

**Berkeley Progressive Alliance
Candidate Questionnaire
June 2018 Primary**

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Deadline for submitting completed questionnaires: Friday January 19, 2018

1. Introduction (maximum 300 words total)

a. Why do you think you would be an effective representative of AD 15?

My mother was an original member of the Black Panther party. My father was an activist and an organizer in the East Bay. From early age, my parents instilled in me the value of community activism and public service.

At the Berkeley City Council, I have authored numerous groundbreaking pieces of legislation on critical issues including housing affordability, homelessness, and sustainability. Almost all of my initiatives have passed unanimously, which demonstrates my ability achieve consensus and move initiatives forward.

Outside of the City Council, I have professional experience in environmental law and community organizing.

My unique combination of skills and experiences will allow me to fight effectively for inclusive, forward thinking policies in the legislature.

b. What are the differences between you and the other candidates?

I have a track record of getting things done. During my last year on the Berkeley City Council I passed over 30 pieces of legislation, including several groundbreaking first-in-the-nation policies.

Under my leadership, Berkeley was first in the nation to divest from companies involved with President Trump's border wall, develop pre-fabricated modular micro-units for the homeless, and to pass paid family leave.

I pride myself on my ability to unite industry, labor, and government to craft innovative and effective legislation. More than that, I have a deeply held conviction in uplifting and fighting the pernicious effects of racism.

Issues. (Please limit each response to 200 words; you may provide links to more detailed statements/position papers)

2. General

a. What are the critical key issues the Assembly must address?

A major critical issue facing our assembly district is affordable housing. Right now, we are in the crosshairs of a severe housing shortage and a disinvestment in affordable housing. Too many East Bay residents – including seniors, individuals with disabilities, teachers and families with children – struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Waitlists for affordable housing number in thousands and stretch into years. Our homeless population has grown dramatically and encampments have emerged throughout the district. This is the issue that has compelled me to run for the state legislature. We must fund affordable housing. We must craft policy to promote affordable housing development. I believe that everyone in the East Bay deserves a home. The following link provides further information on my housing platform: www.benbartlettca.com/new-vision-housing-california

Additionally, it is critical that the legislature address issues of health care, public education, and climate change. I am committed to universal healthcare. I am committed to ensuring that our children receive high quality public education. I am committed to advancing inclusive renewable energy policies to make California 100 percent renewable by 2045. The following link provides further information on my “Green New Deal” platform: <https://www.benbartlettca.com/green-new-deal/>

3. Healthcare

a. Do you support legislation (e.g. AB 562) to establish single payer health care in California?

Yes, I support universal healthcare. At the Berkeley City Council, I voted to fund the African American Holistic Resource Center to address issues of health disparities in Berkeley. I am currently working to craft a health innovation initiative for Berkeley. I will continue this fight at the state level.

b. Berkeley is threatened with the loss of its hospital, Alta Bates Medical Center. What could you do as an assembly member to ensure that Berkeley continues to have a nearby hospital with an emergency room?

I am committed to keeping a hospital in Berkeley. Without a hospital in our community, parts of AD15 will become a “healthcare desert.” Closing Alta Bates would endanger hundreds of thousands of East Bay residents. As an assembly member, I will craft legislation to develop land use policies and tax incentives in order to ensure that a hospital remains in our community.

4. Housing/Rent Control

a. Do you support repeal of Costa Hawkins vacancy decontrol legislation?

Yes.

b. Would you support reform of Costa Hawkins, such as allowing cities to implement rent control on new buildings after ten years?

Yes. If we are unable to repeal Costa Hawkins, I am open to exploring reforms that would increase protections for vulnerable tenants.

Regional housing statistics show that Bay Area communities are meeting regional allocations for above moderate income, market-rate housing but falling woefully short in creation of housing affordable to very low-, low- and moderate-income households See <https://abag.ca.gov/planning/housingneeds/>

c. What could the legislature do to ensure that an adequate amount of below market affordable housing is created in California?

