

East Bay DSA 2022 Electoral Endorsement Questionnaire

Re-Elect Nikki F Bas for City Council 2022 (District 2)

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A. You & Your Campaign

1. Briefly tell us your background or biography.

I'm proud to be the Council President and District 2 Councilmember, as well as the first Filipino-American to serve on City Council. Long before becoming a Council Member, I learned to fight for justice in the heart of D2's Chinatown, working with immigrant women garment workers to win their stolen back wages and passing policy in Sacramento to hold retailers accountable for sweatshop conditions. I learned to build broad coalitions of community, labor, faith and environmental groups here in Oakland, and together we raised the minimum wage with paid sick days on the ballot, we passed a ground breaking policy to create good jobs at the old Oakland Army Base, and we reduced diesel truck pollution at the Port of Oakland.

I love Oakland deeply. I've lived here, in the same home in D2, for nearly 25 years where I've raised my daughter who is graduating from high school this week.

2. Why are you seeking this office?

I campaigned hard to win our seat at City Hall against an incumbent. My goal was to better represent the people of Oakland and create an Oakland for all of us. And I am so proud of what we accomplished in just three years.

In our first year, we created an important \$14M program to help low-income tenants purchase their homes with land trusts — taking these homes off the speculative market and making them permanently affordable. Dozens of families are now housing secure as homeowners. I partnered with ACCE Action and the Oakland Community Land Trust on this program and continue to work with them to fund and improve the program.

In our second year, just 10 days after the COVID shelter in place was declared, we passed the state's strongest local COVID eviction moratorium, helping countless tenants and small businesses during the height of the pandemic. The moratorium continues and will end when Council declares the local emergency over.

In our third year, we passed a historic budget that invests deeply in reimagining safety. \$17M in violence prevention, \$15M in MACRO - an alternative crisis response program in the Fire Department, and millions in homeless services, job training, arts & culture, parks and more. We also followed through on our commitment to use public land for public good, creating dignified temporary housing with support services for 80 formerly homeless neighbors on city-owned land by Lake Merritt in D2.

At this moment, we are working to pass a new corporate business tax which will radically transform the current flat structure into a progressive one while raising millions in needed resources for critical Oakland services while providing relief to our smallest businesses and making large corporations pay their fair share. Once passed by Council, it will go on the November ballot.

3. What movements are you connected to in your community, and what is your level of involvement with them? What organizations are you involved in or connected with?

I got my start organizing in Oakland Chinatown 25 years ago, when I met brave immigrant women garment workers who were cheated out of their wages by a fancy dress maker. They showed me the meaning of justice by standing up for their rights, over four long years, until they won. Since then, I have been learning from and standing with women, immigrants, and communities of color to work for justice.

As a champion for working families over the past two decades, I have built lasting coalitions and passed policies at the local and state levels to advance economic development with community benefits, worker and immigrant rights, and environmental justice. As Executive Director of Partnership for Working Families, I led a national network in pushing back against the Trump administration's racist, sexist agenda while campaigning for community control of our cities and innovating policies across the country. While leading East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, I played key roles in raising Oakland's minimum wage and securing a nationally precedent-setting good jobs policy for the redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base. Working hand-in-hand with garment workers at Sweatshop Watch, I helped to pass a

state sweatshop reform bill and win millions in back wages for workers.

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During my time in office, I have brought these relationships with me to continue advancing our work while learning to practice co-governance with community and build progressive power.

4. How do you differ from your opponents in this race?

While there are currently no formally declared candidates in the D2 race, Derrick Johnson has publicly shared in multiple settings that he is dropping out of the Mayor's race to run for the D2 Council seat. He previously ran against Rebecca Kaplan in 2020 for the At-Large seat.

5. Why should our Chapter prioritize this campaign and this race?

Because I have a proven track record of working and organizing with the people of Oakland to win concrete change for all of Oaklanders and see my role as building progressive, working class power that challenge systems of oppression including racism, heterosexism and capitalism.

6. From which other organizations and individuals are you seeking endorsements in this campaign? Who has already endorsed you?

