

OAKLAND MAYOR Questionnaire

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

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Current occupation	Chief Operating Officer

Question		Answer
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?	<p>I am running for mayor to serve all Oaklanders, not just the wealthy few. My motivation is deeply rooted in my belief in the act of social solidarity that embraces not only feeling the pain, struggle, and suffering of our underrepresented and marginalized residents, but also celebrating their joy, prosperity, and triumphs. My campaign platform, based on pragmatic progressive ideas that advance civil rights, economic justice, and social assurances, offers a unique opportunity to change forever the political trajectory in our city. A detailed set of my solutions to Oakland's most pressing problems that are tangible, measurable, and discrete are viewable on my campaign website at www.EveryonesMayor.org.</p> <p>With regard to my dissatisfaction with our current mayor's performance, we need to simply look at the results. There is not one aspect of our city that has progressed in the last four years. From homelessness, to gentrification, to public safety, to road conditions, to public education, to illegal dumping, to widespread vandalism, every aspect of life for Oaklanders has deteriorated in the past four years, without exception.</p>
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?	<p>Through reengineering, retooling, and restructuring city functions, I intend to generate 15% productivity gains in all city operations, including the Oakland Police Department (OPD). Instead of laying off workers as is done in the private sector, I will apply the savings (approximately \$75M) to improve public services, particularly in initiatives targeted for: (1) affordable housing expansion; (2) educational improvements, and (3) jobs creation. In the process, Oakland will achieve much better public safety results with this approach than with the status quo.</p>
3	Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and	<p>My entire career has been devoted to designing business operations to achieve process efficiencies, quality</p>

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	<p>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?</p>	<p>improvement, and cost reduction in large enterprises such as the FDIC, American Airlines, and the US Navy. The majority of my career was at Accenture PLC, a global management-consulting firm that provides strategy, technology and operations services. I retired from Accenture in 2008.</p>
4	<p>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.</p>	<p>The majority of my career has been in the private sector. However, over the past decade, I have become affiliated with and participated in a number of local activist organizations in Oakland, such as the Oakland Justice Coalition, Anti-Police Terror Project, Fight for \$15, and Oakland Privacy Working Group.</p> <p>My primary focus, however, has been the Coalition for Police Accountability (CPA) where I currently serve as a member of the Steering Committee. The CPA was the driving force behind Measure LL that passed with over 83% support in 2016 to establish a Police Commission with unprecedented powers, including the firing and hiring the Police Chief. I have also served on the Privacy Advisory Commission since its inception in August 2016.</p> <p>Because I support and share the “ten key values” of the Green Party of the United States, I am an active member of the Oakland Greens.</p>
5	<p>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.</p>	<p>I am currently a member of Jack London Improvement District in which I have served in various officer capacities (President, Secretary, and Treasurer) for the past three years.</p>
6	<p>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?</p>	<p>As a candidate for Mayor I am pledged to re-engineer, re-structure, and re-tool all city functions to generate 15% efficiency fiscal gains and re-direct the resulting savings for the following initiatives: (1) expanding affordable housing (\$25M), (2) creating quality jobs (\$25M), and (3) carrying out education improvements (\$25M).</p> <p>If I were on the City Council, I would support these budgetary objectives. I also would support the progressive idea that the writing of the city budget itself needs to begin with a community-wide effort that brings about</p>

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		<p>collaboration with as many Oaklanders as possible. As a candidate for Mayor, I have promised to implement Participatory Budgeting as a key element of my platform. Once we engage the public in establishing our city's priorities and demonstrate its positive impact, we will be able to influence other municipalities around the country and, ultimately, the state or the federal government to adopt similar programs.</p> <p>True-modern-democracy is not achieved in election of individuals alone; it is realized in allocation of resources via the use of neighborhood assemblies or people's councils.</p>
7	<p>Youth -- What would your priorities for youth be for Oakland government and how would they be implemented and paid for?</p>	<p>I am in favor of implementing the most commonly proposed priorities for Oakland youth. Such priorities include: (1) inviting local businesses to hire more interns; (2) providing summer job-training programs; (3) scheduling visits by city officials in school classrooms to promote student interest in city affairs; and (4) coordinating events provided by the parks and recreation, public libraries and after-school programs.</p> <p>A higher priority is increasing high school graduation rates and lowering school truancy rates at every grade level. An even greater priority would be to end unnecessary juvenile incarceration through restorative justice programming.</p> <p>OUSD board members should restore vocational training courses and electives such as music and art. Teaching Oakland youth exclusively how to score high on the SAT test for a chance to go to college destroys values of social solidarity that would give our entire city's youth the right to decent employment conditions. We could easily pay for these reforms by making sales taxes or property assessments more progressive and less regressive by taxing the rich more than we currently tax the poor.</p> <p>As stated earlier, I have committed significant funding (\$75M) from current city resources to address education, housing, and jobs needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community (see my answer to Question #2 above).</p>
8	<p>Police -- Describe the current relationship between Oakland residents</p>	<p>Far too many Oaklanders, especially people of color, have little to no trust in the Oakland Police Department (OPD).</p>

