responsibility and experience a healing from the interaction, making future interactions that might have had similar outcomes less likely to occur. I see restorative justice as a crucial element of not only policing but also public service for every public servant in Oakland. With this culture at the core of my identity as a former mediator and highly empathetic person, I am determined to bring this model into all policies around race and equity and conflict resolution in our public spaces.**

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?

**We need to make sure building regulations are enforced without favor to big developers, but we also need to make sure those regulations are rational to begin with. A great deal of existing Oakland development would not be legal if it were proposed today, and an inconsistent, unresponsive, and unpredictable city approval process is continuing to stoke the housing crisis by slowing the pipeline of new housing. While we need strict safety, labor, and environmental standards, I support changes to make existing standards simpler and more routine, and to open up zoning and other restrictions in transit-rich areas to allow for more multifamily and affordable housing where appropriate. Such reforms will also open up more opportunities to small developers, nonprofits, collectives, etc.**

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?

**Building and maintaining affordable housing is critical to solving the housing crisis. I support a policy that makes use of Oakland's public land for building deeply affordable housing, and mixed use environments, seeking the maximum number of affordable units feasible overall.**

**To support housing availability and combat displacement, I strongly support the anti-displacement "preservation package" proposed which includes appropriate regulation of condo conversions, SRO conversions, and short-term rentals. I provided pro-bono legal research for the package's short-term rental regulation portion in 2014. This package had been moving individually across various offices within City Hall (administrator, attorney, councilmembers), and despite years of discussion, has not moved forward.**

**I support Prop 10, and following its success, I would look for a rolling date of imposition of rent control based on when housing became occupied, possibly 15 years, but more information and discussion would be needed.**

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

**The City of Oakland must protect the environment and the planet as a whole by: (1) fostering denser, transit-oriented development that reduces reliance on cars and fossil fuels, and providing more non-car options for those who already live here through safer and better streets and transit; (2) reducing landfill and other waste with active measures to meet the Zero Waste goal; (3) maintaining and improving our parks and other green infrastructure; (4) promoting good green jobs in the private (both for-profit and not-for-profit) sectors; and (5) community-input rich vegetation management plan to prevent wildfires in populated areas.**

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, I believe a public bank is a forward-looking model of community self-reliance and empowerment, as well as a vehicle to lift up low-income and marginalized populations through business loans. I want Oakland to continue to actively pursue the public bank option.**

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 support the city actively fostering nonprofits, collectives, and other community-based alternatives to the for-profit business model, but I would need to understand more about Community Check Cashing before supporting it in particular. Although it is good that it charges less fees than other lenders, those fees are very high and perpetuate poverty.**

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

**I see the average satisfaction level with city government as low: people I speak to are frustrated with the responsiveness of the city staff and representatives, expressing concern that the city more often hinders than helps them.**

**I believe together we can move city government to a responsive, collaborative model, which respects and listens to everyone, and is held accountable with dashboards and other outcome-based tools.**

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

**I believe that leaders should engage in active listening and stay in frequent communication with the communities they serve in order to ensure that the most innovative ideas are brought to the forefront, to safeguard against the culture that exists within city hall which allows slow movement on urgent, time-sensitive matters, and promote local problem solvers from a wide range of backgrounds onto our boards and commissions so that they are empowered to be part of the decision making process not only through the Councilmember, but with their own votes. This distribution of power increases and broadens circles of access and influence, and is the clearest way to built-in equity.**

**I would describe my leadership style as highly open, transparent, and straightforward.**

**The best solutions, the solutions I support as a leader, are designed by the community, for the community. It is inspiring that in District 4, there are hundreds of community members who are actively tackling the problems they see in the world, as volunteers, as neighbors, and as entrepreneurs. The combination of this innovative, creative, solutions-oriented spirit that the Bay Area is known for and the community organizing, vocal, active that is a core cultural tradition of Oakland, are a clear indication that the best thing city leadership can do is to listen, provide support for these solutions, eliminate or reduce barriers, and make the city work on their behalf.**

**I envisioned and have begun implementation of a system similar to what I have used in the higher education reform space and in the entrepreneurship equity space: regular meetings of stakeholders with facilitators to track goals and monitor progress, with an emphasis on transparency, honesty, and being open to hearing all of what each stakeholder has to say. These meetings, which include many local neighborhood leaders, have begun and I have received (and will continue to seek) feedback on these monthly meetings across neighborhoods, uniting different neighborhoods across the district from the hills to the portion of the district in East Oakland. It is important that**

**these not be exclusively the usual suspects of communities, but incorporates individuals who we seek out in part because of their disconnectedness.**

**I have also established a kitchen cabinet which represents individuals from various constituencies (by neighborhood within District 4 and within my base). We meet monthly during the campaign and would meet quarterly post-election. Again, there is a critical emphasis on openness, receptivity, and accessibility.**

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?

