

# Negeene Mosaed - East Bay DSA 2022 Electoral Endorsement Questionnaire

## A. You & Your Campaign

1. Briefly tell us your background or biography.

I'm a long time Bay area resident. I'm of Iranian ancestry and have deep roots with the Iranian peoples movement for liberation, both from imperialist forces and the dictatorships of the Shah and clerical regime. I am a physical therapist, I own and operate a community clinic in downtown Berkeley dedicated to delivering quality care to all our community including MediCal and Medicare patients and most other insurances. We also have the rock bottom cash pay price in the area, making sure PT is accessible to all. I am a single mother and have raised 2 boys alone for the last 12 years. I have been very engaged in progressive grassroots organizing in Berkeley the majority of this time.

2. Why are you seeking this office?

Running for the Rent Board is a natural evolution of my work with my patients and the community. I have heard horrific stories of wholesale displacement and eviction from many of those I care for. These interactions have led me to my advocacy work and it has become my mission to protect and preserve my community. I believe that stable housing is an essential part of health and wellness.

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 am a member of Friends of Adeline, and on the steering committees of Berkeley Citizens Action and the Berkeley Tenants Union.

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

I have been elected to the pro-tenant slate by the tenant convention. I have the support of my community along with my 4 running mates. I have a background of day to day contact through my medical work, they are my natural constituency. I am familiar with their needs. In addition I am a home-owner and a renter because I rent our clinic space and have had to deal with the most abusive landlords of this city.

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

Housing is a human right, access to housing should be front and center in our struggle

against the forces of capitalist financialization, globalization and corporatization of our housing stock. The Rent Board is an independent body that protects and preserves rent controlled housing in Berkeley.

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

I'm seeking endorsement from progressive/democratic organizations and grassroots community based groups who will prioritize housing, healthcare, and education as a human right.

The Slate has been endorsed by:

The Berkeley Tenant Convention  
The Berkeley Tenants Union  
Berkeley Citizens Action  
Berkeley Progressive Alliance  
Friends of Adeline  
SEIU 1021  
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club  
Ben Bartlett, Berkeley City Councilmember, District 3  
Kate Harrison, Berkeley City Councilmember, District 4  
Gus Newport, Former Berkeley Mayor  
Max Anderson, Former Berkeley City Councilmember  
Ana Vasudeo, School Board Director  
Leah Simon-Weisberg, Chair, Berkeley Rent Board  
James Chang, Rent Board Commissioner  
Xavier Johnson, Rent Board Commissioner  
Andy Kelly, Rent Board Commissioner  
Paola Laverde, Rent Board Commissioner  
Mari Mendonca, Rent Board Commissioner  
John Selawksy, Rent Board Commissioner  
Dominique Walker, Rent Board Commissioner  
Richard Illgen, Former Rent Board Commissioner  
Judy Ann Alberti, Former Rent Board Commissioner  
Victor Aguilar, San Leandro City Councilmember  
Lateefah Simon, BART Director  
Jovanka Beckles AC Transit Board Director  
Mike Chang, Former Chair, Police Accountability Board

Rafael Botello, Commissioner, Berkeley Commission on Labor

J. George Lippman, Chair, Peace and Justice Commission, Commissioner, Human Welfare & Community Action Commission

Alexandria Rodriguez, Commissioner, Housing Advisory Commission; Commissioner, Berkeley Housing Authority

Hector Malvido, Co-Chair, Latinos Unidos de Berkeley

Cecilia Lunaparra, President, Cal Berkeley Democrats

Vicki Alexander, Former Berkeley Child Health Director and Founder of Healthy Black Families

Oshawa Neumann, Civil Rights Lawyer

Brandon Harami, Bay Area Vice Chair, California Democratic Party Progressive Caucus

Mrs. Ritchie Smith, Honorary Mayor of South Berkeley and Friends of Adeline Member

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

I am a member of the Democratic party Which I joined when Bernie Sanders ran for the primaries here in California in 2016. I will also be running as a Democrat this year on the ballot.

