

**OAKLAND MAYOR Questionnaire**

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

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

We prefer that you convert your answered questionnaire into a .pdf document, so we can post it directly to our website. Or simply include your responses in the body of an email, and we will do the conversion. If it is not possible for you to email, please snailmail your responses so we receive them by 8/23/18, to:

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

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Name: Pamela Price

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Current occupation: Civil Rights Attorney

**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'm running for Oakland Mayor because Oakland is at a crossroads. The Mayor has tremendous influence on how we respond to our homelessness crisis and provide affordable housing, how we treat those who suffer from addictions or mental illness, and whether we hold "bad cops" accountable for bad acts. These are pressing "life & death" issues for some of us, and quality of life issues for all of us. We need results, not just words. As a civil rights lawyer, I have been fighting for justice for everyday people for almost 30 years and I've been able to get real results for them. I want to do the same for Oakland.*

*I believe the current Mayor has failed to address the homeless crisis Oakland is currently facing, and continues to side with large developers while the lack of affordable housing is pushing many longtime Oakland residents onto the streets. We need a mayor who will advocate for and support Oakland residents at a time when Oakland is rapidly changing.*

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?

*My top priorities if elected to serve as the Mayor of Oakland will be the elimination of homelessness; to increase our affordable housing options; hold law enforcement officers equally accountable for unlawful conduct and reduce the City's liabilities for negligent police conduct; successfully end the Negotiated Settlement Agreement; expand access to addiction and mental illness services; develop appropriate strategies to reduce our unfunded liabilities; support our public schools, provide jobs for Oaklanders and support for small businesses.*

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 B.A. degree from Yale College and a J.D. and M.A. in Jurisprudence & Social Policy from the University of California Berkeley School of Law. I have been admitted to practice law in California since 1983. I started my legal career as a criminal defense attorney at the Bayview Hunters Point Community Defenders Office in San Francisco. I have specialized in federal civil rights litigation since 1991. I have owned and managed a small firm in Oakland since 1991. In 2002, I became one of only a handful of Black women to ever argue in front of the United States Supreme Court. In 2007 and again in 2016, I worked on a short-term part-time contracts for the S.F. Lawyer Committee for Civil Rights.*

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.

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.

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?

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

*Unlike the current Mayor who forfeited \$2 million dollars of grant money from the last Obama administration for a summer youth program, I am fully committed to investing in our youth and prioritizing jobs programs and training opportunities. I would work to increase the amount of revenue allocated in our budget for youth programs as well as aggressively seek outside funding to boost opportunities for Oakland youth. I would partner with local unions such as ATU Local 192 and organizations such as CivicCore to give our young people the help and support they need to overcome the challenges they face in our City and the 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](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?

*The greatest danger to public safety with respect to police is the unjustified use of force, which creates an understandable lack of public trust. As Mayor I will work to expand and improve community-policing initiatives, implement measures to reduce the City's payouts for negligent police conduct, and I will hold all law enforcement employees to the same standards for unlawful conduct. I will use my experience as a trial lawyer to oversee and improve the administration of police discipline by the city attorney's office.*

*I support both AB931 and SB1421. Both pieces of legislation desperately need to be implemented to help address the number of police shootings and help increase public trust. Additionally, I will lobby both the state and the county to reallocate the dollars saved from lower incarceration rates and invest them in re-entry services and stable housing, targeted employment opportunities for youth, and expanding community based housing for people living with mental health or substance use disorders within our county. My office will support community alternatives to incarceration and other punitive measures. I will establish strong partnerships with community organizations, faith based groups, labor unions, local businesses, and other stakeholders to make sure we collectively create sustainable support systems for people to get back on their feet and live productive lives of dignity. I believe in investing heavily in prevention programs, public schools, afterschool programs, mentorship programs, quality healthcare, affordable housing, and full employment for all.*

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?