**First, it is critical that my dynamic with each of my colleagues on the council be born out of respect and appreciation for the sacrifice they've made to be a part of this body. They are each human beings, no one individual being the problem or the solution.**

**With that said, although I understand budgetary constraints are real and highly challenging, I believe the primary challenge facing the City is psychological in nature. There is a mindset within city governance about the problems we are facing, that there is scarcity and that we cannot rely on the current, positive economic growth to continue, that we musn't ask for too much as that may scare away investment. And our priorities and policy-proposals are rooted in this mindset. Yes, it is important to be mindful of this possibility in the negotiation around community benefits. However, I have seen first-hand the consequences of going too far in this direction. Psychologically, we must be confident that our city will continue to attract investors if we invest in the character and local community which makes our community so beautiful in the first place. That is our local business community, our local artists, our creative approaches to community organizing, our robust dialogue that continues to place us at the forefront of American culture and critical thought. These are our greatest assets: our people, our ideas, our intellectual property, our creativity, our diversity of thought, our culture. Investing in training and capacity building for these individuals -- the core of our essence -- is how we demonstrate our strength and build on what is most important to us at the end of the day. This is what spurs economic growth, grassroots growth that benefits a broader cross-section of the community. This type of growth is connected to reductions in poverty, reductions in homelessness, reductions in displacement, reductions in crimes associated with poverty, and more of the social challenges we see.**

**I am a strong believer in making truthful, logical, grounded, compelling arguments to each stakeholder at the table, and then sitting down together (without violating regulations around public noticing requirements) to negotiate with all stakeholders at the table.**

**I have been told by current and former councilmembers that this argument, that economic empowerment and investment in capacity building, coupled with**

implementation of immediate measures to preserve housing and fight eviction, is compelling. I am confident that this infusion of a new psychological outlooks, a new mindset, can shift the culture of the council.

However, to make progress, we need to establish the foundational value of seeing one another as our fellow human beings, without othering, without villainizing and with a genuine desire to see that 99% of us have more in common than we have that separates us, regardless of what part of Oakland an individual lives in or represents.

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 not made endorsements so far in the statewide or Oakland municipal races.**

**My endorsements to date include:**

**Alison Grady, Policy Director, East Bay Young Democrats\***

**Barbie Penn, entrepreneur, lifelong Oakland resident**

**Bruce Nye, Oakland mediator and attorney**

**Carolyn Burgess, Oakland resident and community leader**

**Carolyn Winters, Former Chair, Montclair Neighborhood Council\*; former District 4 resident**

**Daniel Enking, Oakland community member**

**Destiny Iwuoma, Oakland entrepreneur**

**Buffy Wicks, community organizer, Assembly candidate**

**Ed Gerber, Chair of the City of Oakland Budget Advisory Commission\*; longtime District 4 resident**

**Frank Mak, entrepreneur; community member**

**Hadar Aviram, Professor at UC Hastings College of the Law**

**Dan Kalb, Oakland City Councilmember, District 1**

**Harriet Schlader, District 4 resident and leader for over 50 years**

**James Anthony, former Oakland Cannabis Regulatory Commission Member representing District 4**

**James Chang, Commissioner, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board**

**Jane Brunner, former Oakland City Councilmember and Council President; local civil rights and labor law attorney**

**Jennifer Joey Smith, former Dimond Improvement Association Co-Chair\*; District 4 resident**

**Jody Colley, Oakland community member**

**Joyce Meyer, Learning Disabilities Specialist; District 4 resident**

**Kathy Kahn, community leader and 30-year District 4 resident**

**Ken Benson, Secretary and Board Member, Oakland Firesafe Council\***

**María D. Domínguez, Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women  
Commissioner; community leader**

**Martin Matarrese, Vice Chair of the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Citizen's  
Advisory Committee; former Parkland Resources Supervisor for the City of Oakland**

**Matt Haney, Commissioner of the San Francisco School Board; Eviction defense  
attorney; Former Executive Director of the UC Student Association**

**Michael Tigges, Founding Member of Block by Block Organizing Network\*; Chairperson  
of Montclair Neighborhood Council; District 4 resident.**

