

Green Party of Alameda County
Candidate Questionnaire for Berkeley City Council

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Candidate for what District Office: 3

1. Motivation

Why did you choose to run for this office?

I am running with the interest of becoming the voice for our community. As your council member I will focus on the opportunities of our youth, creating opportunities for them must be a priority for us all. Their futures are in a balance right now and we must act to ensure their futures are as prosperous as they choose them to be.

2. Priorities

What do you believe are the major issues facing your district? The City? What are some specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, et.) you intend to accomplish while in office?

My priorities are to better our community by tackling the issues of homelessness and affordable housing, creating safety awareness, improving development programs for our youth, and ensuring tax equity and responsibility for our residents on how their tax money is spent in Berkeley.

3. Qualifications

Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for being a City Council member.

I have previous experience in this as a former community actions board member. Doing that gave me insight on how much of a positive change can be done when a group of motivated individuals come together. As a councilmember I want to do the same for our community. Be the positive change for a better Berkeley.

4. Budget

The economic downturn triggered by Covid-19 has decreased revenues to Berkeley creating a \$40M shortfall. Current plans by Mayor Arreguin call for a 15% across the board cut in all departments except police which will receive a 13% reduction. Do you agree with the proposed budget priorities and if not, which priorities would get increased and decreased support? Our first priority must be to keep our local businesses going and get them back on their feet. We are going to have to make tough decision and Mayor Arreguin's proposal is a starting point. I don't have specifics on what cuts should take place first but we must put everything up to a vote so everyone get a fair shot at the least possible reductions. The budget projections by the City Manager assume a steep downturn in revenue for FY2021, followed by relatively flat revenues for the following 3 years. Should the economic downturn continue, with an additional 10% loss of revenue, how would you prioritize the cuts? Lets wait and see what happens before we begin to speculate.

5. Police

Define what the movement to "defund the police" means to you. I think the movement is using the wrong slogan, although certain measures should be taken where needed.

Do you favor defunding the police and if so how do you envision it would be implemented? I am in favor with the initial steps that the City Council has taken. We must be careful not to simply act without reason.

What policies would you favor to demilitarize the BPD? It depends on what specific calls or issues we are referring to.

Do you think current Berkeley policies regarding surveillance are adequate, and if not, what additional policies and technology bans will you attempt to implement? I think they are adequate. I believe our police department does have some problems but Berkeley is a very forward thinking community and our Police Departments get it.

If Urban Shield is resurrected (with a new name), would you vote in favor of BPD participation? I think Urban Shield is not all bad, ultimately it was intended to protect its citizens. Do changes need to be made absolutely. Should we get rid of it entirely, no.

On which of the following do you favor a ban on police use: tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, beanbag guns, smoke grenades, police dogs, tasers, choke holds? Some of these have already been voted on to be banned from using on our residents. I myself have never been or walked in the shoes of an officer and have never felt my life threatened in the ways they at time have felt. I sympathize with them although they must be more responsible and more training should be done in mock-scenarios to be able to deescalate situations in a responsible manner.

When the Police Chief Greenwood was asked at a City Council meeting what he would do if the Council banned tear gas, he responded "Firearms. We can shoot people." Do you think such a comment warrants the hiring a new Police Chief? As I mentioned in my previous comment, we are not in their shoes everyday. Every situation is different. Additional training must be provided to act more responsibly in situations which they are confronted with on the daily. Maybe he response what unwarranted as he had no time to really think but overall I don't think he meant that would be the case for every scenario.

Do you favor the Berkeley City Council signing of MOUs (memorandums of understanding) with NCRIC (Northern California Regional Intelligence Center), with ICE (Immigration and Customs) and with UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative)?

6. Land Use

What do you think are the most important land use issues facing the city today? Or population growth is only going to increase as we progress through this 21st century, we must find a responsible way to support our housing crisis while also leaving open space for our residents to feel the outdoors and our community. I don't have the solution but I will fight to ensure we preserve our parks as they are essential to our community development.

The City and the University have different missions: what conflicts/challenges do you foresee on land use policy? What is your position on the building of housing on The People's Park? One thing is for sure we need to get that park under control. As it stands it is not a family inviting park for our community. We need to work together to get homelessness under control so we can make a responsible decision over the park. I don't want to eliminate the park entirely, unfortunately I don't have an answer yet but we can come to a solution as community.

7. Safety and Infrastructure

Do you think the Berkeley response to Covid-19 has been adequate? I think Berkeley had does a good job at reacting and providing free test to our residents.

Do you favor opening up the city to greater economic/social activity? Absolutely, in a safe and responsible manner.

Do you favor maintaining social distancing, masking and bar/restaurant closures (except for takeout)? Favor, our local business need us.

What is your position on 5G infrastructure? Well we cant be left behind and we must be aware of our residence who really want 5G.

8. Affordable housing

What is your position on building market-rate housing versus affordable housing? In order for this to happen we must be cognizant of what it takes to build a new residential unit. In order to be able to really address this issue we must reduce construction costs. The people of Berkeley cannot be solely be responsible to providing market rate housing, it will bankrupt our city. We need to find responsible way to reduce costs of construction to give our people of Berkeley a chance.

