Vanessa Danielle Marrero - East Bay DSA 2022
Electoral Endorsement Questionnaire

A. You & Your Campaign

1. Briefly tell us your background or biography.

I am the executive director of Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco, a national organization which promotes the fundamental value of public education. I have exceptional knowledge and wisdom serving the public, including over a decade of experience working within the K-12 school districts, community colleges across California, and other various organizations.

I have received a multitude of awards, including a Letter of Recommendation by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to work with the Biden-Harris Administration in 2020. I was named Latina of Influence in 2021 by Hispanic Lifestyle.
I promote the fundamental value of public education in her professional and lived experience and expertise; in fact, my most recent work was leading a portfolio of 816 educational agencies in a statewide initiative focused on building organizational capacity development and technical assistance in continuity planning and intersegmental data linkages.

I holds recognitions for her service, Certificate of Recognition, 2019, California State Senate and the 22nd Senate District, Certificate of Recognition, 2019, California Legislature and the 53rd Assembly District, Recognition for Effective Partnerships, 2010, U.S. Department of Education and most proudly, “Thank a Teacher”, 2010, San Francisco Teachers for Social Justice.

I have served as keynote Speaker, National Equity Project & California Teachers Association, 2017, Symposium on Alternatives to Suspensions, Presenter, Chancellors Leading from the Middle Series 2017, Guided Pathways as the strategy for Alternative High School Students, Presenter, California Association of School Social Workers Conference, 2021; Using Data to Accelerate Educational Continuity, Presenter, California Educating for Careers Conference, 2020; Creating Structure for Today's Workforce for High School Students , Presenter, California Community College Association for Occupational Education 2019; Partnerships Work: Pathways to Public Service

I am a doctoral candidate at USC Rossier School of Education, Organizational Change and Leadership program, where she is a student ambassador and student represent focused on representing students’ perspectives, interests, and priorities related to forwarding our mission of equity, including priorities related to promoting racial equity and disrupting anti-Blackness in the OCL Program.

I also have deep ties to SFUSD where I served as a Community Schools Coordinator, Wellness Director, and Learning Support Professional/School Social Worker early in my career and was an active member of the United Educators of San Francisco. I have been bringing PPS-SF closer to bridging the gap for equitable access with all the communities across the school district.

2. **Why are you seeking this office?**

Our Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance is a key to fostering equity-centered policies, and practices for our families, students, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. I believe that affordable housing is a civil liberty for all. Individuals with Exceptionalities, the aged tenants, communities of color, Educators and students across K-12, College and University earn just enough to scrape by, often having to live with roommates or in their cars to afford to live in Berkeley. I moved to Berkeley over 18 years ago because it exemplified a city where all belong, and all can thrive. It represents the values of justice, peace and innovation. Over the past several years, our city has become more market driven than ever before and with inflation at an all-time high, we must make concerted efforts to keep Berkeley affordable for all. Berkeley is an incredible city. A city that values education, diversity, and intersectionality which is known all around the world for its research and acts of social justice for civil rights. Now is a critical time to focus on ensuring a strong Rent Control Ordinance so educators, students, individuals with exceptionalities, communities of color and the aged can remain housed and can expend the energies teaching, learning and thriving in all the beauty that Berkeley has to offer!

Together, I believe we can prioritize seniors aging in place in rent-controlled units. With my background in social work, I will focus on assisting these types of tenants, providing necessary protections to our most vulnerable. The Berkeley tenants survey, slated to be out in December 2022, will provide significant data to start that effort. In my former role, I lead a statewide data linkages initiative and I can bring my expertise to work with you so we use data informed practices and community engagement in our change efforts. Also, I am focused on improving the elevator ordinance which will ensure that disabled students like my son are protected throughout the city-our current ordinance lacks protections for disabled tenants. As a veteran educator serving public education, I will work hard to listen to students and educators needs and advocate so that the City of Berkeley ensures rental control and protections for students and educators.

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 tenant who has lived in a rent-controlled building in downtown Berkeley for 18 years. Prior to moving to Berkeley, I was a renter in the New York City area for several years. I believe that my experiences will inform my work on the rent board as it will enable me to execute my skills of advocating for tenants. I believe that the City of Berkeley needs to pass the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act. TOPA is a type of anti-displacement housing policy that gives tenants options to have secure housing when the property they rent goes up for sale, while also preserving affordable housing. I have needed to leverage my tenant rights so that my children have stabilized housing and attend their community schools. I have also served my building fellow renters to advise them about habitability issues that we have experienced. I am aware of the rental laws and the loopholes that the average renter may not know.