*The current administration has allowed developers, and corporations like Uber, to take advantage of Oakland residents and steal potential tax revenue. As Mayor I will review City zoning criteria to protect residents and preserve Oakland's historic neighborhoods and housing diversity by harmonizing architectural and neighborhood design standards. Additionally, I will prioritize public lands for affordable housing and focus on converting unused building space into housing units where appropriate.*

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?

*Yes, I support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act. The lack of rent control and tenant protections combined with the massive influx of out of state workers seeking jobs in Silicon Valley has led predatory landlords to raise rents and push longtime community residents onto the streets. Additionally, the long-term economic and racial disparities and effects of discrimination in access to capital, jobs and education on Black and Brown residents have been magnified by the shortage of available housing.*

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

*I believe we can realistically phase out fossil fuels by 2030 at the earliest, and no later than 2035. We must act now to fight climate change and ensure a healthy and sustainable planet for future generations. My vision for Oakland includes minimizing the carbon footprint and increasing our strategic response to*

*global warming. I would like to explore investment in "CoolSeal" as an opportunity to create jobs, promote a cleaner City and reverse the "heat island" effect on City streets.*

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 creating a public bank in Oakland has the ability to benefit the community in ways the current system could never. Oakland is at a crossroads, and we must start doing right by the people of Oakland and not ultra-wealthy corporate interests.*

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>)?

*The current system of predatory lenders taking advantage of our most vulnerable populations must be stopped. As Mayor I will work to expand non-profit check cashing throughout Oakland in order to help provide residents with basic financial assistance and to ensure they are no longer penalized for their socioeconomic background.*

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

*I believe the average resident is dissatisfied with the current state of Oakland. The price of housing is skyrocketing, longtime residents are being pushed out of the city and/or onto the streets, and our City streets are full of potholes and trash. I believe Oakland residents want a Mayor who will work for their best interests, and not the interests of corporations and major developers.*

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

*Constituent outreach will be a priority of my administration. The only way to get results for the community is to listen to members of the community. I will create a team in my office focused solely on community outreach and make myself available to community members as often as possible.*

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 believe I can have a positive relationship with other City office holders and will actively work to end the dysfunction currently slowing down progress.*

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.

- *Fania E. Davis - Co-Founder, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth*
- *Robert L. Harris - Author, "Goodbye Arkadelphia," Secretary & General Counsel, Oakland African-American Chamber of Commerce, Past President, National Bar Association (NBA), Charles Houston Bar Association (CHBA), California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL), 27th Grand Polemarch Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Former Co-Chair, S.F. Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights*
- *Bishop JW Macklin - Pastor, Glad Tidings Church of God In Christ*
- *Bishop J.E. Watkins - Pastor, Jack London Square Chapel, COGIC. Founder/CEO, Overcomers with Hope (OWH) Studios*
- *LaNiece Jones - President, Oakland Chapter of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)*

*I am asking my supporters to vote Cat Brooks #2 and Saied Karamooz #3.*

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).

*Our campaign estimates that we need to raise over \$400,000 dollars between now and the November 6<sup>th</sup> election. Since I turned in my filing paperwork our campaign has raised close to \$20,000 dollars. Going forward our goal is to raise money from as many small dollar donors as possible, while also reaching out to individuals capable of donating the \$800 individual maximum contribution. Our campaign will not accept donations from corporate interests.*

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

*I see the current relationship between the Mayor and the Council as adversarial.*

20. Money in elections. -- Does Oakland need campaign finance reform? If so, what kind? Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics? Have you Taken the Pledge to Amend (<https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend>)?

*I believe we must end corporate Constitutional rights and get money out of our political process. I have not taken the pledge listed, but I will look into it and sign it.*

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

22. Please answer "Yes" or "No" to these questions, and follow with an explanation if you want to add one:

a. Do you support raising the minimum wage to a living wage?

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

d. Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?

Yes

e. Would you support Proportional Representation?

Yes

f. Do you support Community Choice Aggregation?

Yes

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

Yes