

PERALTA BOARD DISTRICT 5 Questionnaire

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

Please email your responses to GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com. In the subject line, please include "Peralta Board D5".

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:

Peralta Board D5 Questionnaire
c/o Green Party of Alameda County
2022A Blake Street ~ Berkeley , CA 94704

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Current occupation: Professor, Art History

1. Why did you decide to run for this office? What skills/strengths would you bring to the Board?

Education is essential to a vibrant and enlightened community that genuinely transforms lives. As an educator, I understand intimately the power and need for community colleges to become the critical resource in our communities that they were intended to be. We need board members who are connected and engaged in those seats who will provide the effective oversight to ensure that public monies are being spent transparently and with accountability for students.

Our Peralta Colleges, which include Merritt, Laney, Berkeley City, and College of Alameda, are integral community resources with great potential to provide an excellent education for all students whether their goals are long-term or short or continuing lifelong learning. Our student are faced with many challenges from staying housed and fed, to getting the classes and supportive services they require. All students deserve excellence in education, and our teachers and faculty members deserve the resources needed for success. Our communities can no longer afford anything less. In the midst of the wealth that surrounds our campuses, our resources are mismanaged. Too much is being spent of administrators and highly paid consultants, and contacts are being made with developers that fail to hire locally and use environmentally responsible practices.

I am running for Peralta Community College District Board of Trustee's because we need a proactive, values-based approach to governance.

2. Describe your relevant employment experience, particularly in community colleges. If employed in community colleges, what length of service?

I have been a faculty member for over twenty years within the CCC and CSU system. Specifically, I have taught at West Valley College for fifteen years and as an adjunct at a variety of schools across the Bay Area including SFSU, Foothill, SFAI etc., I know, personally, what we all do on a day-by-day basis and understand how important our work is to our students and the community.

Secondly, I am very active on the Statewide Academic Senate (ASCCC) having been on committees for the past seven years specifically related to Legislation and Advocacy, Curriculum, Education Policies and Academic Integrity. I am also Vice-President of my local Academic Senate, so I understand quite well the ways in which legislation trickles down and impacts all of us on a local level.

Thirdly, I am a commissioner on the NEW ACCJC (this is not the ACCJC associated with CCSF or Barbara Beno), so I understand intimately what good governance and good financial resource planning and accountability should look like from an accreditation perspective.

This unique 360-degree perspective gives me the knowledge and expertise that is lacking but desperately needed on this board.

Additionally, I hold two B.A. degrees in Comparative Literature and in Art History from the University of California, Irvine; a Master's in Art History from San Francisco State University; a Doctorate in Art History from the University of California, Irvine; and a Certificate in Educational Leadership from Harvard University.

3. What are three major issues in Peralta that need to be addressed? How would you address those issues?

The governing board has ultimate responsibility for the educational quality and the financial integrity and stability of the District. Yet, my opponent has failed in this responsibilities.

Issue: Public trust in the Colleges / accountability / transparency

The financial situation of the Peralta Colleges has not been dire and has gotten worse in the past year. There has been a a loss in the public's trust of the college to be accountable to students and taxpayers in the allocation of funds.

SOLUTION I believe one of the main responsibilities of the board is to insure accountability, transparency ad effective oversight in the expenditure of tax dollars; the avoidance of potential conflict of interest and the use of and questioning of audits to identify and fix weak internal controls to ensure that the district uses all the financial, physical, and human resources to support the success of all students.

Issue: Quality of education

The board must ensure the academic quality , integrity and effectiveness of student learning programs

Enrollment has declined between 2011/2012 to 2017/8, and demographics have changed. Three major populations are AA students, Latin X students and Asian American students , of those three groups of students the success rates and persistence rates in basic skills, credit classes and transfer velocity are below the state average for persistence and success for the District as a whole. In essence the district is failing our two most vulnerable populations.