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<p>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)</p> <p>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=201720)</p>	<p>My campaign is anchored in the belief that to solve the problems associated between residents and their police, we must first acknowledge the legacy of police misconduct.</p> <p>OPD has been in receivership since 2002. Moreover, it recently presided over a sexual abuse scandal that implicated many of its officers. I intend to elevate the awareness about the racially biased practices and shameful behavior of OPD that have plagued our city for decades.</p> <p>My first step will be to work with the police chief, Oakland Police Officers Association (OPOA), and community stakeholders to bring the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA) to an end within 24 months.</p> <p>Once the disgraceful cloud of racially biased practices of OPD (the city's largest department) is lifted, I will rename OPD to Oakland Public Safety Department (OPSD).</p> <p>I will stop the practice of hiding violence statistics in our city to give the false impression of security as is done routinely in Oakland and other cities. In fact, I will recognize the loss of every life in Oakland, many of whom are black or brown young men, by declaring a day of mourning. The outrage must begin with the first life lost due to gun violence each year. I will devote \$25M per year to ensure that our black and brown youth have access to a wide variety of growth opportunities, such as technical training, vocational skills, arts, and sports.</p> <p>Genuine public safety that keeps communities safe entails devoting taxpayer dollars to jobs, education, and housing initiatives rather than to criminalization, arrests, and incarceration. I strongly support diversion programs for people who participate in restorative justice programs and I avidly support the change in the use of force policy through the passage of Assembly Bill 931.</p> <p>Yes. Senate Bill 1421 is a great first step toward transparency.</p>

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	<p><u>180SB1421</u></p> <p>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?</p>	<p>The independent police commission does not have the right or authority to fire a police officer for misconduct. However, it can recommend that an officer be fired for misconduct. Oakland must strive to change the current, and often complex, state and local laws that effectively shield police conduct from true accountability and open transparency. I support a policy that would allow the current commission to have the right to both fire and promote based on proven and recognized evidence of misconduct or merit. Nevertheless, wide-ranging changes will be necessary, and although AB 931 and SB 1421 are excellent first steps toward achieving this reform, the bottom line is that there needs to be zero-tolerance in Oakland for police misconduct and for its subsequent cover-up.</p>
9	<p>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?</p>	<p>For development projects to truly benefit Oakland, developers must faithfully abide by the city's zoning, code, and permit regulations rather than habitually circumventing them by seeking approval from the City Council for variances and exemptions that detract from their initial proposals.</p> <p>In addition, proposals must include provisions for local hiring of workers and good workmanship standards. I support the efforts currently underway to devise a city-wide public lands policy containing acceptable labor standards, enforcement of impact fee collections, inclusionary zoning, and advantageous community benefits for the residents and the environment, such as subsidies to extend transit access to the location.</p>
10	<p>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?</p>	<p>Incompetent elected officials are the cause of increasing rents, dislocation and gentrification that rips apart the city's social fabric. The influx of highly paid technology workers is not a new or an unexpected phenomenon. Abundance of resources and opportunity in California, particularly in the Bay Area with its exceptionally comfortable and pleasant climate, has been a well-known fact. Yet our elected officials are caught off guard when it comes to anticipating the community's housing needs and thereby ensuring adequate housing.</p>

