

**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 am the strong, effective, seasoned progressive leader that District 15 needs to play the critical role it plays as a progressive loadstar for CA. For the last twenty-five years, I've been working to change the institutions that unfairly tilt the balance in favor of some, and against the rest of us. I have worked with the activists, parents, and leaders of this district to better the lives of local families, students and workers. During my years on the Berkeley School Board and working in schools, I have been a champion for public education and educational equity. I continue to be driven by the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to be seen, valued, and challenged in the classroom.

Addressing the inequities in our society has been central to my personal and professional activities for decades. It is also my core belief that the State Legislature needs to be more inclusive, and that we should see more representation of both women and LGBTQ leaders. I've worked on the ground with our most vulnerable populations at the community level; I've worked at non-profits, affecting meaningful policy change through advocacy. All these experiences combined have given me an edge that no other candidate in the race does-- a fundamental and comprehensive understanding of how political process works, from the grassroots level, to policy-making.

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

I come from a strong background in social justice work, as a Berkeley School Board member, an activist and as a parent. I have fought for real, progressive change at every level from right here in this community on a breadth of issues for the last 25 years. Earlier in my career, I joined the Coalition on Homelessness, where I witnessed the devastating impact of poverty first-hand- especially with our trans community. Not long after, I became a co-founding board member of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, where I sought to use my legal background to take on criminal justice reform. I then spent over a decade as the Executive Director of Our Family Coalition, a California-wide LGBTQ family organization where I advocated for equality for LGBTQ families and our children. I left there to become the Executive Director of the California School-Based Health Alliance, working at the intersection between health and educational equity. There, I worked to bring health care to every student in California, and spearheaded a look at the environmental factors leading to high Asthma rates in low income communities throughout our state.

As an attorney who has worked within our civil justice system and worked at the legislative level to promote equity here in California, I have an understanding of the complexities or the relationship between both systems. importantly, I know both how the civil justice system works, and how legislation – and legislators – can hamstring our civil justice system with faulty laws. I will bring that experience to the Assembly with me.

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?

Public Education- Seeing so many inequities in our education system, especially among low-income students of color, it's clear that we must take a holistic approach to public education and be intentional about crafting impactful policies that address student needs from the cradle to their careers. A robust entry point into our public educational system is critical, which is why I strongly favor funding universal pre-schooling, creating deeper subsidies for low-income communities and ensuring that every student comes to school healthy and ready to learn. If we want to upend an inequitable system, we need to do so by ensuring that every child has the opportunity to gain access to the resources they need for their academic and professional future.

Affordability for working families- This district is on the frontlines of the housing crisis. Working families are getting priced out of this district, unable to buy or rent in the communities they've lived in for decades. We have to address the rising costs of housing and do more to create economic equity – including access to health care, paid family leave and affordable child care. The current displacement crisis also leaves a huge carbon footprint by contributing to the increase in car usage over long distances.

Criminal Justice: We must do more to level the playing field by ending the school-to-prison pipeline, reforming our criminal justice system and giving every Californian the same fair shot at success. I've worked to change our criminal justice system, helping those who have served their time reenter society, where they can be productive and successful. I've seen how "justice" is unevenly applied to people of color and worked to defend those without the resources to defend themselves. We need sentencing reform and alternatives to incarceration including the expansion of restorative justice practices. In addition, we need to resource programs that assist the reentry population with housing and workforce development as they are released from custody.

Additional policy positions can be found here:
<https://www.judyappel.com/issues>

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/07/10/opinion-we-need-sanctuary-schools-now-more-than-ever/>

3. Healthcare

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

I support Medicare for All, which is what single payer health care should be based on. AB 562 is very important for getting this conversation to the forefront. With strong, progressive leaders in Sacramento that have the experience building grassroots support and translating that activism into policy, I believe California can truly lead the way on universal health care. I am committed to being such a leader.

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?

This loss, combined with the loss of Doctors Hospital in San Pablo, is a devastating loss to our community and one that could cost countless lives. As your Assemblyperson, I will do everything I can to keep Alta Bates open and ensure access to health care – preventive, doctors visits and critical emergency care – is available to every community. Healthcare must no longer be a privilege of the wealthy, but a right.

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?

With the failure of AB 1506 in the legislature, we need to examine reforming Costa Hawkins to address our state's ongoing housing crisis.

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 should develop opportunities to leverage available bond money to build affordable housing. In the midst of this ongoing housing crisis, we must plan to build affordable/green housing as well as the reform of Costa Hawkins.

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.

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

I believe in researching a statewide rent control regulation that provide a floor for rent control upon which local municipalities can build to meet the needs and priorities of their electorate.

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?

Yes.

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?

As the largest single contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, we must address transportations effect on our environment. Incentives for public transit, reduction of parking spaces in new residential buildings and adding bicycle lanes are all policies that other cities in our district have adopted to curb the harmful effects of CO2.

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 support this.

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

None.

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

We are fortunate to live in a district that has strong policies at the municipal level to reduce GHG emissions. The state of California has strong goals in place to mitigate the effects of climate change, which we are on track to meet. However, we must do more to curb CO2's harmful effects on our environment. We must look beyond the 2020 climate change goals that aggressively reduces our carbon footprint, standards that should be set by the legislature. In addition, the state legislature should support the expansion of renewable energy projects, such as incentives for rooftop solar installation on residential and commercial buildings and expansion of community microgrids.

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

Our state's water crisis is a direct result of climate change. While the legislature has passed some legislation to limit groundwater pumping, additional solutions must be developed. Conservation efforts, such as the 25% water use restrictions, should remain in effect to provide some relief in the short-term and while we continue to pass legislation that will support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the climate change crisis. We also must invest in infrastructure and research around water management, long-term education and enforcement policies.

6. Higher Education

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

As a product of the University of California system (UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley and UC Hastings), I am a fierce advocate for ensuring that higher education is accessible to all and will support all efforts to fund public education for K-12 and beyond. I support free community college for California residents and I support expanded Pell Grants to remove financial barriers for low income students who wish to pursue their education at a public institution and not be saddled with student debt. I will never support any efforts to raise university tuition; I firmly believe that public schools should remain publicly funded.

7. State revenues

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

Yes and as the public education candidate, I plan to be a leader in the reform of Prop 13. I believe we need to end the supermajority requirement for all revenue generating proposals. Local governments need to regain the power to tax as they see fit, particularly as more and more responsibility for social programs has devolved from Sacramento back to the County level. At a minimum, we need to end the corporate tax giveaway, which allows commercial property owner to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes.

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

I strongly support the creation of this tax. Corporations need to pay their fair share.

88. Politics and Campaign Finance

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

I struggled with whom to support in the primary. On the one hand, I agree with much of what Bernie Sanders says and stands for and was energized by his progressive voice and the movement his candidacy sparked. I was at the same time angered by the deep sexism directed toward Hillary Clinton and her campaign, despite her deep resume. I ultimately supported Clinton in the primary, in large part because of my belief that it would be a huge benefit for our country to be led by a woman.

b. Is your campaign accepting corporate PAC money?

I won't accept contributions from some interests. For example, anti-choice organizations, charter schools, oil, gas and coal.

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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