**Nicholas Vigilante, Secretary, Montclair Neighborhood Council\*; Oakland Firesafe  
Council Board\* resident and employee**

**Nina Johnson, Longtime community member and Business Owner**

**Noah Frigault, Oakland community member; former Oakland Rent Board Member**

**Pam Jones, Bay Area community leader**

**Robbie Neely, Executive Director, Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association\*; District 4  
resident**

**Sign and Display Union Local 510**

**Shannon Lankenau, environmental attorney**

**Shawn Choy, entrepreneur; founder of The Food Foundry; and District 4 business owner**

**Sue Piper, President of the Oakland Firesafe Council\*; former Chair of the Wildfire  
Prevention Assessment District Citizen's Advisory Committee; Former District 4 Oakland  
City Council staff**

**Block by Block Organizing Network (Dual)**

**CNA #2**

**Oakland Rising Action #2**

**California Young Democrats**

**East Bay Young Democrats**

**I have not made any endorsements so far.**

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).

**I have raised \$38,400 to date. My funders are residents, friends, and supporters from Oakland and elsewhere, and I hope to receive union and other community organization support in the future.**

**I am not accepting financial contributions from the Oakland Police Officers Association. I have seen first-hand how contributions on the issue of community safety and policing can be perceived by the community and I feel I will be better able to clarify my intentions without any financial relationship. To be clear, I am grateful for the work of our officers and will work to support their needs as valued city employees.**

**I have also signed an agreement stating that I will not accept financial contributions from Phil Tagami, a prerequisite for requesting Wellstone Democratic Club's endorsement.**

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?

**There may be worthy improvements to the city charter, which I would listen to and consider, but ultimately I believe effective working together with all elected officials, staff, and the community comes down to fostering a culture where we see each other as people, and address our disagreements with tried and true mediation skills I have gained as part of my legal training, as I related in more detail for question 16 above. That would be my first approach, rather than legislating changes to our machinery.**

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 support further public financing of Oakland elections to better enable grassroots campaigns, but ultimately we must overturn Citizens United and get money out of politics wholesale. I have taken the Pledge to Amend and support its goals.**

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

**In everything I have worked on in the nonprofit sector to working in government to working for a union, to working on political campaigns, social justice, racial justice, and economic justice have remained at the core. With a family of organizers and progressive journalists, this was how I was raised. This value is a central piece of who I am.**

**I organized students to advocate against fee increases while in school, studied political science and social psychology at UC Santa Cruz.**

**I revived the Hastings Prisoner Outreach organization, was a Board Member with Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal, taught constitutional law and legal analysis tools to seniors at Fremont High to help them see their own power.**

**As Co-director for MoveOn.org in their Reno, Nevada office, I led a charge to register individuals who were unhoused and living in shelters to vote, recognizing a failure among local democratic clubs to do so. The unhoused individuals and those living in shelters who we assisted were almost entirely people of color.**

**Today, with the Alliance, I ended our former program and launched a new membership organization based on entrepreneurship and business support which requires members**

**to commit to equity, diversity, inclusion, access, local leadership, and sustainability, before joining. Since taking over as the executive director, our annual capital connections program, located in Oakland, has been a more diverse, more accessible annual event, with an emphasis on increasing opportunity both on the stage and during breakout sessions for women, people of color, immigrants, and people with disabilities.**

**I feel acutely and from my own personal history the debilitating effects of displacement and poverty, and see this year as a crossroads moment where we all need to stand together and do much more for social justice, equity, and mutual empowerment than we ever have before. At the same time, I do not see this as a personal crusade, or as all about me: my role is connecting the dots for the community help itself, providing the needed access, transparency, organization, and resources, and helping assemble the solid foundation for our mass social movement to advance further together.**

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, I support its reform.**
- c. Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis? **Yes, in a situation where it was vital to prevent bad behavior on the part of foreclosers. I would also support balance write-downs in another housing crisis.**
- d. Do you support Ranked Choice Voting? **Yes, I believe it has changed Oakland and Berkeley politics for the better, although it can still be improved.**
- e. Would you support Proportional Representation? **I would consider this for larger bodies like the state legislature; I am not sure it would be a productive reform at the city level.**
- f. Do you support Community Choice Aggregation? **Yes, as a form of community mutual effort for greener energy.**
- g. Would you vote to allow more grey water systems? **Yes. I have taken it upon myself to pay to put a grey water system in at our own residence.**