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		<p>Politicians manage to convince the public that they have no fault in causing the deterioration of our society and expect to move up the political ladder and cause more damage on issues of greater importance with broader impact. To be abundantly clear, these are solvable problems.</p> <p>Oakland has more than enough land, labor, and material to build sufficient supply of housing for all Oaklanders. But it takes political will and practical skill to dissect the problem, devise alternative solutions, assess feasibility of each approach, make the difficult decisions, establish a clear execution plan, oversee implementation of the plan, and take corrective steps along the way to optimize the project. This is what the mayor must be able to do to serve effectively the people of Oakland, including solving the housing needs and the humanitarian crisis in our city.</p> <p>Housing justice has two aspects. First, it encompasses prevention of displacement of residents who have been in their neighborhoods for generations. Second, it represents availability of quality and affordable homes for the working class residents in safe neighborhood, with good neighborhood schools, and close-by public transportation.</p> <p>Expecting profit-motivated developers to solve our housing crisis by succumbing to arm-twisting pressure to include a few affordable units in their massive market rate projects has always been and will always be a fool's errand. Therefore, our only hope is to embark on an aggressive public housing construction project. To address our housing crisis, I am committed to build public housing (for rent or sale) for low-income residents. Under my plan, the city would build 1,500-2,000 homes with the exact same standards as market rate homes, but without the profit motive. While I ardently support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Act, I view State Proposition #10 as a stopgap measure. The real answer is home ownership. Thus, a key component of my platform is building public housing for sale to low-income Oaklanders with no down payment and low interest rate mortgages.</p>
11	Environment -- What do you think the Oakland City government should be doing about the environment?	The Oakland City government must lead by example. I would embark on a citywide program to encourage businesses to adopt energy-saving programs and to create employment opportunities for our residents in the

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		<p>process. I have committed to achieve 100% renewable energy status for Oakland by 2028.</p>
12	<p>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.)</p> <p>Are you in favor of making Oakland one of the first cities in the nation to create a municipal bank?</p>	<p>Yes. There are three reasons for a Public Bank of Oakland:</p> <p>(1) By providing reserve deposits to local credit unions, a public bank option would help provide deposit and checking accounts, and loans and credit cards, at rates reflecting the costs of such services. A public option would free our local economy from monopoly interest charges, fees, and penalties imposed by commercial banks. Public banking would not engage in corporate takeovers, asset stripping, and debt leveraging that plague today's financial system and would be free from exorbitant salaries and stock options and management fees.</p> <p>(2) A people's bank, publicly owned with a democratically elected leadership, would stop the ability of Wall Street lobbyists to get around the enforcement of Sarbanes-Oxley, Dodd Frank, and the Volker "Too Big To Fail" (TBTF) rule. As long as the bankers and their bought-and-paid-for politicians in the two major parties view throwing financial criminals in jail as unreasonable, the only way to prevent predatory, greedy, and felonious bank exploitation is to set up a public bank dedicated to providing basic "vanilla" services.</p> <p>(3) A publicly-owned bank would also separate retail banking from the "investment" banking that has become almost indistinguishable from casino trading in arbitrage and derivatives. The failure of existing legislation to restore Glass-Steagall's separation of these different forms of banking ensures that our major banks remain too big to fail and thus when they lose their reckless financial bets, they will again hold the government hostage for another round of bailouts on the back of American taxpayers.</p>
13	<p>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</p>	<p>Yes. I have been a longtime proponent of putting predatory PayDay loan lenders out-of-business.</p>

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	<p>high interest rates and/or extremely high fees. Professor Mehrsa Baradaran, in her book <i>How the Other Half Banks</i>, 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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)?</p>	
14	<p>Satisfaction of Residents -- How do you think the average resident feels about city government? How would you rate the satisfaction level?</p>	<p>Oaklanders understand that the influence of big money has corrupted the city's electoral politics. In a pay-to-play system, one can only hope that donations from corporations or multi-millionaires might fall by a miracle to the best candidates. This situation breeds a palpable sense of alienation of the average resident from our city government.</p>
15	<p>Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland?</p>	<p>To make the Mayor's office accountable to the ordinary citizens of Oakland, the first step is to eliminate the corrosive impact of campaign financing on its politicians. For this reason, I am refusing all dirty-money donations from corporations, non-Oaklanders, or in excess of \$45 to avoid being indebted to anyone other than the people of</p>