## **B. DSA and Democratic Socialism**

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

I am a lifelong socialist. I was introduced to the Marxist theory as a young person, my family being activists from Iran. I was in many reading groups from Marxist Humanists, to Workers Vanguard, beginning at age 12. Socialism embodies an economic and political system wherein the people or collective have ownership of the means of production. It means private and corporate dominance will not run the state political and social apparatus. Being a socialist, at THIS times means de-corporatization, unionization, socialized housing, medicare for all, free higher education, cancellation of student debt, occupying our common spaces for the benefit of all, collective/cooperative work spaces, a woman's right to choose, and more.

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

Yes

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

I am a member of DSA

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

I have been working with Mathew Lewis in organizing the Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville Branch.  
I have helped to organize the last two socials in our area.

12. Why are you seeking East Bay DSA's endorsement?

I believe in our platform and I am a socialist.

13. Will you publicize EBDSA's endorsement?

Yes

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

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

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

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 worked on both campaigns and it changed my life. I attended the Democratic national convention in the streets giving people power to his campaign. I was extremely active from the moment I heard Bernie speak in 2015 during the first primary races back east. Here in Oakland and Berkeley I went door to door for Bernie on the primary level so many weeks and months and later continued my support by going to Philadelphia. I rallied with fellow Bernie supporters outside of the convention in 2016. I financially support his campaign and still support his endorsements financially. This followed in 2020 up to the point that the campaign called it quits. I was due to go to Arizona with others for door to door connecting, to flip that state but the pandemic stopped that plan. I continued to the end with phone banking.

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

Not sure what you mean as we are a slate.

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

I will seek explanation and of course continue my relationship.

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

I would like the support from DSA both in endorsement and boots on the ground for door to door canvassing. Endorsing the Slate will improve EBDSA's connections in the Berkeley community.

### **C. Goals of Your Campaign**

25. Who will be running your field program?

Not yet decided

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

The slate is working with the web designer from 2020's Tenant Slate, Timmy Perez, to update our website. We are exploring working with consultant Andre Charles to produce lit and

mailers.

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

Likely PDI

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

I have raised 1,800 and I am participating in public financing which means the City will match that 6 to 1 up to 8,000.

29. What is your win number? How many doors will you knock?

About 30,000 votes. As man as possible.

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

Tenants, pro tenant homeowners, and the members of the Tenant Convention organizations.

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

I will knock on as many doors as possible on the weekends and after work at the clinic.

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

1. For-profit corporate entities (corporations, LLCs, etc.) YES
2. Political committees formed by for-profit entities YES
3. Real estate developers and realtors. YES
4. For-profit corporate lobbyists YES
5. Professional landlords YES
6. Law enforcement or prison unions. YES

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

No

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

Yes, and I am.

35. What is your profession? Is a significant portion of your income or wealth derived from capital holdings.

I am a Physical Therapist and I own a local clinic which provides care for the Medical and Medicare recipients in Berkeley. This clinic is not a spa, we accept most all insurance and our flat out of pocket rate to be affordable to all. I do not draw a personal profit from this business other than my salary.

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

My constituency are all those persons that I come in contact with on a weekly basis whether in the clinic or organizing in the streets. I see upwards of 70-80 new and old clients in the clinic. I frequently discuss political issues of the day and their personal challenges with them during our treatments. I am naturally an ear to hear their demands for the city. They also have asked me, on many occasions, to help them if they are fighting battles individually or as a collective with the city. My base of support more importantly extends to the organizations I advocate for and organize with. I plan to turn to the convention sponsors as I'm part of many of those local organizations. I will strategize and organize with my base to win this seat and then sit and tactically strategize plans with the rent board members to extend rent control, enforce rent control protections and protect and support tenants by enforcing the Tenant Protection Ordinance and the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance under Berkeley law.