SOLUTION *The responsibility of success lies not on these students but on the institution - these are the equity lens through which we, as higher educational institutions — especially CCCs- must see this problem. Values based budgeting that supports— our most needy students to be successful — must be the essential governing framework of the college when allocating monies. Support systems throughout their experience UMOJA - UBAKA, Asi si puede, Restoring our Communities for incarcerated males, our homeless students our mental ill - tutoring, free tuition for their time at the colleges, mentoring/ counseling/ support groups. Food pantries and Free books assistance .*

ISSUE: Shared governance / respect / stakeholder feedback

The board must ensure i the appropriate consideration of relevant perspectives; decision-making aligned with expertise and responsibility; and timely action on institutional plans, policies, curricular change, and other key considerations.

ISSUE: Currently the process of budget presentation, feedback and approval is haphazard and does not respect a shared governance model.

Solution: Cultivate a campus ethos by enacting participatory governance, collegial consultation, and a culture of respect and evidence. This is established by adhering to policies and practices that support this model and by ensuring this value is demonstrated by the board's method of inquiry, action, non-negotiable expectation and communication processes.

4. What would you do as Trustee to ensure that Peralta is accountable to the community in use of public funds, including bond money, and the parcel tax (Measure B) passed in June 2012?

Accountability with the parcel tax is the Board's fiduciary responsibility. Mechanisms must be implemented to ensure that the language is specific so that there is no misallocation of budget monies.

Accountability must be enacted in the following ways:

• Cultivate a campus ethos by enacting participatory governance, collegial consultation and a culture of respect. This is established by publicly adhering to practices and policies that support this model, and by ensuring this value is demonstrated by the board's method of inquiry, action, and communication processes

- *Create a consultation council (modeled on CCCO) which brings a representative body of stakeholders to facilitate the effective participation of groups in order to ensure that the best interests of students are at the core of our decisions*
- *Create a culture of evidence at the District which encourages a culture of accountability and competence*
- *Hold the Chancellor accountable through clear expectations that prepared, timely, comprehensive presentations supported by evidence are submitted before meetings for BOT and community to review before meetings*
- *Evaluate the Chancellor by measuring performance on these expectations in addition to other goals agreed upon by the BoT and the Chancellor, and that the evaluations are public records available to the community*
- *Maintain accountability to the community by having a monthly newsletter to the community from the Board or Board member*
- *Expect accurate data in budget planning and presentations to ensure public funds are allocated responsibly and directly serve students and student learning*
- *Reduce administration and district expenditures to ensure that public funding is used responsibly such that district expenses are appropriately proportionate to the state total budget, total FTES, and four colleges' needs*
- *Build a culture of respect at the board level that demonstrably values students, faculty, staff, and the community*

5. What are you prepared to do to advocate for increased state funding?

I am involved on the Statewide level as a faculty member and believe greatly that before issues become legislated and emerge in the Governor's budget-- it is important to engage and take part in those conversations much earlier on/ There are Chancellors and Board of Trustees that are respected at the State Level and take part in those conversations, we need to raise the visibility of the Peralta Trustees in the same way. I will be that Trustee and hopefully will orient the other members to do as well.

6. What creative ideas do you have to develop alternative funding sources for the Peralta District?

We need to engage the "community" in Community Colleges by partaking in public/public partnerships that allow the community to feel like the Peralta Colleges are their gems. The partnerships could range from apprenticeship and internship opportunities for students, to program advisor boards, to endowments. Frankly, communities love education and will support their educational institutions -- but they will only do so if they believe the community is benefiting from the institutions and if the District is fiscally responsible.

7. How would you define the role of trustee in relation to the chancellor and administration?

Trustees are meant to oversee that the Colleges and Districts mission and values is being upheld by its plans and actions and that the Trustees constituencies--both within the District and the wider community--are being served and supported by the District and that to properly do so requires active oversight of the District and continual interaction with their constituencies. As such, it is the responsibility of the Trustees to ask hard questions, expect comprehensive explanations, expect accurate data, uphold a shared governance timeline and expectation in all matters, evaluate the Chancellor publicly, and expect consequences to ensure that the Chancellor and his direct reports are held accountable.