The state of California needs to create a reliable source of income to build and streamline production of affordable housing. That is why I am calling for a carbon tax, the creation of a state bank, and a “Cap and Trade” style system to be imposed on cities and counties that are under-producing affordable housing. My housing platform outlines these ideas in detail: www.benbartlettca.com/housing

d. Do you support using state bonds or other public funds to fund construction of below market affordable housing in California? [reason for change: everyone is going to support the state affordable housing bond, but do they have other public funding ideas or do they think private developers will take care of it]

Yes but we will need more. See answer to question 4c.

e. What should state elected officials do to help prevent displacement of low-income residents?

This issue is personal for me. My mother is a low-income African American senior who was recently subject to eviction and displacement. That is one of

the reasons why I decided to run for public office. In Berkeley, I passed the tenant purchase act, a small sites program where we buy buildings and remove them from the market, and established an anti-displacement legal advocate.

We need to institute tenant protections, including “just cause” eviction laws statewide. We need to fund anti-displacement resources, including legal services and financial counseling for low-income tenants and homeowners. We need to increase the supply of affordable housing.

5. Climate Change and the Environment

a. Do you support a statewide ban on fracking?

Yes. Fracking has been linked to health risks and environmental risks, including groundwater contamination, toxic chemical exposure, and blowouts. California needs to transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy. We can no longer afford to put our planet and our communities at risk.

b. Do you support High Speed Rail in California?

Yes. The High Speed Rail project will help reduce pollution as well as emissions of greenhouse gases. These are some of my major policy priorities.

c. Do you support increased state funding for public transportation?

Yes.

d. What other efforts would you support to reduce greenhouse gases created by transportation?

I am committed to make California 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. In Berkeley, I have worked to expand infrastructure for electric vehicles. I have helped pass the plastic bag ban as well as deliver the City’s historic waste-into-energy deal. Also, passed a finance program to help low-income people purchase electric vehicles. These are policies and values I will continue to champion as an Assemblymember.

e. Do you support implementation of a Zero Net Energy standard for new residential construction in California in 2020? (See <http://www.californiaznehomes.com>)

Yes, I personally consult in this field.

f. Would you oppose any efforts to delay implementation of the Zero Net Energy standard?

Absolutely not.

g. What additional actions should the legislature take to reduce generation of greenhouse gases in California?

The legislature needs to continue enacting policies that reduce the states reliance on greenhouse gases by moving the state towards 100 percent renewable energy. Such actions can include promoting and building more solar and wind farms, expanding our electric vehicle infrastructure to decrease the amount of gasoline cars on our roads, and protecting our state parks and green spaces.

h. California faces a long-term water crisis. How do you propose to address that crisis?

We need to manage our water more effectively, with better information. Our water management and tracking systems have critical gaps, which creates inefficiencies, reduces transparency, and fosters conflict. We should modernize our water accounting systems, improve our water monitoring networks, and improve water use monitoring.

Moreover, we need to manage our water demand both in urban and agricultural communities. We should promote and explore reductions in urban landscape irrigation as well as improvements of conservation policies. Additionally, we need to take better care of our groundwater, prevent waste and unreasonable use of water, as well as diversify urban water supplies.

Lastly, I want to ramp up our desalination efforts and encourage new technologies for desalination.

6. Higher Education

a. What should state elected officials do to make higher education in community colleges, CSU, and UC affordable for California residents?

I support free public college tuition for California residents.

7. State revenues

a. Do you support reforms of Prop 13 that would ensure that commercial property owners pay adequate property taxes?

Yes. We need to reform prop 13 and use those tax dollars to fund affordable housing, renewable energy infrastructure, public transit, healthcare, and public education.

b. Do you favor creation of a split roll property tax?

Yes. Amending prop 13 to trigger reassessments of corporate property at full market value would raise taxes on many large businesses. We need those tax dollars to develop fair and sustainable communities in California.

88. Politics and Campaign Finance

a. Who did you support for President in the 2016 California Democratic Presidential Primary and why?

I supported Bernie Sanders because his progressive values are closely aligned with my own.

b. Is your campaign accepting corporate PAC money?

No.

Please type your responses to the Questionnaire and submit them in pdf or Word documents using these question numbers/headings/questions. Be sure to include your name and contact info at the top. E-mail the completed document containing your responses to: BPA2016@aol.com

We will post each candidate's responses online prior to our endorsement meeting and our members will be encouraged to read them.

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