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		<p>Oakland.</p> <p>In addition, when elected Mayor, I will attend City Council meetings, publish my meeting calendar, issue quarterly progress reports on my campaign promises, reduce the number of signatures needed for placing Initiatives on the ballot, and institute a participatory budgeting process.</p>
16	<p>Governance -- What kind of relationship could you have with other office holders? Whom do you see as a working majority on council and who can you work with?</p>	<p>As stated publicly on a number of occasions, I am a firm believer in collective wisdom. No one amongst us is smart enough to have all the right answers. However, I am certain that together we do have the ability to find sensible solutions.</p> <p>Within our city, there is representation across a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations with intimate knowledge of challenges and robust solutions for our schools, housing, environment, healthcare, economy, and virtually every aspect of life. As such, I would rely heavily on active Oakland groups and other community-based and nonprofit organizations to serve in not only a consultative capacity, but also in a validation and accountability capacity, in order to ensure that implementation of solutions actually achieve the intended outcomes.</p> <p>In short, I shall work with all those who care and seek to help by putting people, planet, and peace before profit. While overcoming our city's problems may seem insurmountable to some, I am convinced that solutions are well within our grasp. What we have lacked to date are creativity, capability, and courage.</p>
17	<p>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.</p>	<p>My endorsements so far include Block by Block Organizing Network (BBBON), Bay Area Small Merchants Chamber of Commerce, Oakland Greens, and Green Party of Alameda County. I have been short-listed on a number of other progressive organizations and I feel confident that I will secure their endorsements over the next few weeks. I have endorsed Laura Wells for House of Representatives, 13th District (Oakland-Berkeley-Alameda-San Leandro). For my own race, I have not made my second and third ballot choices pending reading their answers to this and other candidate questionnaires.</p>
18	<p>Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How</p>	<p>My campaign finance situation is as follows:</p>

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	<p>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).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To safeguard against the corrosive influence of dirty-money donations, I am refusing donations from non-Oaklanders, corporations, or in excess of \$45. To me, non-Oaklanders have no business influencing our elections and \$45 is an amount that is within reach of every Oaklander. 2. I have never accepted, nor will I ever, campaign contributions from corporations, corporate PACs, or lobbyists. 3. Total campaign expenditure forecast: \$60,000 - \$80,000. 4. Total donation forecast: \$40,000 - \$60,000. 5. Total donor forecast: 2,000 donors. 6. Projected average donation amount: \$10 (current average is \$25). 7. Current campaign cash balance: \$180,000.
19	<p>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?</p>	<p>A political fractionalization exists at Oakland City Hall – a situation that makes difficult getting the City Council and the Mayor to work together for benefit of the city and its citizens. One of the strengths I possess is that I have no allegiances to any faction or clique and therefore, if I am elected, I will be exceptionally positioned to bridge some of the divisiveness that currently exists.</p>
20	<p>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)?</p>	<p>Yes. We need to implement a public finance option that equalizes the playing for all candidates. Money should not have any influence on our politics.</p> <p>As stated earlier, my self-imposed campaign donation limits are intended to demonstrate to the people of Oakland that honoring our principles is not an impediment to winning this year’s mayoral race.</p> <p>Sadly, Oakland’s campaign finance corruption is not limited to corporations, developers, or special interests. In fact, Oakland’s Public Ethics Commissions has codified corruption as “Form 301 – Voluntary Campaign Expenditure Ceiling.” By signing this form, mayoral candidates are allowed to quadruple their per-individual</p>

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		<p>donation limits (from \$200 to \$800) in exchange for agreeing to an unreachable limit (of \$400,000).</p> <p>This so-called “Voluntary Campaign Expenditure Ceiling” is no different than agreeing not to exceed 400 MPH on freeways in exchange for permission to drive 60 MPH in school zones. Corruption is happening right in front of us, within our city government, and with absolute audacity.</p> <p>For this reason, I have refused to sign form 301 and intend to bring attention to its deceptive nature and the duplicity of candidates who sign it.</p> <p>I support public financing of elections to take money out of politics. Concerning national campaign finance reform, I strongly support amending the Constitution to get unlimited corporate money out of politics and I have taken the pledge.</p>
21	Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?	<p>Although my proposing a set of sensible solutions is necessary to fix Oakland’s most pressing problems, it is far from sufficient. You can trust that my decades of devising and implementing practical solutions in large and complex enterprises will be instrumental in implementing lasting solutions to our city’s most difficult challenges. I am confident that my message of Unwavering Principles, Uncompromising Practices, and Unambiguous Promises underpinned by my actions and accomplishments will have broad appeal among all voters. To learn more about my principles, practices, and promises, visit my website EveryOnesMayor.org or contact me at Ideas@EveryOnesMayor.org.</p>
22a	Do you support raising the minimum wage to a living wage?	Yes.
22b	Do you support the California Peace Officers Bill of Rights?	NO!
22c	Would you vote for using eminent domain to abate foreclosure crisis?	Yes.
22d	Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?	Yes.
22e	Would you support Proportional Representation?	Yes.
22f	Do you support Community Choice Aggregation?	Yes.
22g	Would you vote to allow more grey water systems?	Yes.