I currently serve on two large California Based nonprofit organization boards both focused on educational outcomes and support services. I serve an array of California communities to build the capacity of the system's leaders by instituting regional communities of practice support service models which eliminate racism by empowering women, social workers, and individuals of color as an advisory member of the Alliance of Boys and Men of Color. Previously, I was a Board Chair for a large non-profit serving the unique needs of families in the most vulnerable communities of the Bay Area. I am the Legislative Chair for the California Association of School Social Workers which prepares professional social workers and Board Director for YWCA Contra Costa/Sacramento to develop innovative intervention and prevention strategies for cultural proficiency and responsive inclusive gender equity practices and strong sexual assault practices with organizations throughout communities.

I am a member of the Berkeley Tenants Union and have provided letters, calls, and public comment on several pressing rental regulations. I have made connections with the People's Park Council, Friends of Adeline, and Berkeley Citizens Action.

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

I would be the only Latina, non-profit administrator, executive director, social worker, or education professional on the Rent Board. I am known for my track record in effective public organizational management, collaborative, action-oriented and transparent board governance, proper oversight of fiscal development and management using data informed practices. I am a progressive, pro-tenant candidate chosen by the 2022 Rent Board Convention.

I have lived in a rent stabilized building for 18 years, with my children and husband. My three children, one with a disability, one transgendered giving more lived experiences in advocating for my children to for example, participate on the Berkeley High Schools Baseball team or have an effective Individual Education Plan implemented and monitored.

Given my track record and experience serving boards and in professional capacity with governmental sectors, I have effectively provided oversight in public organizational management, demonstrated collaborative, action and transparent board governance, and conducted oversight of fiscal development and management using date information practices to identify needs and progressive equity agendas. In my prior work I was responsible for external partner portfolio reboot oversight, evaluation, and growth of a state-wide intersegmental initiative focused on data science equity metrics serving 3 million public school students, and 10,000 practitioners across the state of California with 800 member organizations statewide, including County of Education, school districts, regional occupational programs, charter schools, community colleges, CSU/UC institutions. Relationship building and teamwork were critical in my success to advising cross-sector teams in 16 regions of California, to procure, maintain and grow relationships and data under FERPA and AB1584 stipulations. Our work also entailed 75 educational metrics while also navigating complex pandemic-related segment issues, managing multiple stakeholders to drive a strong diverse, and inclusive asset-building scope of work was the key part of my role.

Additionally, I have received noteworthy awards, Recommendation to Biden-Harris Administration, 2020, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Certificate of Recognition, 2019, California State Senate and the 22nd Senate District, Certificate of Recognition, 2019, California Legislature and the 53rd Assembly District, “Thank a Teacher”, 2010, San Francisco Teachers for Social Justice, Latina of Influence Award, Hispanic Magazine (nomination based).

All these competencies and their value and utility are essential for effectiveness of providing oversight to the Rent Stabilization Program.

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

I believe the Berkeley Rent Board needs a diverse and strategic set of skills and experiences that include commissioners who have served the public sector in career roles across different positions as well as demonstrated outcomes bringing people together in interest-based conversations so that we can get to solutions accomplished. True affordable housing is a civil liberty for our people, especially the aged and people with exceptionalities. Please prioritize this campaign because I am fervent in the protection of vulnerable communities, especially the elderly and people with disabilities and those on limited or fixed incomes.

We need to cover more units in Berkeley with rent control given the market driven economy and impacts it has had on students attending BCC and University of California - Berkeley. Our fellow residents also need more reliable elevators and faster elevator repairs to ensure accessibility. I intend to leverage my skills to campaign for change so that Berkeley can be a city for all people to live and thrive.

