

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?

I believe our Community deserves a Leader they can TRUST to have their best interests in mind. A Leader who will LEAD – who knows it is their primary & elected duty to work for the Community. A Leader who will LISTEN to all Voices in the Community, then ACT upon the NEEDS of the Community. A Leader who will INSPIRE; a Leader who will give hope & TRANSFORM lives. I am that Leader. Nuestra comunidad merece un Líder en quien puedan CONFIAR para tener sus mejores intereses en mente. Un Líder que DIRIGIRÁ - quién sabe que es su deber primario y elegido para trabajar para la comunidad. Un Líder que ESCUCHARÁ todas las voces en la comunidad y luego ACTUARÁ sobre las NECESIDADES de la comunidad. Un líder que INSPIRARÁ. Un Líder que dará esperanza y TRANSFORMARÁ vidas. Soy ese Líder.

I have been intimately involved in each of the cities of this East Bay community championing social justice for most of my adult life, since my college days. I have worked on the ground, at the grassroots level fighting for civil rights, racial justice, values-based county-level y state-level budgeting, environmental justice, immigrant rights, veterans y disAbilities rights advocacy, workers' rights, EEO y fair employment advocacy, sexual assault y women's rights, conservation of natural resources y elimination of hazardous waste/materials in our environment y climate, especially in marginalized areas affected by disparate treatment and I will continue to fight for every person in every area of our community. We are many cities yet one community and I will continue to be a passionate champion for the People of the causes the People believe in. Gracias.

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

I have worked tirelessly towards social justice in every city of this district. I have not only shown that I believe in the causes (25+ yrs of policymaking, compliance y contracting), I support yet I have showed up to do the work it takes to make the 'ideals' become actions. I have not been afraid to fight for those whom have less and those whom voice has been muted. I have been unafraid to fight to right a wrong. I have never once hesitated to serve our neighbors with the least among us.

I have been a community leader for 25+ years and intend to continue doing so yet from an office at the State Capitol. I have not been afraid to 'do the work'. I am a proven doer.

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?

Ongoing Immigration Issues and implementation of SB-54 and AB-450;
Supporting the Need for Housing to meet a Variety of Income Needs + Reducing Homelessness throughout the Region;
Addressing the Threat of Closure of Alta-Bates Hospital, the Need for Equal Access to Quality Healthcare for All y the Need for Universal Single Payer Healthcare for All;
Environmental Justice in marginalized communities incl. elimination of lead y other dangerous chemicals y minerals in water sources, prevention of pollution in air, water y food sources y reduction of transportation-related greenhouse gases
Criminal Justice: the ceasing of the criminalization of Black y Brown bodies, stop the mass incarceration of youth as adults; bail reform to stop discrimination against those experiencing poverty or history of unemployment due to impoverished circumstances (no money bail).

3. Healthcare

a. Do you support legislation (e.g. AB 562) to establish **single payer health care** in California? *Yes, though I would incl a provision to ensure equal access to quality care for all*

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 would propose a partnership with state-local-private resources to aid the hospital in meeting the retrofit requirements which is causing its reticence in remaining open) and to establish future plans to remain in compliance with safety and administrative regulations. As well, I would work with officials to ensure the hospital remains fiscally sound (y solvent) by requiring its Board to restructure or reporting to ensure all regulations have been met, add a compliance officer, follow a strict regulated procedure of reporting each quarter. I would also want to check to ensure all regulations are being adhered so the hospital is being properly y promptly reimbursed in accordance with policy.*

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*

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 legislature could support increasing the housing supply with a combination of mixed use habitats that will address the needs of various demographics incl. maintaining rent stabilization for very low - moderate-income people while also minimizing costs for small property owners.*

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, if the concept of 'affordable' reflects very low-low to moderate income households and is benefitting those in the most marginalized y oppressed areas of our communities incl. those currently experiencing houselessness or inadequate housing or rent instability.*

e. What should state elected officials do to help prevent displacement of low income residents? *The state elected officials should ensure any new building developments include provisions for housing a % of low to moderate income individuals as well as contributions to a fund to aid in displaced individuals. Further, in addition to current rental protections, those in danger of being displaced from current rental residences should be able to have a right of first refusal for homes about to be sold or leased. If longtime and long-term residents simply cannot afford to live in their current homes, the state consider building more units, increasing incentives for investors y developers to build units to create more low to moderate income homes. Displaced y near displaced individuals should get priority placement.*

5. Climate Change and the Environment

a. Do you support a **statewide ban on fracking**? *Yes*

b. Do you support **High Speed Rail** in California? *While I support the concept, I question the spending plan when school districts are struggling for resources, an abhorrible number of residents are living without housing, y many are living with no or without adequate healthcare*

c. Do you support increased state funding for public transportation? *Yes, with chief concerns arising around transportation in marginalized communities often left off the mass transit/public transit grid yet these tend to be the areas most in need of these systems (late night/early morning trains y buses, shuttles, etc.)*

c. What other efforts would you support to reduce greenhouse gases created by transportation? *To reduce transportation-related greenhouse gases, I would support efforts to realign transportation hubs with the way major transportation should be working with the people who actually need/utilize the public transportation. Currently, most public transit, incl. parking lots, are located outside of minority y marginalized communities, even though these are the very areas where such transportation is most needed. This means many marginalized people (Black, Brown, Poor) lack adequate y reliable transportation to/from work, school, interviews, medical appointments, etc. placing them at significant disadvantage to others not in that same transit-less situation. By building transportation facilities, esp. train and bus stations, in areas more accessible to the most economically-depressed areas and making the systems affordable, more persons would be prone to utilize the systems - - - > a reduction in private individual vehicle use and less greenhouse gas emissions.*

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*

f. Would you oppose any efforts to delay implementation of the **Zero Net Energy** standard? *No*

g. What additional actions should the legislature take to reduce generation of greenhouse gases in California? *To reduce greenhouse gases in California, legislature should utilize reliable, renewable, solar-based solutions to aid in reducing the amount of fossil fuel needed to power homes y businesses. Additionally, offer increased tax incentives for energy conservation y use of certified LEED Green materials, y reduction of municipal waste. Another solution could be to encourage more frequent cleanings of fireplaces y chimneys and the used of smokeless fireplace logs (green-friendly) in place of natural gas furnaces. The use of the natural heat will significantly reduce the natural gas usage as well as provide 'natural' heat while reducing costs to the consumer. As with other tools, offer tax credits or incentives to aid households in cleaning fireplaces y chimneys to ensure same are in compliance with air codes.*

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

crisis? *We must remain vigilant in the conservation of our water systems. While oil is a commodity we should reduce use of, water is a necessary commodity we should be diligently intentional in preserving. In that vein, the state must stay ever vigilant in reminding residents of the need to continue conservation efforts as were the state under the previous drought conditions, so as to avoid re-occurrence of future droughts. The state could offer incentives for conservation.*

6. Higher Education

a. What should state elected officials do to make higher education in community colleges, CSU, and UC affordable for California residents? *The state must take an inward look at the top-heavy administrative budgets which are drowning the systems in unnecessary debt:income negatives. Additionally, there should be a more distinct demarcation between residential y non-CA students with a stricter requirement of what constitutes a 'resident' for purposes of tuition. Currently, the % differential is still too small. The savings could be put towards reducing costs to resident students.*

7. State revenues

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

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

88. Politics and Campaign Finance

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

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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