Does building mostly market-rate help or hinder affordability in Berkeley? Neither.

What affirmative steps would you take to increase the availability of new or refurbished affordable housing in Berkeley? Invest in industrialized construction

Are there any particular demographics or neighborhoods that you would target for this housing? Not one particular in general, no.

Do you think Berkeley can/should tackle gentrification? If so, how? It doesn't need to, people move to Berkeley for many reasons. The reason I moved to Berkeley was because I couldn't afford San Francisco housing prices.

9. Rent Control

How important is it to keep Berkeley's form of strong rent control and eviction protections?

How important is keeping an elected rent board?

Do you support any candidates for the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board? If so, which one(s) and why?

Do you support the repeal of Costa-Hawkins?

10. Homelessness

What do you think can and should be done about "Homelessness" here in Berkeley?

What is your position on the Police raids on homeless encampments? We should raid those homeless encampments which do not want help. They must be relocated as it is extremely dangerous for them to live on our streets.

What is your position on the evictions of houseless RV dwellers? There are designated RV areas and those living in RV's should be given a time period to relocate or find a permanent location before action is taken place. Although, we must enforce a zero tolerance policy where if they create any disturbance they must move immediately.

Do you think the Pathways Project is a good use of city funds? We need to do more, let get homelessness under control and get these people in suitable places.

Have you made an effort to talk to the homeless and listen to their priorities?

What essential services should be a high priority for the homeless? Building low income housing, while using local contractors to drive the Berkeley economy.

What long term city priorities can be made to meet their needs that are independent of regional, state or federal funding? We need to revamp and be quicker to providing additional support and funding to programs like Panoramic Interests.

11. Race

Do you support The Movement for Black Lives Platform? Yes, there has been injustices made towards minorities and it needs to stop.

Is there anything that you have personally done to help your understanding of problems with racism and white supremacy in our society?

12. Health

Do you support single-payer healthcare in California?

Do you oppose Sutter Health's plans to close Alta Bates? No, not at the moment, I think we have other issues to address. Alta Bates is set to close in 2030.

If so, do you have any ideas on how to motivate them to keep it open?

What policies would you support to re-localize our food system?

Do you support labeling of GMO foods, similar to Vermont's law?

13. Climate Change

What specifically will do you think Berkeley needs to do locally to fight climate change? First and foremost we need to begin by taking action. We can dramatically reduce waste by requiring all construction to take place offsite in a controlled environment. 30-40% of our waste is from construction. Secondly, we can offer our residents incentives to promote all electric or hybrid vehicles. Most importantly we must begin by taking action and really making strids to make a change.

To make Berkeley a zero carbon city? It may be impossible, considering the 80 interstate runs right through our city.

14. National Policy Statements

Should the Berkeley City Council take positions on national and international issues? Climate change should be one of those issues. Although, we have enough to deal within our City and that must be our priority.

15. Berkeley Ballot Measures

What are your positions on the Berkeley Ballot Measures?

Measure 1 - Police Accountability Charter Amendment (majority vote) Not sure yet, I am still investigating to get more details.

Measure 2 - GANN Limit Spending Authority (majority vote) No

Measure 3 - Fire, Emergency Services and Wildfire Prevention Tax (2/3 vote) No

Measure 4 - Tax on Transportation Network Company Trips (majority vote) No

Measure 5 - Charter Amendment: Mayor and Council Compensation (majority vote) Yes

Measure 6 - Charter Amendment: Administrative Provisions and City Attorney (majority vote)

Yes

Measure 7 - Utility Users Tax (majority vote) No

Measure 8 - Rent Stabilization Ordinance (majority vote) Yes

16. State Propositions

What are your positions on State Propositions?

Prop 14 Bonds - \$5.5 billion in bonds for state stem cell research

Prop 15 Taxes - commercial/industrial properties taxed at market value

Prop 16 Affirmative Action - repeals Prop 209 (1996)

Prop 17 Suffrage - restores vote to convicted felons on parole

Prop 18 Suffrage - Allows 17-year-olds to vote in primaries and special elections

Prop 19 Taxes - Changes tax assessment transfers and inheritance rules

Prop 20 Law Enforcement - changes policies related to sentencing, prison release, DNA

Prop 21 Housing - Expands local governments' power to use rent control

Prop 22 Business - defines labor policies of app-based drivers and app-based companies

Prop 23 Healthcare - Requires physician on-site at dialysis clinics and state consent to close

Prop 24 Business - Expands the provisions of the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA)

Prop 25 Trials - Replaces cash bail with risk assessments for suspects awaiting trial

17. Endorsements

a. Whom do you support for State Assembly District 15? Buffy

b. Are you endorsing anyone else in your own race, considering that we have instant runoff voting? Who has endorsed you? I have no endorsements yet.

18. Campaign Financing

Will you obtain public financing for your campaign? Unfortunately, No I did not receive the necessary donations to qualify.

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

20. Have you signed the following pledge? No

A. For democracy: <https://movetoamend.org/candidate-questionnaire>