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

I am endorsed by
The Berkeley Tenants Union
The Berkeley Tenant Convention
Friends of Adeline
Berkeley Citizens Action
The Berkeley Progressive Alliance
SEIU 1021
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
Former Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport
BART Board Director Lateefah Simon
Jovanka Beckles, AC Transit Board Director
Former California Association of School Social Workers President Paul Brazzel
Sausalito Marin City School District School Board Chair Ida Green
SEIU Local 32BJ Field and Grievance Representative Mohan Matabeek
Professor of the UC San Diego Housing Wise Project Alysson Snow
Ben Bartlett, Berkeley City Councilmember, District 3
Kate Harrison, Berkeley City Councilmember, District 4
Max Anderson, Former Berkeley City Councilmember
Ana Vasudeo, Berkeley School Board Director
Ty Alper, Berkeley School Board Director
Leah Simon-Weisberg Chair, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board
Soli Alpert, Vice Chair, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board
John T Selawsky, Rent Board Commissioner; BOLT Commissioner; Former President

Berkeley School Board
Andy Kelley, Rent Board Commissioner
Paola Laverde, Rent Board Commissioner
James Chang, Rent Board Commissioner
Xavier Johnson, Rent Board Commissioner
Dominique Walker, Rent Board Commissioner
Richard Illgen, Former Rent Board Commissioner
Judy Ann Alberti, Former Rent Board Commissioner
Nathan Mizell, Vice-Chair, Berkeley Police Accountability Board
J. George Lippman, Chair, Peace and Justice Commission, Commissioner, Human Welfare and Community Action Commission
Rafael Botella, Berkeley Labor Commissioner
Alexandria Rodriquez, Commissioner, Housing Advisory Commission; Commissioner, Berkeley Housing Authority
Hector Malvido, Co-Chair, Latinos Unidos de Berkeley
Cecilia Lunaparra, President, Cal Berkeley Democrats

I am seeking endorsements from the CalYDSA, the Alameda County Democratic Party, Our Revolution East Bay, Healthy Black Families, the Gray Panthers, the Green Party, the Center for Independent Living, Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE) Local 6912, Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT) AFT Local 1078, and other organizations and people in the office.

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

Registered Democrat-which is what I intend to use for my run for office.

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 identify as a democratic socialist. I support political democracy and a socially owned economy. I believe that capitalism goes against the true civil liberty of freedom, solidarity, and equality. I believe all people should have access to quality social needs no matter where they fall in the capitalist social class ladder.

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?**

Yes.

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

While I am new in connecting with DSA, I intend and wish to become more and more involved as I learn of engagement opportunities.

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

I believe in DSA's core mission and purpose:
"DSA is a democratically run and democratically funded organization. We believe that working people should run both the economy and society democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few. We are a political and activist organization, not a party; through campus and community-based chapters, DSA members use a variety of tactics, from legislative to direct action, to fight for reforms that empower working people."

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?**

Unfortunately, I was very ill in 2016 and did not get involved in this way, I was focused on my health. In 2020, I did support an independent campaign as I was registered as independent most of my adult like. I also supported by encouraging my teenage daughter to vote for Bernie, as she believed his campaign would have brought about the most change- thus teaching my children the values and encouraging them to stand beside what they value.

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

All the candidates being considered by EBDSA are part of the Tenant Convention Nominated Slate.

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

I will relate with EBDSA collaborative and support its mission in serving the people of Berkeley and seek to understand how I might gain an endorsement in the future.

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

DSA can assist and support me in developing my campaign toolkit which include any of the following:

1. Framing my community connections,
2. Helping by information on race dynamics,
3. Advising on the structure of my team and allocation of resources,
4. Developing a strong Budget,
5. Serving as a network in which I can fundraise,
6. Developing my messaging, both digital and mailers,
7. Guidance in developing a compelling campaign for justice action,
8. Advising on high level field plan,
9. Connecting me with endorsers so that I get the win.

DSA will benefit from building connections and interacting with the community organizations involved in the Tenant Convention.

Goals of Your Campaign

25. Who will be running your field program?

Not yet determined.

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?

We will likely be using PDI.

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

10,000. I have raised 1,075 dollars and will be matched with Public Financing by 6, equaling 6,450 dollars for a total of 7,525.

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

About 30,000 votes. I intend on knocking on 90% of all registered apartments in the City of Berkeley.

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

Diverse parent/caregiver, student, governmental and non-profit perspectives across City departments, elected officials, and their representatives, school district including the leadership team, members from BUSD Board of Education, and staff, individual school sites, and community-based organizations and collaboratives.

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

I am preparing to do most of the voter contact, including canvassing multiple times a week.

