

GREEN PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE: ROCHELLE NASON RESPONSES

Please note:

Name: Rochelle Nason

Phone: campaign phone pending

Email: rochellenason@gmail.com

Website: campaign website pending

Current occupation: Incumbent City Council Member/Vice-Mayor

1. Please briefly summarize your background, qualifications, and reasons for seeking to serve on the Albany City Council.

Background: My longtime career position was as the Executive Director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe (the 'Keep Tahoe Blue' organization); my work is described on that organization's website here:

<https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/about-us/rochelle-nason>

(a screenshot taken 8/22/18 also appears below).

- **Qualifications:** I have served on the Albany City Council for four years and believe my accomplishments speak for themselves; a listing some of my accomplishments in my first term is as follows:
- Advocated successfully for ballot measures to: (1) repair broken sidewalks & maintain parks, fields, and open space and (2) levy tax on sugar sweetened beverages and for proceeds to support Safe Routes to School (including retention of School Crossing Guard program endangered by UC budget cuts), as well as drinking water projects.
- Advocated successfully for adoption of Sanctuary City and Rent Review programs.
- Advocated successfully for inclusion of social services to seniors in Albany's Resource Center program.
- Advocated successfully for installation of shock pad to prevent injuries at Gilman Street playfields, and replacement of play surfaces with non-toxic materials.
- Worked successfully with former Albany Police Chief Michael McQuiston to assure the public posting of police bulletins on the City's website to keep Albany informed of police activities.
- As a Waterfront Commission member and a Homeless Task Force citizen-participant, I successfully advocated for restoration of the Albany waterfront to park purposes through intensive provision of services (including but not limited to housing assistance) to unsheltered people who had gathered in tent encampments there.
- As a Parks & Recreation Commissioner I discovered peeling lead paint within reach of children on the flagpole base beside the playgrounds in Memorial Park, securing remediation and replacement by Alameda County.

(the list of accomplishments also appears in my campaign flyer, which in its form as of 8/22/18 also appears below).

Reasons for seeking to serve: I have strong interests in, and believe I can contribute to further progress on, a number of issues. These include but are not limited to: environmental protection, such as addressing climate change, protecting and improving water quality, and the conservation of public parks and open space, as well as in social justice issues, such as emergency room & hospital access for our region, care for our senior citizens, shelter for people experiencing homelessness, and housing for workers and students, seniors and the disabled, and low to middle income people more generally.

2. What is your vision for future development in Albany? Do you have any specific ideas towards creating affordable housing and/or emergency housing?

Housing: I believe that we need additional multifamily housing in all of its forms, including market rate, market rate affordably small units, and subsidized/inclusionary full size affordable (see next paragraph re shelter). In the short term I would like to maximize construction of Accessory Dwelling Units. In the medium term I would like to increase mixed use development along San Pablo Avenue (with density in line with Berkeley and El Cerrito's plans for that corridor), and also along Solano Avenue (with somewhat lower density and an emphasis on protecting & enhancing the existing community character that is a valuable economic and social asset, in line with Berkeley's planning for the upper portion of the corridor). In the longer term I would like to encourage the replacement of substandard single family housing in appropriate locations within neighborhoods with well-designed small multifamily development (in conjunction with anti-displacement measures and other protections for current residents & neighborhoods).

Emergency Housing: The cost of building housing has risen so high in this area, and the unmet need is so great, that 'housing the homeless' in any reasonable time frame may be impossible to achieve. However, I believe it is possible to rapidly *shelter* everyone who is living in a tent or a doorway in our region. It can easily cost a city \$400,00 to \$800,000 to build a unit of affordable housing, depending on location, size of the complex, and whether land cost is included. For that amount of money it would be possible to purchase *dozens* or even *hundreds* of mobile tiny homes in the form of RVs and/or camper trailers. Such shelters would be private, pet friendly, and available throughout the day (three of the most frequently cited issues that prevent tent or doorway dwellers from seeking to enter homeless shelters). These individualized shelters could be provided with electrical and sewer/water service at a rate that brings total cost to within 30% of the SSI income for California residents. The most difficult questions are (1) where they could be located – industrial areas, rights of way, etc., and (2) how to assure that each of the various jurisdictions involved (statewide, though ideally nationwide) do their allocable share. Please see my piece on Berkeleyside here for more: <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/02/21/opinion-everybody-deserves-shelter-california-not-just-cities-step>

3. Are you familiar with Albany's Climate Action Plan? Citywide our goal for the year 2020 is a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions - how will we achieve this during your tenure on the City Council?