8. Describe your understanding of shared governance. What is the role of faculty, classified staff, and students in shared governance?

*Shared Governance and AB1725 is central and critical to a successful Community College District. Effective governance cannot come to fruition without stakeholder input and feedback at all phases of the decision-making processes. And although the Board of Trustees have the final say in decisions, shared governance must be the central tenet of the process and should always be reflected in the decisions made, the questions asked,
As a Commissioner on the Accrediting body for California Community Colleges (ACCJC) , I know very well how crucial it is for participatory governance to be upheld at all levels of governance.*

As a Trustee, I commit to cultivating a campus ethos by enacting participatory governance, collegial consultation and a culture of respect. This is established by publicly adhering to practices and policies that support this model, and by ensuring this value is demonstrated by the board's method of inquiry, action, and communication processes

9A. What is your opinion about selling/leasing college land for commercial development?

Leasing and selling college land is not part of the mission statement of the Colleges and should never be position that Board or Chancellor should even consider.

9B. What was yr position in 2017 when the Oakland Athletics wanted to build a stadium on Peralta/Laney land?

The Oakland A's situation was an incredible expense of time, energy, and morale was wasted on such a divisive issue that never had any reason for being an issue of discussion or should have ever been an issue considered.

10. What is your view on parity for part-time faculty?

Part-time faculty members are an essential part of our community colleges. We need to hire as many FT faculty as possible and many from our PT ranks: Our goal, as a System, which I know no

college has successfully done is to be at 75/25. Let's increase our tenure track hiring so that our balance does look like this, but if we cannot hire FT faculty and transition incredible PT faculty to FT positions, we **MUST** respect the important role PT faculty fill within our educational mission by ensuring their contracts are equitable and competitive with other CCCs in the Bay Area.

11. What is your experience with collective bargaining? What is your approach to conflict resolution?

I am a union member on my own faculty union and believe that collective bargaining can be such a painful and demoralizing process. Binding arbitration, from a cost and time perspective, is far more beneficial than litigation in terms of time and expense and the translated (sometimes unquantifiable) costs to the whole campus community in terms of morale during the fraught period. Binding arbitration holds each party responsible to the specific parts of the agreement once discovery is complete, as such, it is evidence-based. The critical and difficult part is finding an arbitrator who is knowledgeable, competent and objective and not, as data has shown, aligned in large part with values of the District/ Management.

12. What do you think about charter schools and privatization in education?

Data has shown that charter schools are not effective and are preying on parents in our most vulnerable neighborhoods who are in search of alternatives for their children. In addition to this national data, charter schools take away funding that could be used for public schools. With that said-- it is not ok that our schools in California and particularly in the flatlands of Oakland are deplorable. Education is the answer to many of our social ills and we must invest the resources to ensure that ALL our children get the best education and educational opportunities throughout all phases of their educational trajectory.. If we do not do this, we will continue to see the inequities in our communities worsen.

13 . If you are an **incumbent**, what are the three most important accomplishments that you achieved during your time on the Peralta Board? If you are a **challenger**, what are the three most important accomplishments that you have achieved in the last four years that improved the quality of life in your community?

N/A

14. Who has endorsed you so far? What labor support do you have?

My campaign is very much a labor campaign: the President and COPE Director of Peralta Federation of Teachers, the President and COPE Director of the Peralta SEIU have endorsed me.

These are my elected official endorsements: Betty Yee, Lonnie Hancock, Tom Bates, Fiona Ma, Gus Newton, Kate Harrison, Judy Appel, Evan Low, Karen Weinstein, Nicky Gonzales-Yuen, and many more.

Here are my endorsements: <https://www.cindreiss2018.com/endorsements/>

15. How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?

I have raised 37K and these donations have come from family, friends and individual donor supporters. I have no corporate contributions. We will be raising to get to our 90K goal as running against an incumbent is quite a feat. BUT ...it is time for a change.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.
Thank you for allowing me to submit this ...and to submit late.