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, I pledge not to take any campaign contributions from For-profit corporate entities (corporations, LLCs, etc.), Political committees formed by for-profit entities, Real estate developers and realtors, For-profit corporate lobbyists, Professional landlords and Law enforcement or prison unions

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, public financing is available, and I intend to use public financing.

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

I am a Public-Sector educator and leader and my income comes mostly from grant, funding; state, local and federal.

36. Will you abide by the Campaign Workers Guild's Fair Campaign Pledge?

Yes

C. Goals in Office

37. How do you think political change happens?

I will position our campaign to reflect the forefront of equity and access for the community we serve by leveraging relationships from my personal, ideological values, and strong bridges with power brokers. We must identify political leaders who use power dominated rules of play to serve their own political capital needs while deprioritizing social and human capital practices which build support for everyday people. We must leverage policy structures that currently preserve incumbent power to instead focus on people and community. We need to understand the social web and its relations across sectors to effectively implement change such that vulnerable communities have a voice and impact in making change.

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

When I win, as a Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner, my greatest/first accomplishment will be the successful implementation of the Housing Element plan

which will advance rental controls and eviction protection advocating for inclusionary models so that vulnerable people have a stable and safe place to live.

In alignment with my theory of change is the development of the Housing Action Plan, which identifies where sufficient affordable housing is available to address the needs of all economic segments of the community. As an input, my advocacy and leadership, the Housing Action Plan will help prevent displacement and consulting with students whose housing is not being met by providing action to decision making. I would also advocate to State regulators to enforce that commitment that the City of Berkeley makes locally. In bolstering the Housing Element strategy as an activity, I will elevate the voices of vulnerable people, so they are heard, specifically engaging low-income, immigrant, non-English speakers and individuals with disabilities. Thus, our output to advancing existing campaigns and community priorities, amplifying support. As an outcome, I will leverage the Housing Element to advance rental controls and eviction protection, such as arbitrary eviction and predatory rent hikes. We also need to adopt housing regulations such as the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act. TOPA is a type of anti-displacement housing policy that gives tenants options to have secure housing when the property they rent goes up for sale, while also preserving affordable housing.

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

1) Prioritize seniors aging in place in rent-controlled units. With my background in social work, I will focus on assisting these types of tenants, providing necessary protections to our most vulnerable.

2) Improve the elevator ordinance. This will ensure that disabled tenants like my son are protected throughout the city - our current ordinance lacks protections for disabled tenants.

3) Ensure housing stability and safety for students and educators.As a veteran educator serving public education, I will work hard to listen to students and educators needs and advocate so that the City of Berkeley can keep our learning communities housed and able to achieve educationally.

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?

As a systems builder, I demonstrate vision and execution through other notable services with various statewide professional service organizations, community- based organizations, and professional training programs. I proudly serve as a six- year

advisory member of the ABMoC (Alliance of Boys and Men of Color), providing subject matter expertise and support for various state legislation. Additionally, I developed a diverse and multi-generational approach to violence intervention and prevention. I served as a representative of alternative schools and a member of the San Francisco Wellness Evaluation Committee, consisting of members from the Department of Human Services, Department of Children, Youth, and their Families, San Francisco Unified School District and the City of San Francisco. Our work led to revising evaluation metrics for our yearly evaluation of programs across 19 high schools to further inform programmatic changes around cultural, linguistic, and diverse populations and engagement to school metrics.

Furthermore, I continue to focus on building the capacity of the system's leaders across the state of California by instituting regional communities of practice support service models which eliminate racism by empowering women, social workers, and individuals of color. As the legislative chair of California Association of School Social Workers, Member of California Association of Latino Administrators, and Board Director of YWCA Contra Costa/Sacramento and Student Representative, USC Rossier School of Education and Student Ambassador, USC Rossier School of Education to represent students' perspectives, interests, and priorities related to forwarding our mission of equity, including priorities related to promoting racial equity and disrupting anti- Blackness in the OCL Program.