Yes, I am familiar with the plan (CAP), which is due for an update after 10 years (one of my priorities with respect to the updated plan will be a process for more frequent updates). The Council has just authorized the city manager to enter into a contract with a consultant to develop a new CAP. I am supportive of the goals of Albany's General Plan (60% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2035 and net zero by 2050). I want the selection of measures to be incorporated in the new plan to be a very participatory community process. I am a strong advocate for Safe Routes to Schools measures that seek to instill in young people lifelong mobility habits that emphasize walking, biking, and other low impact modes of travel; I am also a strong advocate for safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

4. The following are the 10 Key Values of the Green Party (more details available at <http://www.cagreens.org/platform/10k.shtml>). In view of these values, why do you feel your candidacy merits Green Party endorsement?

Green Party 10 Key Values:

- 1) Ecological wisdom I have devoted my adult career as well as a great deal of my time on the City Council to environmental protection.
- 2) Social Justice I have offered creative ideas for providing emergency shelter (see homelessness above). I am an advocate for frail seniors, as a regular volunteer at and a board member of our local nonprofit nursing home, and as staff member and volunteer for a home meal delivery service in Berkeley. I am an advocate for refugees and persons seeking asylum, having recently managed an Immigration program focused on these issues in Walnut Creek.
- 3) Non violence As a City Council member I worked with our Police Chief to arrange for Internet posting of daily police activity bulletins to make it easier to monitor the work of our police force for a variety of purposes – including but not limiting the lowest safe application of force in arrests.
- 4) Grassroots democracy Albany is by its nature a grassroots democracy – one must walk and talk throughout the community to become known as we have no newspaper or other central means of communication.
- 5) Decentralization This is one area in which I may not be entirely aligned with your values which I need to learn more about. I believe in decentralization for addressing many issues, but I believe that sometimes an approach centralized at either the state or federal level (or something else like a regional, or watershed, or water basin level) may be called for. The obvious example is civil rights – I do not at all believe in a decentralized approach to the enforcement of the right to vote under present circumstances. I believe our housing and homelessness crises call for actions at all levels – not just the local level. In general, though, I believe in positive cultural change to support better policy, which I believe can only be accomplished on a decentralized basis (although at a higher level it can be helped, e.g. President Obama, or undermined, e.g. Trump).
- 6) Community based economics I strongly support making it easier for small businesses to thrive in Albany (and everywhere), and I support the expansion of local exchanges of various kinds.
- 7) Feminism I have been a passionate feminist since the 8th grade when my best friend and I were the first girls at Albany High School to successfully demand the right to take courses in printshop and woodshop rather than cooking and sewing :) Of course there are a variety of issues relating to feminism that give rise to disagreement among people who consider themselves feminists, but I believe the equality of all people is one of the touchstones by which we must live.
- 8) Respect for diversity I believe that diversity – both cultural diversity and individualized diversity – are as critical to the flourishing of our communal life as biological diversity is critical to the flourishing of our environment.
- 9) Personal and global responsibility My fundamental outlook on life is that the ultimate purpose of all the ways we try to strengthen ourselves – financially, intellectually, socially, etc. – is to develop a surplus of strength to be devoted to helping and strengthening others – not just one's own children and other relatives, although that is important, but others in need and the society as a whole.
- 10) Sustainability I believe generational justice creates obligations that run to both our ancestors and our descendants. I think we are morally obligated to care for frail elders, whether they are our own parents and relatives, or others who in our society who have lost to whatever degree the capacity to care for themselves. This is the belief that has fueled my work on behalf of frail seniors. I think we also have a moral obligation to care for young people and the people to come. It is this latter belief that has fueled my work on behalf of the Lake Tahoe watershed and environmental protection efforts here in the Bay Area.

5. What endorsements have you received thus far?

As of 8/22/18:

The Sierra Club

Current Mayor Peggy McQuaid

Current City Council Member and Former Mayor Pete Maass

Current City Council Member and Former Vice Mayor Michael Barnes

Former Mayor Marge Atkinson

Former Mayor Elizabeth Baker

Former Mayor Robert Cheasty

Former Mayor Joyce Jackson

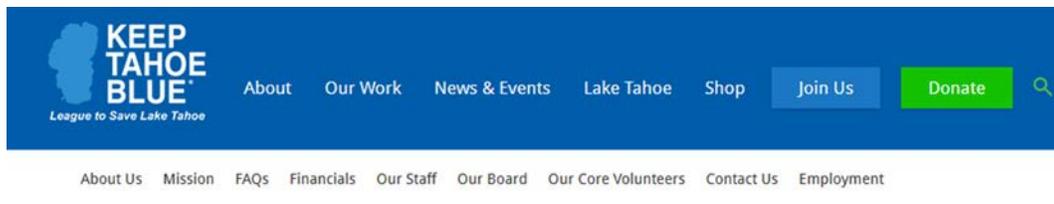
Former Mayor Robert Lieber

Former Mayor Allan Maris

Former Mayor Thelma Rubin

Former Mayor Joanne Wile

(the above list of endorsements also appears in my campaign flyer, which in its form as of 8/22/18 also appears below).