My endorsements are here: nikki4oakland.com/endorsements. Below is a

partial list. **Organizations**

- Alameda Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) Action
- Block By Block Organizing Network
- Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County
- International Association of Firefighters Local 55
- National Union of Healthcare Workers
- Oakland Rising Action
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1021
- Teamsters Joint Council 7
- Unite Here Local 2850
- United Food & Commercial Workers, Local 5

Elected Leaders

- California Attorney General Rob Bonta
- California Assemblymember Mia Bonta
- California Assemblymember Ash Kalra
- California Assemblymember Alex Lee
- California Assemblymember Phil Ting
- California State Controller Betty Yee
- California State Treasurer Fiona Ma
- California State Board of Equalization Member Malia Cohen
- Oakland Vice Mayor & Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan
- Oakland President Pro Tempore & Councilmember Sheng Thao ● Oakland Councilmember Carroll Fife
- Oakland Councilmember Noel Gallo
- Oakland Councilmember Dan Kalb
- Oakland Mayor Emeritus Jean Quan
- OUSD Board Director Aimee Eng
- Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin
- Berkeley Mayor Emeritus Gus Newport
- Alameda County Supervisor & President Keith Carson
- Alameda County Supervisor Dave Brown
- Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle
- Alameda County Tax Assessor Phong La
- BART Board Director Lateefah Simon
- East Bay Regional Parks District Director Dee Rosario
- San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim (Ret.)

Appointed Leaders

- Dr. Ayodele Nzinga, Oakland Poet Laureate
- Michelle “Mush” Lee, Oakland Cultural Affairs Commission
- Andreas Cluver, Oakland Port Commission
- Michael Colbruno, Oakland Port Commission
- Vince Sugrue, Oakland Planning Commission
- Jahmese Myres, former Chair, Oakland Planning Commission
- Ellen Wu, Chair, Affordable Housing & Infrastructure Bond Public Oversight Committee
- Gary Jimenez, Affordable Housing & Infrastructure Bond Public

Oversight Committee

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- Saabir Lockett, Oakland Army Base Jobs Oversight Commission • Kate O'Hara, Oakland Army Base Jobs Oversight Commission • Jim Chanin, Police Commission Selection Panel
- Brian Hofer, Chair, Oakland Privacy Advisory Commission
- Jinhee Ha, Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission • David Ralston, Oakland Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Commission • Kimberly Aceves-Iñiguez, Oakland Fund for Children & Youth Planning & Oversight Committee
- Pecolia Hudson-Manigo, Oakland Fund for Children & Youth Planning & Oversight Committee
- Lisa Herrinton, Oakland Sugar Sweetened Beverages Community Advisory Board
- Brooke Levin, Oakland Civil Service Board

Community Leaders

- Geraldine Alcid, Filipino Advocates for Justice
- Angela Blackwell, founder PolicyLink
- Josie Camacho, Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of the Alameda Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Dave Campbell, Bike East Bay
- Dr. Art Chen
- Pamela Drake, Drake Talk Oakland
- Kin Folkz, East Bay Queer Arts Center
- Iora jo foo, No Coal in Oakland
- Alicia Garza, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Movement
- Sherry Hirota, founder Asian Health Services
- Dr. Floyd Huen
- Lailan Huen, OUSD Director of Asian Pacific Islander Student Achievement • Ken Jacobs, Chair of the University of California, Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education
- David Kakishiba, founder East Bay Asian Youth Center
- Ken Katz, Splash Pad News
- Dana King, sculptor
- Kimi Lee, Bay Rising Action

- Marily Mondejar, Filipina Women's Network
- Greg Morozumi, Eastside Arts Alliance
- Kate O'Hara, East Bay Action
- Andrew Park, founder Trybe

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- Steven Pitts, Black Work Talk podcast
- Ces Rosales, California Democratic Party Women's Caucus, Policy Issues Chair ● Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party
- Elena Serrano, Eastside Arts Alliance
- Miya Yoshitani, Asian Pacific Environmental Network Action

Faith Leaders

- Rev. Ken Chambers
- Rabbi David Cooper
- Rev. Sandhya Jha, Oakland Peace Center
- Rev. Kurt Kuhwald
- Saabir Lockett, Faith Alliance for A Moral Economy
- Minister Cherri Murphy
- Liza Rankow, Minister, One Life Institute
- Nicola Torbett, founder of Seminary of the Street
- Servant Brian K. Woodson, Sr., pastor/founder of the Bay Area Christian Connection

