

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

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**Campaign Web site: <http://www.RochelleAD15.com>**

**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?  
As a child, my mother struggled with addiction and I had to overcome some severe challenges, such as homelessness, not going to preschool and missing part of kindergarten, but with the help of a loving family and teachers who cared, I was able to go on to college to become a registered nurse and eventually Mayor Pro Tem of the City of El Cerrito. I have been a nurse for the past 17 years at Alta Bates in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. I have held thousands of babies as they took their first breaths and a few as they took their last. My focus is ensuring that every child has a chance to succeed. This starts with a healthcare system that puts patients before profits and doesn't close local hospitals to enhance their bottom line. A public school system that gives every child a chance to learn in a safe environment and provides teachers with the resources and support they need. My husband and I are raising our two sons and we don't want to see our boys targeted for the color of their skin or live in a community that spends more money on jails than on programs that help prevent the cycle of violence. We want to see our community build affordable housing and we must have a community not ravaged by environmental disasters caused by climate change.
  
- b. What are the differences between you and the other candidates? I am going to focus on my record - I worked hard to go to college and was accepted to UCSB as a Regent Scholar. I like working with people and wanted to help others so I became a nurse. I have been an active member of the California Nurses Association where I have fought to get money out of politics, fought for Medicare for all and fought to heal America by taxing Wall Street. I believe that we need more

representatives from labor in Sacramento. In El Cerrito, I was Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission and started “Loving Day” in honor of the Supreme Court decision allowing for interracial marriage, in El Cerrito we celebrate Loving Day as a celebration of racial equality, marriage equality and human equality. I also launched a Stop Hate campaign in 2016 after local residents were victims of a hate crime. Other towns mimicked our campaign and now we see stop hate campaigns all over the east bay. I ran for City Council to serve my community, but with the open Assembly seat and encouragement and support from so many, including Assemblymember Thurmond and former Assemblymember Sandré Swanson, I decided to run for the Assembly.

2. **Issues** (Please limit each response to **200 words**; you may provide links to more detailed statements/position papers)
- Pass SB 562! We need to take control of our health care system. Keep Alta Bates open. I have been fighting to keep Alta Bates open. If it closes we will create a hospital desert in the heart of the East Bay. Continue efforts to reform our criminal justice system. I fought local efforts to expand our jail. I would rather see more resources to crime prevention. Support efforts like SB 100 (Senator de Leon) – continue to push for 100% clean energy. Please look at my platform at [www.RochelleAD15.com](http://www.RochelleAD15.com).

3. **General**

a. What are the critical key issues the Assembly must address? We need to invest in our future - too many kids are being left behind - in our public schools and colleges. Over 30,000 qualified high school students were turned away from CSU last year. Too many families can't get their kids into preschool. And we must embrace SB 562 to make single payer a reality! We also need to continue our efforts to move toward 100% clean energy.

4. **Healthcare**

a. Do you support legislation (e.g. AB 562) to establish **single payer health care** in California? YES! As a nurse supported by the California Nurses Association, SB 562 is a priority for me. Californians will be able to change jobs or start a business without fear of losing their healthcare, benefits are comprehensive and with no deductibles, retiree healthcare will be covered providing more flexibility for cities and school districts to fund pensions schools and other public goods.

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 is one of my top issues and an issue that I campaigned on when I ran for City Council. As a councilmember, I put forward and passed a resolution in support of SB687 (Skinner). I was very disappointed that the governor vetoed this bill that would have made it more difficult for a non-profit hospital to close an emergency room. I currently work at Alta Bates and I am a member of two committees to keep Alta Bates open, one with the California Nurses Association and another with local elected officials. I helped organize the Baby Brigade at Alta Bates and I will be leading a community forum on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to educate the community on the potential closure of Alta Bates. I will continue this fight in Sacramento. We have to stop the creation of hospital deserts!

## 5. 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?

This needs to be a sustained effort that includes a mix of bonds, smart development, allowing in-law units, more flexibility for things like micro-units and looking at increased housing density along transit corridors to help those who use public transportation.

- d. Do you support using state bonds or other public funds to fund construction of below market affordable housing in California? We are facing a massive problem that will not be fixed with one bond or one bill. I believe the state can help with bonds, fees, and possibly taxes that can be set aside to go directly toward building affordable housing. I do not think that private developers will take care of it without being asked or forced to participate. Some municipalities assess impact fees on development to go toward affordable housing, but clearly more needs to be done on this issue.

- e. What should state elected officials do to help prevent displacement of low-income residents? We need to provide more resources for low income and help renters. For example, in El Cerrito we recently had an RV park

closed and people were displaced. There were no protections for long term RV park residents like there were for mobile homes or apartment rentals. We can change the law to provide more protections for renters. Repealing Costa-Hawkins could also help low income renters.

## 6. 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, but I am concerned about cost overruns.
- 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 would support efforts to move away from fossil fuels and push more to electric vehicles, but we need to expand the infrastructure for these efforts – more charging stations near apartment complexes and public transportation centers.
- e. Do you support implementation of a **Zero Net Energy** standard for new residential construction in California in 2020? I would support these efforts. (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? Supporting solar energy, electric vehicles, continuing to improve our cap and trade laws and promote green jobs.
- h. California faces a long-term water crisis. How do you propose to address that crisis? I would support efforts put forward by groups like Restore the Delta and look at efforts to dedicate more resources for levee stability, restore flows in the Delta, more water recycling programs, reuse urban wastewater and increase conservation efforts.

## 7. Higher Education

- a. What should state elected officials do to make higher education in community colleges, CSU, and UC affordable for California residents? This needs to be a multi-faceted approach – higher education bonds, expanded campuses, lower tuition, more affordable student housing. California should look at a dedicated revenue stream to help offset the costs of higher education. I would support efforts like property tax reform to ensure

we have the resources we need to help give the next generation a chance to succeed.

**8. 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.

**9. Politics and Campaign Finance**

a. Who did you support for President in the 2016 California Democratic Presidential Primary and why? Bernie Sanders. I supported Bernie Sanders because he believes in a Medicare for All healthcare system. He believes in free public higher education. He fights for the 99% and is not bought off by billionaires and he is not afraid to say that Black Lives Matter.

b. Is your campaign accepting corporate PAC money? I am not accepting campaign contributions from Oil, Gas, Tobacco, Drug companies, the Hospital Association, and Health Insurance Companies.

**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](mailto: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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