

Berkeley Progressive Alliance/Berkeley Citizens Action Candidate Questionnaire--2018 Election

**Sunday, April 29th Endorsement Meeting
North Berkeley Senior Center**

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Campaign Web Site: N/A

Candidate for What Office: City Council, District 7

Please return questionnaire to BPA by Thursday, April 19th

2018 Questions for Candidates for Berkeley City Council

I. General

A. Why do you think you'd make a good councilmember?

I have what it takes to make the citizens of Berkeley proud to call me their representative. I'm currently set to receive my undergraduate English degree next month from UC Berkeley, along with a minor in Spanish literature after three years, while also having spent a full-time job's worth of work for the past year doing animal advocacy. As President of the Berkeley Organization for Animal Advocacy (BOAA), I led our group in a successful coalitional effort to ban the sale of fur in San Francisco. Also while an undergraduate, I taught a free SAT prep course to local high-school students through People's Test Preparations Services. I'm hard-working, accountable, and committed to making the world a better place for those less fortunate.

B. What are the key issues that you think the City Council should address?

As a lifelong Californian and third-year UC Berkeley student, I'm proud of the progressive reputation of my home turf. I'd seek to expand that spirit into addressing animal agriculture, which has drastic animal welfare, public health, and environmental implications, yet is so often left out of conversations on those topics. Additionally, I believe the City Council should work to provide more resources for our houseless community members and to solicit greater student feedback in decision-making.

- C. Do you support the <https://berkeleyprogressivealliance.org/about-us/>
Berkeley Progressive Alliance's mission statement and progressive agenda?
<https://berkeleyprogressivealliance.org/about-us/> Yes No
- 1.) Is there anything you would add? Yes No
 What would you add?

Any group that calls itself progressive must seriously confront the devastating social justice, public health, and environmental impacts of animal agriculture. I look forward to aggressively and proactively confronting this threat to all life on Earth.

- 2) Is there anything you would **not support**? Yes No
 Which Items would you not support? _____
- D. Will you obtain public financing for your campaign? Yes No
- E. Do you support the candidates for Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board
 chosen at the Tenant Convention on April 22? Yes No
- F. Whom do you support for State Assembly AD15? Jovanka Beckles

II. Housing and Displacement

- A. Do you support placing a City of Berkeley **bond measure** on this November's ballot
 dedicated to funding below market affordable housing construction and acquisition in
 Berkeley? Yes No
- B. Would you support a graduated increase in the City of Berkeley **property transfer tax** on
 homes with the proceeds dedicated to the Housing Trust Fund?
 Yes No
- C. Do you support building below-market rate permanently affordable housing on the **North
 Berkeley BART** parking lot? Yes No
- D. What proportion of any housing built there should be below market rate and at what
 level(s) of affordability?

I favor having all the housing built there at extremely low income limits, given the magnitude of the current housing crisis, but am open to dialogue for pragmatic solutions.

Alameda County Income Limits for Income Categories (extremely low, very low, low, etc.):
<http://www.dublin.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10539>

- E. Do you support **land value capture**? Yes No
- 1) Whenever upzoning occurs, should the City ask for a share in the increase in value
 that results from upzoning? Yes No

F. Berkeley has a rich history of being a community that is economically and racially diverse. What do you think the city could do now to stop the displacement of African Americans and other people of color?

Gentrification is an important and complex issue, and one which I believe requires solutions from several fronts:

1. Existing rent controls should be strengthened, both in terms of the value offered to tenants and the time limitations on when controls apply.
2. Commit to enabling new housing construction to accommodate to at help offset affluent newcomers
3. Ensure tenants have the necessary resources to fight eviction orders.
4. Enact stronger limits on demolitions

G. What should the City Council do to put some teeth in code enforcement, particularly regarding residential rentals? Lack of enforcement leads to tenants living in substandard housing, and leads to the deterioration of rent controlled buildings, allowing the landlord to apply for a demolition permit on the grounds that it is no longer financially feasible to repair the building.

The City should empower Housing Code Enforcement with the resources necessary to handle renter reports. Fines for violations should be increased to adequately incentivize proper maintenance from property owners.