Business Leaders

- Reem Assil, Reem's California
- Penny Baldado, Cafe Gabriela
- Dr. Stewart Chen, Chiropractor
- Sandra Davis, Oeste
- Jose Dorado, Dorado Tax & Bookkeeping Services
- Joyce Gordon, Joyce Gordon Gallery
- Carol Knight, Lakeshore Avenue Business Improvement District ● Tim Nugent, Shakewell
- Geoffrey Pete, Geoffrey's Inner Circle
- Kori Saika Chen, Alkali Rye

- Rick da Silva, Board Member, Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
- Ari Takata-Vasquez, Chair, Blue Ribbon Equitable Business Tax Task Force

****All titles and organizations for identification purposes only.***

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District 2 Neighbors & Leaders (partial list)

Chinatown/Gold Coast

- Sejal Babaria
- Dave Campbell
- Dr. Stewart Chen, Chiropractor
- James Chiong
- Lailan Huen
- Rich Johnson
- Rabia Keeble
- Dylan Kievit
- Jennifer Li
- Linna Lin
- Arlene Lum
- Mr. Joseph Ma, Toisan Benevolent Association
- Jonathan Melvin
- Mark Miles
- Elaine Peng, Mental Health Association For Chinese Communities
- Alvina Wong, Asian Pacific Environmental Network Action
- Doug Wong, Chinese American Citizens Alliance

Cleveland Heights/Haddon Hill

- Janice Alpert
- Melanie Berzon
- Mylene Cahambing
- Lorenzo Canlas

- Lisa Castellanos
- Mike Flynn
- Tina Garcia
- Jinhee Ha
- Asha Hannah
- Lisa Herrinton
- Vivian Huang
- Navina Khanna
- Gala King
- Howard Kirsch

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- Lori Kodama
- Sujin Le
- Aaron Lehmer
- Richelle Lieberman
- Maria Nakae
- Dang Nguyen
- Dr. Mychi Nguyen
- Alicia Prilla
- Jim Ratliff
- Carol Shepherd
- Sarah Hines Stephens
- Anya Svanoe
- Alex Tom
- Jeremy Wolff
- Jenn-Mei Wu

Bella Vista/Ivy Hill

- Diana Casanova
- Nischit Hegde
- Mimi Ho
- Roseli Ilano
- David Kakishiba
- Cliff Lau
- Tom Manley
- Andrew Park

- Cinthya Munoz Ramos
- Sandra Padilla
- Liza Rankow
- María Schindler
- Donna Willmott
- Doug Zhang
- Rui Bing Zheng

Eastlake/Lake Merritt/Clinton

- Amanda Amato

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- Matt Chapman
- Quade Gallagher
- Monica Garcia
- Candida Haynes
- Josephine Hui
- Galen Mancino
- Christine Miller
- Daniela Nomura
- Christopher Rieder
- Kiernan Rok
- Ravahn Samati
- Anola Price Small
- Mari Rose Taruc
- Danny Thongsy
- Jesse Turner
- August Varlack
- Emily Wheeler
- David Wofford

San Antonio/Highland Park

- Timothy Huey
- David Kakishiba, East Bay Asian Youth Center
- Dana King

- Trinh Le
- Sherri Liang
- Cecilia Lopez
- Greg Morozumi, Eastside Arts Alliance
- Andrew Park, Trybe
- Bruce Quan
- Laura Rivas, Garfield Elementary
- Elena Serrano, Eastside Arts Alliance
- Tac Song

Crocker Highlands/Trestle Glen

- Nilofer Ahsan

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- Carol Campbell
- Dr. Arthur Chen
- Kori Saika Chen
- Miya Saika Chen
- Cristin Cooper
- Pamela Drake
- Mary Fierro
- Michael Hammond
- Liz Jacobs
- Ken Katz, Splash Pad News
- Kathy Ko
- Emmanuel Medina
- Linnea Nelson
- Denise Nelson
- David Ralston
- Dee Rosario
- Shane Safir
- Peggy Saika
- Pat Sax
- Amado Uno
- Arlene Zuckerberg

Grand Lake/Lakeshore

- Madeleine Adkins
- Sandra Davis
- Kit Decker
- Andrea Dehlendorf
- Suzi Goldmacher
- Eddie Iny
- Angelica Jongco
- Andrea Lee
- Andrew Nichols
- Geoffrey Pete
- Shamioka Preston
- Linda Roman

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Rose Garden

- Jane Bicek, Dedicated Deadheaders of Morcom Rose Garden
- Jane Freeman
- Nancy Friedman
- Molly Glockler
- Lynn Greenberg
- Joseph Haga
- Tess Hoover
- Carol Jan Lee
- Erlinda Legaspi
- Katy Nunez-Adler
- Susan Rovetta
- Leon Sykes

7. Are you registered to vote with a party affiliation? Which party? Will that be the same when you run for office?

I am registered to vote as Democrat and will be during the election.