I have been recognized for the following from the above-mentioned community service and believe that my current influence both local and across the state will amply the radical change we need to see:

- Latina of Influence, 2021, Hispanic Lifestyle
- Recommendation Biden-Harris Administration, 2020, Congressional Hispanic Caucus
- Certificate of Recognition, 2019, California State Senate and the 22nd Senate District
- Certificate of Recognition, 2019, California Legislature and the 53rd Assembly District
- Spirit of Development Award, 2018, National All Stars Project
- Recognition for Effective Partnerships, 2010, U.S. Department of Education
- "Thank a Teacher", 2010, San Francisco Teachers for Social Justice

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?**

The prohibitive cost-of-living in the Bay Area is a huge factor in the housing affordability crisis. Capitalism is the cause of the affordable housing crisis. Capitalism in Berkeley is demonstrated through Monopoly power, such as two Targets in a 6 block radius where a thrift store used to stand. Private ownership of capital enables developers and other businesses to gain monopoly power in product and labor markets. Capitalism in Berkeley is blatantly ignoring social benefit and is inherent in wealth generating unyielding inequities. Wealth inequalities are manifested in Berkeley; it creates social division. Thus, it diminishes the marginal utility of wealth for all people causing huge gaps in basic human needs like housing. The consequence that I see from capitalism in Berkeley is an impenetrable system of resource scarcity which allows for landowners to maximize profit potential. It is based on the principles of greed and what will make the landowners richer on the backs of the poor. It is profit motive and does not work for the people of Berkeley. The focus is not quality, it is one the profit potential for the area. Simply put, housing is commodified.

As a bi-cultural and bi-lingual women with skills, dispositions, and experiences for over 20 years of service, I have been laser focused in the way I have held systems accountable for educational initiatives focused on practitioners serving health, rehabilitative, and alternative education settings to persist and thrive in the world. I have been very clear and steadfast in serving communities of color, communities of low, very low and medium income. I have spoken up against inequity and see that as a vehicle for change that is non-negotiable. I am a social worker bounded with ethics that focus on unapologetically interrupting systems of racism and oppression of all intersectionality. Through all my service I have remained true and have not wavered for any interest that goes against my values. In fact, last year, I lead a statewide I lead, advise, and spearheaded a portfolio of over 800 educational agencies and member organizations (State Department of Education, County of Education, school districts, regional occupational programs, charter schools, community colleges, CSU/UC institutions) to position the power of data using the Creating Systems Change Framework in tacking education disproportionality gaps in student of color, with disabilities and who speak English as a second language, This instituted 60 page accountability plan was enacted with the following principles; Organization and Problem, Stakeholder Power Epi-Center, Our SMART Goals, Implementation Evaluation Frame and the Accountability Binary.

My excitement about the new public office opportunity stems from this sincere passion

and commitment to positioning system leaders, practitioners, and their teams to build models of care and social justice work that strengthens the human, social, and economic conditions of our most impacted communities. As a visionary leader, I bring a diversified background and legislative expertise coordinating and managing educational, non-profit initiatives. I lead with a future- focused, strategic planning mindset rooted in culturally responsive policies, procedures, and people. The myriad of competencies and effectiveness over my prior roles make me a top contender for your endorsement and are well aligned to the mission and values of the East Bay Democratic Socialist Club.

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

I will be accountable to the cosponsoring organizations from the tenant convection. For all sponsors, I will make calls, knock on doors, support events and other activities where I can represent our work to the community.

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

I believe it is critical to build constituency services in a way that meets the needs of the community directly. For example, calling and reaching out to diverse populations and interest groups and referring them for services.

Recently, I reached out to an elder woman who lived a few blocks away, who is having challenges around habitability. I provided her with information and referral and connected her to the resources of Center for Independent Living.

Additionally, the role enacted effectively would look like both attendance and engagement in representing the rent board at events. It is crucial that I hear from community organizations and assist them in organizing public events that create community solutions.

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

I will reach out to members of my community who I think need to have their voice heard in this process, especially individuals with exceptionalities, the aged, communities of color, and educators and students.

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 attending and participating in the Education Group on Mondays and believe given my status as a student and my work in education I can inform and advance the work happening as a cross sector approach to ensure rent controls and housing equality across Berkeley and across the state.

D. Issues

<u>Environment and Green New Deal</u>

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

Critical to meeting the magnitude and urgency of environment challenges, with an intentional focus on vulnerable populations through workforce development and economic capital. The Green New Deal means that my great grand babies will drink clean water and breath fresh air and not be exposed to the toxins plaguing our low-income communities as seen in the Bayview, SF. This means that children will not have chronic pulmonary disease and asthma and can live active and healthy lives. I was raised in the Bronx and sustained similar environmental conditions and now at 45 years of age, have severe asthma and sustained pneumonia four separate times. First, our communities need to be informed on what the Green New Deal is and why it's important and related to their daily lives. We then need to get the community involved in grassroots movements that support the Green New Deal, canvassing and lobbying for mother earth. Our people need to join movements and amplify their voice around the crucial needs they are faced with. We also need to send letters and call local, state and federal legislators to advocate for Green New Deal policies.