H. Do you support **SB 827**? Yes___ No__X__

SB 827 gives commercial property owners and developers a windfall increase in density without requiring any community benefit in return and without adequate protections against demolition of existing housing. SB 827 would allow construction of 7 story buildings (55' plus a 35% density bonus) on residential streets in much of South, Central and West Berkeley, with even greater height allowed on commercial corridors (85' plus a 35% density bonus). It would have little impact on the hills.

I. Do you think 7-story buildings should be permitted in areas zoned R-1, R-2, R-2A and R-3? Yes___ No__X__

Latest version of SB 827 can be found here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB827

J. What should the City do to support limited equity cooperative housing in Berkeley?

To support this form of shared housing, the City first needs to identify and secure areas where such housing can exist, in particular securing buildings at imminent risk of demolition. We should then expand public education efforts, including open information sessions to empower Berkeley citizens with the knowledge and support to become property owners.

III. Health Care

A. Do you oppose Sutter Health's plans to close **Alta Bates**? Yes_X_ No___

B. What would you do to ensure that Berkeley has a full service hospital and emergency room located nearby for the long term?

If Sutter Health is unwilling to allocate the needed funds to rebuild Alta Bates to meet new seismic standards, City Hall should look into purchasing the property and supporting the development of a new hospital there, even if it means taking a loss, to ensure that Berkeley citizens have adequate access to needed services.

C. Do you support enacting single-payer healthcare in California? Yes No

IV. Addressing Climate Change

Background: Berkeley's Climate Action Plan found that natural gas and electricity used by buildings accounted for 53% of greenhouse gas emissions in Berkeley, while gasoline and diesel burning vehicles accounted for 47%.

A. Do you support the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan goal that "All new residential construction will be zero net energy (ZNE) by 2020"? Yes No

(see <https://www.capath2zne.org>)

B. Should Berkeley require ZNE in new residential construction beginning in 2020? Yes No

C. What should the City Council do to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation?

I support expanding bicycle accessibility and incentivizing cleaner transportation modes. We could also think outside of the box and take more creative approaches to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation, such as supporting free, public bike-riding classes.

More broadly, I strongly believe Berkeley's power to combat climate change lies primarily in inspiring change well beyond its city limits, rather than through individual consumption choices of our citizens. Pioneering local measures should be made with future state and federal level legislation in mind.

As the impact of animal agriculture has historically been largely unaddressed at all levels of government, I feel it should be a greater priority to address this issue in a city like Berkeley that leads the way with progressive legislation. As a councilmember, I would look to expand access to plant-based options (via subsidy, mandated offerings at schools, etc), while de-incentivizing consumption of animal products (via public labeling about their impact, potential taxes, etc).

D. Should the City establish a system of shuttles connecting different neighborhoods and commercial areas? Yes No

1) If so, how could this be funded?

E. Should the City replace its fossil-fuel powered vehicles with electric vehicle?

Yes No

V. Police and Community

A. Do you support the Berkeley Community United for Police Oversight charter amendment to create a new Police Commission Yes No

Why or Why Not?

As Councilmember Worthington said, this amendment is community-driven. It shows a widely-held desire for increased police accountability within our community, a need which I support. This amendment would provide a “checks and balances” system to hold the Berkeley Police Department accountable for its actions, including the powerful potential for the Commission to initiate investigative hearings when needed.

Text of proposed charter amendment, item 27 on the March 27 Council agenda, can be found here: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/03_Mar/City_Council_03-27-2018_-_Regular_Meeting_Agenda.aspx

B. Do you support the recommendations in the Police Review Commission Report **To Achieve Fairness and Impartiality**, including those related to data collection and analysis, racial disparities and body cameras?

Yes.

Text of Report, item 26 on the Council agenda, can be found here: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/03_Mar/City_Council_03-13-2018_-_Regular_Meeting_Agenda.aspx

VI. Homelessness

A. Would you support a \$5M parcel tax for homeless services including shelters, navigation center and rapid rehousing? Yes No

B. How should the City Council respond to encampments of homeless people?

Unfortunately, it's a crisis with no imminent solutions. I generally support non-enforcement of anti-occupation laws in such circumstances while we work urgently toward more permanent solutions.