B. DSA and Democratic Socialism

8. Are you a socialist? If not, why not? If so, what does being a socialist mean to you?

Yes I am. I understand democratic socialism to mean that both the economy and society should be run democratically to meet public needs and not make profits for a few. Public land for public good is an example. While leading the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE), I brought City government and developers to the table with community groups to secure a ground-breaking good jobs policy for the Oakland Army Base redevelopment (a 99-year lease of public land), which is putting Oaklanders to work and exceeding its 50% local hire goal. While leading the Partnership for Working Families, I expanded our role in contesting for power in our cities and taking on corporate power - from exposing Wall Street investors who would benefit from building Trump's border wall to pushing Amazon to respect a community and worker-centered vision for the development of its second headquarters.

As a Councilmember, I have brought more participation into our budget and policy making processes, which has led to concrete examples of: reimagining safety in our budget with investments in violence prevention and alternative crisis response; using

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public land for public good in D2 with a tiny home program for 80 unsheltered residents on a parcel near Lake Merritt that will be 100% affordable housing; and working on a ballot measure to reform Oakland's Business License Tax from a regressive, flat tax to a progressive one where large corporations pay their fair share (Council will vote this week to place our measure on the November ballot). More about my Council work is on my [City web site](#).

9. Are you willing to run for office publicly as a socialist?

I am open to discussing it with DSA if endorsed.

10. Are you a member of DSA? If not, would you join if you receive the DSA endorsement?

Yes, I became a member in 2018 after attending an orientation meeting at

Bushrod Park.

11. Have you been active in DSA? In what capacity?

No, except that I also canvassed for Bernie Sanders and

Carroll Fife. **12. Why are you seeking East Bay DSA's**

endorsement?

Democracy in America works best when there are a variety of opinions and views, it is this diversity in thought that allows for better solutions to our most challenging issues. Over the past few years the Democratic Socialists have shown that our public wants alternatives to our standard two-party system. Candidates like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are proof that the Democratic Party no longer appeals to all progressives. Although I am a registered Democrat, I think that there are times that it does not go far enough in promoting a progressive agenda. I would be honored to gain the endorsement of the East Bay DSA chapter as I feel very aligned with the values of DSA.

13. Will you publicize EBDSA's endorsement?

Yes, absolutely.

14. Will you be willing to run with other DSA-endorsed candidates as a

slate? If the candidates are aligned with my principles and vision for Oakland, then yes.

15. Are you open to working with DSA when developing your platform?

Yes.

16. Will you allow the EBDSA Electoral Committee to create campaign materials to distribute during its work on your campaign?

Yes.

17. EBDSA has a large and active volunteer base. Will you support EBDSA training our own volunteers, running our own canvasses, and campaigning openly as DSA members?

Yes, absolutely.

18. Will you allow EBDSA to collaborate with you on your field plan and program?

Yes.

19. Will you allow EBDSA to keep copies of all data we collect through voter contact?

Yes, if this is through DSA-led canvassing.

20. In past campaigns, EBDSA has had teams of member-organizers who work directly with campaign staff on areas such as field, communications, fundraising, data, and legal compliance. Will you agree to this arrangement and guarantee that your staff will build direct relationships with members of our campaign team?

Yes.

21. DSA ran an independent expenditure campaign in support of Bernie Sanders in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary. Who did you support in the 2016 and 2020 primaries? How did that support manifest?

I proudly supported Bernie Sanders for President in 2016 and 2020. I canvassed for him and attended events. As a Councilmember in 2020, I publicly endorsed Bernie.

22. If EBDSA were to endorse another candidate in this race, would you run against the EBDSA-endorsed candidate?

Yes.

23. If EBDSA does not endorse you, how will you relate to EBDSA? 13

I would continue the important work of advancing my priorities in Oakland alongside our allies which include EBDSA.