Rochelle Nason

League Executive Director Rochelle Nason stepped down in October 2011, bringing to a close nearly 20 years of working to Keep Tahoe Blue.

"Rochelle Nason has grown the League from a tiny organization with a single full-time employee into the substantial and influential group that it is today," said Robert Damaschino, chair of the board of directors, in October 2011. "The 'Keep Tahoe Blue' movement has flourished under her leadership and with it the level of public investment and attention to the conservation of the region. The entire Lake Tahoe Basin will continue to benefit for years to come from what she has accomplished over the past two decades."

Nason joined the League as staff attorney in 1992, and became executive director in 1993. She led the League's successful efforts to:

- Establish and maintain urban boundaries for Lake Tahoe's communities to prevent commercial, residential, and tourism uses from spreading into conservation and recreation areas.
- Initiate the drive for public funding of the Environmental Improvement Program for Lake Tahoe, which has resulted in the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in the conservation of the area in the public interest.
- Provide a voice for conservation advocates on the steering committee of the 1997 Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum and subsequent federal decision making. The forum brought national focus to the problems of Lake Tahoe, highlighted the mutual interdependence of economic and environmental health, and built public support for great public investment in conservation and restoration.
- Persuade the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to adopt a ban on two-stroke engines from Lake Tahoe. This ban received national attention and accelerated the marine engine industry's movement toward cleaner technology.
- Establish the legal principle that the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is obligated to achieve and maintain environmental standards for the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- Build widespread consciousness and support for the "Keep Tahoe Blue" campaign through an enormously successful bumper sticker dissemination program, a Facebook following of over 80,000, and a substantial increase in membership.





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WORKING HARD TO BRING ALBANY TOGETHER

“My vision for Albany is that of a **safe** and **inclusive** town with a diverse and vibrant population. It’s a place where we value **shared** access to the best of **public** goods - from schools, parks, and libraries, to properly maintained streets and sidewalks that encourage walking, cycling, and safe driving. We strive **together** to assure excellent public services, including police, fire, senior, and recreation programs. We are committed to **social justice** and to care for those among us who require assistance from the community. In the face of climate change and other global threats we act responsibly at the local level to ensure a bright future for **our young people** and **future generations.**”

- Rochelle Nason

ABOUT ALBANY VICE MAYOR ROCHELLE NASON

- Seeking re-election in 2018 after first full term on Council. Previously served on the Waterfront Committee and the Parks & Recreation Commission. Participated as a citizen in the work of the Homeless Task Force.
- Served 18 years as the executive director of the “Keep Tahoe Blue” organization (League to Save Lake Tahoe); local volunteer for Citizens for East Shore Parks & the Sierra Club East Bay Public Lands Committee.
- Served as both a volunteer and a staff member for a local nonprofit social service organization providing care to disabled elders and assistance to refugees; currently a board leader and active volunteer with a local nonprofit nursing home.
- Taught ethics, philosophy, business, and land use planning at community & private colleges.
- Attended Albany public schools K-12; degrees in philosophy from UC Berkeley and law from UC Hastings.

LEADERSHIP RECORD ON CHALLENGING ISSUES

- Advocated for ballot measures to: (1) repair broken sidewalks & maintain parks, fields, and open space and (2) levy tax on sugar sweetened beverages and for proceeds to support Safe Routes to School (including retention of School Crossing Guard program endangered by UC budget cuts), as well as drinking water projects.
- Advocated for adoption of Sanctuary City and Rent Review programs.
- Advocated for inclusion of social services to seniors in Albany’s Resource Center program.

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- Advocated for installation of shock pad to prevent injuries at Gilman Street playfields, and replacement of play surfaces with non-toxic materials.
- Worked with former Albany Police Chief Michael McQuiston to assure the public posting of police bulletins on the City's website to keep Albany informed of police activities.
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- As a Parks & Recreation Commissioner I discovered peeling lead paint within reach of children on the flagpole base beside the playgrounds in Memorial Park, securing remediation and replacement by Alameda County.

ORGANIZATION AND CITY LEADERSHIP ENDORSEMENTS (as of 8/15/18)

The Sierra Club

Current Mayor Peggy McQuaid

Current City Council Member and Former Mayor Pete Maass

Current City Council Member and Former Vice Mayor Michael Barnes

Former Mayor Marge Atkinson

Former Mayor Elizabeth Baker

Former Mayor Robert Cheasty

Former Mayor Joyce Jackson

Former Mayor Robert Lieber

Former Mayor Allan Maris

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Former Mayor Joanne Wile

I have accepted the Voluntary Campaign Finance limit (\$6000) for this election. I supported the Council's Campaign Finance measure as a means to encourage qualified candidates to seek elective office, and discourage excessive campaign contributions and expenditures.

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