

## **Green Party Questionnaire for State Assembly, 18th District**

### GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY 2018 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Please email your responses to: [GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GPAC-VoterGuide@yahoogroups.com). In the subject line, please include "State Assembly, 18th District".

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, to:

State Assembly, 18th District  
c/o Green Party of Alameda County,  
2022A Blake Street \* Berkeley, CA 94704

Name: Rob Bonta

Phone: 510-872-5141

Email: [robbonta@comcast.net](mailto:robbonta@comcast.net)

Website: [www.robbonta.com](http://www.robbonta.com)

Current line of work: Assemblymember, 18<sup>th</sup> District

1) Why are you running for State Assembly? What are your qualifications? What have you accomplished in any offices that you now hold or have recently held?

I'm running for State Assembly because I believe that every Californian should have a voice at the table and I'm the right candidate to represent those voices. I've been a proven leader since my election to the Assembly in 2012 and want to continue to use the experience I've gained to bring the greatest positive impact for the 18<sup>th</sup> district and beyond.

As a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, an attorney who has served in private practice and with the San Francisco City Attorney's office, a former local elected

official in Alameda and as the elected Assemblymember of Assembly District 18 since 2012, I know that I bring a diverse set of experiences and background to this role.

I've authored bills to increase access to affordable health care. I've authored the nation's strongest language access law supporting the rights of limited-English proficient voters. I passed the Buy Clean California Act, the nation's first climate change law of its kind that lowers greenhouse gas emissions in public infrastructure projects. I extended fairness to all California students by ending discriminatory admission practices and unjust disciplinary proceedings in all our K-12 schools. I led the charge making California the first state to require schools to teach human trafficking prevention and identification, protecting children from labor and sexual exploitation.

But there's more work to do. I'm leading the effort to reform our broken, unjust money bail system that punishes poor people simply for being poor and makes us less safe. We must protect tenants experiencing unjust evictions statewide to ensure everyone has a secure home. We must eliminate gender and race discrimination in employee pay. We must continue the fight for a single-payer, universal healthcare system.

2) Where are you getting the money to run your campaign? Are there any sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you refuse to accept? Do you accept money from developers or corporations, or their PACs?"

I do not accept money from tobacco, oil, Walmart and charter schools.

I accept money from developers and corporations.

3) Are you interested in the contributions and the opinions of individual constituents in your district? What must a constituent do in order to meet with you?

Absolutely. I host a number of events to engage with my constituents. I also meet with constituents in my Capitol and District offices regularly.

Specifically, I host a series of constituent engagement events every year, including community coffees in Oakland, Alameda and San Leandro at which constituents can schedule an appointment to meet with me one on one. I host a walk and talk event at which constituents can join me on a walk around Lake Merritt or Alameda Point to discuss different issues. I also host an annual Assembly District 18 Awards Ceremony at which I invite all my constituents to a fun evening where we celebrate many great leaders and organizations throughout our beautiful district.

The best way for a constituent to meet with me is to contact my District or Capitol office and work through my scheduler to set up an appointment.

But I meet and interact with constituents daily, as an active resident of my District, and have regular organic meetings with constituents

4) Please give us your position on the following issues. Indicate your sponsorship and/or votes on any previous relevant legislation, and plans for future legislation:

-- Budget deficits: I've been fortunate to serve in the Legislature during some of California's greatest economic years. I believe it's important to pass balanced budgets and plan for the future which we have done since establishing California's rainy-day fund.

-- Controlling the corrupting influence of profit-driven prescription drug and vaccine manufacturers: I've voted for bills to ensure consumers have more transparency in prescription drug pricing and believe more can be done to prevent sky-rocketing prescription drug costs.

-- Fracking, and other environmental regulations: I oppose fracking and believe we need to continue our progress protecting the environment. Environmental regulations play a critically important role in our state and I'm not supportive of efforts to roll them back.

-- Income, wealth, and tax inequality: The growing wage gap needs to be addressed. I've supported the millionaire's tax both times it was on our ballot. I've also co-authored a bill to close the carried interest loophole that allows hedge fund billionaires to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. I have regularly supported minimum wage increases as well as the establishment and expansion of the CA earned income tax credit (EITC), two-well established approaches to addressing income inequality.

-- Minority rights: I believe every Californian should have the same rights. I've fought and stood up for immigrants, women, communities of color, the LGBTQ community, and vulnerable communities, including seniors, children, the sick and the poor.

-- Police and prison reform: I believe we need more accountability for police officers who kill unarmed individuals. We also need more transparency and disclosure in officer involved shootings. I've co-authored and supported bills to do both.

I believe our prison sentencing system needs reform. I'm a co-author on a bill to abolish the Felony Murder Rule in California and I also oppose for-profit private prisons and in 2017 I introduced a bill to prohibit the state from contracting with them. Unfortunately, it was vetoed by the Governor, but I plan to reintroduce that bill again.

I have led the effort, along with Senator Bob Hertzberg, for bail reform, to replace a fundamentally broken, unfair, unsafe, and unjust money-based system with a fairer, safer risk-based system that treats individuals as individuals.

-- Proportional representation/ Ranked choice voting: Proportional representation is important and I support ranked choice voting as a general matter.

-- Rent control: I strongly support rent control and was a joint author of a bill to repeal Costa Hawkins, AB 1506. I also support just cause evictions and authored legislation on this topic.

-- Single payer healthcare: I support a single-payer health care system and was a co-author of SB 562.

-- Tuition-free higher education: I support tuition-free higher education and have supported bills that would establish this as well as bills that will put our state on a path to achieve this goal.

5) An unanticipated consequence of the passage of 2010's Prop. 14 is that candidates from small political parties now need to gather vastly more signatures-in-lieu of the filing fee -- for example, 7,000 valid signatures for statewide candidates instead of the previous 150. Will you help us lower this number?

Yes

6) Will you introduce and sponsor, or co-sponsor if already introduced, legislation creating a public Bank of California, similar to the state-owned Bank of North Dakota? Such an entity would hold the State's money instead of depositing it in Wall Street banks, and make infrastructure loans, loans in partnership with community banks, and other loans based on the best interests of the people of California, not banker profits.

My staff has been researching this very subject. I believe a public bank can help save the state money, which will allow for more funding for education and other critical public services, as well as benefit California and Californians.

7) Are there any other important challenges facing California? What will you do to address them? Anything else you would like us to know about the goals of your candidacy?

There are a number of other important challenges, Affordable access to early childhood education (ECE) is a top priority for me and something I believe our state can do, and must do, better to address. I've been involved in two local efforts to increase funding and access for ECE programs and will be pushing for passage of the Oakland Children's Initiative on the November ballot.

8) What endorsements have you received?

Animal PAC  
Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County  
Association of California State Supervisors  
CA Association of Professional Scientists  
CA Democratic Party  
CA Labor Federation  
CA League of Conservation Voters  
CA Nurses Association  
CA Park and Recreation Society  
CA Professional Firefighters  
CA State Retirees  
CA Teachers Association  
Cal Berkeley Democrats  
Cal Fire Local 2881  
Evolve California  
Professional Engineers in CA Government  
Sierra Club  
Southern California Armenian Democrats  
United Farm Workers of America

9) Anything you would like to add?

I'm proud of the work I've been privileged to do as your representative for the last 6 years and hope you will consider endorsing my candidacy. Don't hesitate to use me or my office as a resource and I look forward to finding ways we can work together in the future.