24. What do you see as the role of EBDSA in your campaign? And how will this campaign contribute to building DSA?

I'm a lifelong organizer and would like to work with DSA to build our progressive movement, including supporters for my re-election and members for DSA.

C. Goals of Your Campaign

25. Who will be running your field program?

TBD

26. What staff and/or consultants have you hired?

The Lew Edwards Group

27. What voter contact program are you using for your campaign? PDI

28. What is your fundraising goal, and what is your plan to reach that goal? How much have you raised already?

My goal is the expenditure limit of \$160k, have raised about \$110k to date. **29. What is your win number? How many doors will you knock?** TBD, I hope to reach about 24,500 of the approximately 34,900 registered voters.

30. Which voters do you need to activate to win? What is your intended constituency?

When I won by 14% against an incumbent in 2018, I canvassed the entire district and focused on the flatland communities of San Antonio, Eastlake and Chinatown who have been underrepresented. I will continue to focus here, and now, as an incumbent, I will also reach out to the entire district including voters in Grandlake who are more frequent voters.

31. How much direct voter contact are you personally preparing to do? 14

The necessary to win. I will carve out time from my job as Councilmember and Council President to ensure I am walking, calling, texting and in the community when I am not attending to Council business.

32. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from the following

sources?

- a. For-profit corporate entities (corporations, LLCs, etc.)
- b. Political committees formed by for-profit entities
- c. Real estate developers and realtors
- d. For-profit corporate lobbyists
- e. Professional landlords
- f. Law enforcement or prison unions

Yes

33. Have you ever previously taken money from the sources listed in question #32? If so, please explain.

Yes, I have received a few donations from realtors and small businesses who I connected with through the Chinatown and Vietnamese Chambers of Commerce.

34. Is public financing available in your campaign? If so, are you using it? Have you ever previously turned down public financing?

Yes, I did use public financing in 2018 and will use it in 2020. I am also working to place a measure on the November ballot to create a Democracy Dollars program like the one in Seattle.

35. What is your profession? Is a significant portion of your income or wealth derived from capital holdings (e.g., investments, rent, etc.)?

My only job current job is City Councilmember. My past two decades of work have been with nonprofit organizations. I do not, and have not previously had, income from capital holdings.

36. Will you abide by the Campaign Workers Guild's [Fair Campaign Pledge](#)?

Yes

D. Goals in Office

37. How do you think political change happens?

- a. The campaigns I have worked on have shown me the importance of contesting for and building power. Change happens through grassroots, 1-1 organizing in our communities and workplaces, waging and winning

campaigns to contest for power that levels the playing field with employers, landlords, corporations, and government.

b. A useful framework for thinking about power is the Four Levels of Power developed by Archon Fung at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government who has worked with some national movement organizations. The first level is the everyday level, like a worker convincing their boss to give them a raise. The second level are laws and policies that protects groups of people, like raising the minimum wage through the government or political process. The third level is structural power that changes the playing field, like campaign finance reform or deregulation. The fourth level is ethical power, changing the public mindset and winning the battle of ideas. This is perhaps the most challenging, but movements have made tremendous progress like the LGBTQ community's work over decades around same-sex marriage. Housing is a human right is an example of an idea that has entered the public discourse in recent years and is gaining more broad public support.

c. I have personally worked to contest for and build power for workers in Oakland through the 2012 good jobs agreement for the Oakland Army Base redevelopment, which provided good union jobs, local and targeted hire, and fair chance employment. That organizing laid the groundwork for similar policies for AC Transit's BRT line and for the Port of Oakland. Now, these jobs policies are a standard expectation in major projects.

38. How does the campaign you are planning and the elected position you are considering relate to your theory of change?

a. While I was leading the national Partnership for Working Families (since re-named PowerSwitch Action) we practiced what we termed co-governance, or an inside-outside strategy. That means two-way partnership and accountability between an elected official and the movement community.

b. Using the concept of co-governance, I've been able to build that two-way relationship and win concrete change. In my first year in office, building off prior relationships with ACCE Action, Oakland Community Land Trust and other housing organizations, we secured \$14M for permanently affordable housing and created a program for tenants to purchase their homes with land trusts that has helped dozens of families. These same relationships and partnerships were critical in crafting and

worked with labor and community groups on a progressive business tax, and many of these relationships are from our work together to raise the minimum wage in Oakland in 2014. After years of work together, we are on the verge of placing this measure on the November ballot.

39. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities?

- a. **Just recovery and just economy**, in which the people who are most vulnerable during the pandemic and recession receive our investment and support. We will stand with Oakland's working people — our city workers, public school teachers, essential workers and small businesses.
- b. **Housing as a human right**, preventing displacement of low-income residents and people of color, helping working families stay in their homes permanently, and creating housing for unsheltered residents.
- c. **Expanding our public safety system**, by addressing the root causes of violence and poverty, investing in violence prevention and alternative responses to non-violent calls for service, and ensuring policing is focused, effective and accountable.

40. If elected, you'll be one of a few representatives who refuse corporate donations and support a Democratic Socialist vision for our state. How can a single elected official contribute to bringing radical change to California?

- a. As a long-time organizer and policy advocate, I have already made change in my first three years as a Councilmember. See answers above and on my [City web site](#).

41. In a capitalist democracy, politicians are by default accountable to a broad array of interests, constituencies, and donors. How will you instead remain accountable to the interests of the working class as a whole?

- a. I will continue to build and implement by budget and policy priorities with the community.

42. How will you be accountable to the members of DSA once you are in office? a. We can establish the work we want to do together, how we will work together and meet regularly.

43. What would the role of constituent services staff in your district be? 17

- a. We will continue to have staff focused on constituent services and

neighborhood issues. This is an important role and responsibility.

44. How would you seek to increase democratic involvement and representation within your district?

a. Through engagement in townhalls, meetings, office hours and 1-1.

45. Will you agree to appear periodically at monthly DSA meetings in your district? a. Yes.

46. If elected, would you join a Democratic Socialist caucus?

a. I would be open to it as long as I can follow through on the commitments it entails.

47. Do you commit to working in collaboration with other DSA elected officials? a. Yes.

48. What do you see as the role of DSA once you are in office? And how will you use your position to contribute to building DSA?

a. As stated above, I hope our work together will both activate people in D2 to participate in city government and build DSA's membership.

E. Issues

Environment and Green New Deal

49. What does a "Green New Deal" mean to you? How do you hope to help implement it in office?

a. To me, a Green New Deal is about a just transition from extraction of the earth's resources and exploitation of workers to a sustainable relationship with the planet and a redistribution of wealth to the working class. As an organizer, I have been involved in the environmental justice movement since working with the Military Toxics Project in the 90s when the military was the world's largest polluter to more recently serving on the board of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. As a Councilmember, I co-authored the law requiring electrification of new buildings, and I support creating resilience hubs in my district including with the renovation of the Lincoln Rec. Center.

50. What does a "just transition" for fossil fuel workers and frontline communities mean to you?
- a. It means that fossil fuel workers will have an opportunity to train and transition to green jobs as we build green infrastructure and that they will be good union jobs. It means that frontline communities will have reparations for the impacts on their health and environment and will democratically decide the future of their communities.
51. Should utility monopolies like PG&E be publicly owned? If not, please explain. a. Yes.

Mass Transit

52. How does publicly owned mass transit fit into your vision of a fully realized socialist society? How can it help us transition to that society?
- a. Transportation infrastructure is a public good and should be accessible to all. Expanding public transit for working people and making it fare free over time will ensure that transit is a right and that workers, students and others can travel to where they need to go.
53. What role should transit workers and riders play in decision-making within public transit agencies? How can we move toward the governance model you envision?
- a. Riders can form unions, like workers do, to have a forum to organize and advocate. Workers and riders could also have a more formal voice on boards of transit agencies.
54. Do you support having a robust transit system with extensive and low- or no-cost bus service — including service connecting working-class neighborhoods without running through business or financial centers? If not, please explain. a. Yes.

Labor

55. Are you a member or elected leader of a union? Have you ever been? Have you ever walked a picket line? Please provide specifics.
- a. I am not and haven't been a union member, but I have lead labor-community coalitions for two decades prior to being elected.
56. What do you see as the role of the labor movement in political change? a. Building working class power through unions is a foundational part of organizing, creating economic change and shifting the balance of power from corporations to workers.

57. What support, specifically, do you plan to give as an elected official and public figure to workers in your district who are organizing a union or negotiating a contract?