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

See above

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

- 1) Save as many Rent Controlled units as possible
- 2) Expand rent control
- 3) Keep the tenants in their units

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?

The answer is Bernie Sanders. One person is capable of changing the face of the city, state and country.

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?

My constituency are all those persons that I come in contact with on a weekly basis whether in the clinic( physical therapy clinic) and or organizing in the streets the majority are working class. . I see upwards of 70 -80 new and old clients in the clinic, I frequently discuss political issues of the day and their personal challenges with them during our treatments . I am naturally an ear to hear their demands from the city. They also have asked me, on many occasions, to help them if they are fighting battles individually or as a collective with the city. My base of support more importantly extends to the organizations I advocate for and organize with. I plan to turn to only the convention sponsors as I'm only part of those local organizations. I will strategize and organize with my base to win this seat and then sit and tactically strategize plans with the rent board members to extend rent control, enforce rent control protections and protect and support tenants by mandating the Tenant Protection Ordinance and the Just Cause for eviction ordinance under Berkeley tenancy laws.

42. How will you be accountable to the members of DSA once you are in office?  
see above

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

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

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

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



Yes

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

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?

I am a socialist and will build progressive agenda to increase and forward housing (rent controlled) units and accessibility to the working class.

## **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?

Divest from fossil fuels, rebuild with alternative technologies. I have been implementing that in my own life. I believe in restoring and maintaining the housing stock we have and not building more unaffordable skyscrapers, which are not energy efficient.

50. What does a "just transition" for fossil fuel workers and front line communities mean to you?

It means reeducation for workers in the fossil fuel industry and offering them meaningful jobs in the green alternative industry.

51. Should utility monopolies like PG&E be publicly owned?

Yes

### Mass Transit

52. How does publicly owned mass transit fit into your vision of a fully realized socialist society?

Transportation getting from place to place is a human right and public transportation is essential in delivering this to all the community therefore it must be publicly owned so that private profits are not a motive.

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?

Publicly owned means involvement of both riders and workers in a democratic grassroots cooperative model.

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?

Yes

### Labor

55. Are you a member or elected leader of a union? Have you ever been? Have you ever walked a picket line?

No, physical therapy is not a unionized profession. Yes, I have walked picket lines.

56. What do you see as the role of the labor movement in political change?

Labor unions have been instrumental in representation for the working class at the table with capital. As of the last 3 decades there has been a decrease in union enrollments and the effectiveness with political change. Also some of the unions have become corrupt by involvement of power with Democratic party infrastructure.

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?

I would be present in helping give their fight voice and speaking to support them.

### Healthcare

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

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?

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?

I have supported progressive reformers for DA's for Oakland and SF and for Alameda County Sheriff. I have spoken at council for reducing the police budget and putting that money towards community organizations that support the youth.

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

Working with alternative grass roots organizations to support youth and working class neighborhoods.

### 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?

The financialization of the housing market, the privatization of socialized housing models, the subprime mortgage meltdown and the further crime of our government to bail out the banks. Compounded with the deregulation of the housing and banking sector, this has all led to the inability of the working classes to ever realize the dream of home ownership. And led to millions of people becoming house-less in the streets of our cities. At the same time we have a tenants movement that despite its growing ranks has been muzzled and not supported by many labor unions, some "leftist organizations" and the BIG "Democratic machine." The YIMBY lobbying group which could also be named "The Land use lobbying group for the BIG TECH industry" Has become very influential and powerful while working with the forces of capital at the state level and pass legislation to dictate statewide land use policy they have changed the faces of our communities in the interest of developers.

63. Will you support all legislation that requires building owners to negotiate with tenant unions?

Yes.

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?

I oppose this wholeheartedly, and yes.

### 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?

Our taxes should be used to socialize the most basic human rights such as housing, education and health care. The millionaires and billionaires should have a minimum tax that does not allow them loopholes and ways to hide their income. Their influence in our government should be eliminated by campaign finance reform.