- a. As I have for 20 years, I will meet with workers, walk picket lines, and take action that will support worker organizing (calls, letters, resolutions, policies, budget allocations,

communications/mobilizations). Healthcare

58. Do you support Medicare for All in California? Will you pledge to vote for AB 1400 (if relevant)? If not, why not?

- a. Yes

BDS and Palestine Solidarity

59. Do you support the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to pressure Israel until it complies with international law by ending the occupation, instituting equal rights for its Palestinian citizens and respecting Palestinian refugees' right to return? If not, please explain.

- a. Yes

Prison & Police Abolition

60. Do you commit to reducing budgets for police, prisons, and other carceral institutions and reallocating that money to social services and alternative programs for building community safety (like violence interrupters and mental health crisis responders)? If not, why not? If so, talk specifically about where this money should go.

- a. Yes, I led the process in Oakland to reimagine public safety and increased funds for violence prevention by \$17M for violence interrupters and gender-based violence outreach and by \$15M to create an alternative crisis response program (MACRO). \$18M of these funds came from reducing the police budget .

61. What concrete steps will you take in office to end mass incarceration and decrease the power of the police?

- a. As an organizer, I helped lead the coalition that secured a ban the box provision for the Oakland Army Base redevelopment in order to give formerly incarcerated people a chance at a good job. Ban the box now exists at the state level for jobs. As a Councilmember, I co-authored

Oakland's Fair Chance Housing law, the strongest in the country, giving formerly incarcerated people the opportunity to secure housing when they return home. I also played a leadership role successfully advocating for the Governor to pardon Southeast Asian Oaklanders who have faced the threat of deportation under the Trump Administration.

b. As a Councilmember, I have been leading the effort to re-direct police funding to violence prevention, alternative crisis response and addressing the root causes of violence and poverty. Under my leadership as Council President my budget amendments made historic investments in these areas hiring dozens of violence interrupters and crisis intervention specialists, as well as park stewards.

Housing

62. YIMBYs ("Yes in My Back Yard") claim that overregulation is the primary cause of the housing crisis, and loosening regulation to allow more housing to be built is sufficient to make housing affordable. Do you agree or disagree? What do you think are the main contributing factors to the housing affordability crisis?

I do not agree.

My basic theory on our housing crisis is that supply does not meet demand. Government at the local, county, state and federal levels have not directed adequate resources for affordable housing. In addition, new housing construction ground to a halt in 2008 producing a housing deficit and driving the cost of housing beyond the reach of many. The dissolution of the CA Redevelopment Agency also exacerbated the crisis.

In order to get out of this crisis, we must prioritize building deeply affordable housing, create affordable housing through preservation with land trusts, and prevent displacement. At the local level, we can strengthen housing policy by passing a public lands ordinance to use city-owned land for housing, passing an inclusionary zoning ordinance to require a meaningful percentage of affordable housing in all development, and increase funding for affordable housing. I am currently working on a new bond measure that would fund affordable housing and infrastructure, which would be an additional funding source for the program I created with ACCE Action and the Oakland Community Land Trust that enables tenants to purchase their homes and make them permanently affordable with land trusts.

63. Will you support all legislation that requires building owners to negotiate with tenant unions? What other measures will you support that would even the

playing field between tenants and landlords? Is there any expansion of tenants' rights that you would not support?

Yes. I authored the COVID eviction moratorium which is still in place. I co-authored the Fair Chance Housing law. I support CM Fife's cap on rent increases. Prior to COVID, after supporting Moms for Housing, I introduced the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act. When COVID happened, I shifted focus to the eviction moratorium and rental assistance. CM Fife will lead TOPA and I am still a strong supporter of it.

There are no expansions of tenants rights that I am aware of that I would not support.

64. Do you pledge to oppose any upzoning proposal without sufficient affordability requirements, such that it is opposed by grassroots anti-gentrification organizations? Do you pledge to support proposals by such groups to fix new and existing laws which fail to include such requirements?

Taxation

65. How do you propose to change our budget and tax structure (on the federal, state, or municipal level, as relevant) to better fund public services and redistribute wealth?

Since 2020, I have been championing reform of Oakland's current regressive, flat Business License Tax to a progressive, tiered rate system where corporations who earn more pay more. This week, Council is voting to place this measure on the November ballot.