As a rent board commissioner, I will advocate for the vacancy tax which can influence owners of dwelling to rent them at an affordable rate. This will reduce excessive bloat, increase cleaner air, reduce the need to repave road reducing toxins. As a commissioner, I can spearhead a much-needed multifaceted plan to move dwellings to electric appliances.

At the state level, commissioners can speak up about policies that mandate cities to build more market rate housing units, which is not addressing the root issue of capitalism. We can surface the great work Berkeley has accomplished as a way for the state to demonstrate other more effective policies. This will address housing and the environment through for example cutting methane leakage in low-income dwellings of the Housing and Community Development Office.

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

Environmental Justice Standards. I believe we need to broaden data collection and communication methods to detect exposure and disproportionalities across communities of color and in low-income neighborhoods. As mentioned above, increase community engagement, and amplify their voice in this initiative so that needs are told directly from those who are experiencing challenges and harmful impacts.

Job quality standards. Evident in our farmworkers who have to work under rapid time requirements and little protective equipment when applying toxic pesticides to crops. I believe that we need to increase the unionization across jobs and reduce the trend of mid to high wages jobs no longer being accessible to entry level graduates of university with little experience.

51. Should utility monopolies like PG&E be publicly owned? If not, please explain.

Yes

<u>Mass Transit</u>

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?

Public transit is so important for our community to be able to get to work, school, and childcare in an environmentally safe and affordable way.

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?

Shared decision making is critical to ensure transit needs are being met effectively, consistently and affordably. I envision our transit governance to include a Special Committee composed of key leadership in the community, both formal and informal.

The Special Committee supports transit governance to allocate resources and enact priorities that serve transit workers and riders.

- People who will work directly with community/ schools.
- People from schools/unions/non-profits/university student clubs' bodies.
- People who support the delivery of programs and services to community.
- People who have a clear understanding of working people's needs.

It would analyze whether goals of effectiveness, consistency, and affordability are being met so that the transit system reaches its full potential of serving both transit workers and riders.

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.

Yes

<u>Labor</u>

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.**

Yes, while I served as an educator in a large school district, I was an active member of the United Educators of San Francisco and walked several picket lines in my career.

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

I believe labor represents the working people of our city and seeks to advocate and advance working people wages and workplace protections. Labor movements have created a strong group of representation across issues in all sectors. I see labor as a symbol of democracy which liberates people who may not have a voice or are "seen" in political or economic power structures. A organized group which is a force for "the people" that can assure equality, diversity and justice in social, economic, health, educational and housing issues amongst many others.

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?

The following is a list that includes and is not limited to specific strategies and tactics I would implement to support people who are organizing a union or negotiating a

contract in my district:

1. Listening with Social Justice & Racial Equity lens,
2. Advocating appropriately on Policy & Legislation,
3. Supporting measures that see to improved Programs & Services for Vulnerable Populations,
4. Ongoingly Build Stakeholder/Board Relationships,
5. Leverage Compelling Storytelling in Public Speaking and Presentation Platform to advance messaging
6. Resource Development and Networking Utility
7. Campaign Strategy Development

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? If not, please explain.

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.

Yes

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

1) Support candidates who have diversified background (the skills, dispositions and lived experiences) and legislative expertise coordinating and managing educational, non-profit initiatives and a sincere passion and commitment to position the system and therefore its leaders, practitioners, and their teams to build models of care and social justice work that strengthens the human, social, and economic conditions of our most impacted communities.
2) Develop and advocate for regulations that support and uplift educational initiatives and have a cross-sector focus on developing practitioners to better serve the health, rehabilitative, and alternative educational programs so that young people have the environmental settings to persist and thrive in the world. This is seen in a future-focused, strategic planning mindset rooted in building for policies that are culturally responsive for the people served.
3) Lift up local scalable best-practice programs centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion, including training models to cultivate student/youth development service equity conversations, closing the opportunity and skills gaps for vulnerable populations to earn high wages, invest funding to alternative educational programs that serve adults and students in areas that support civic engagement, economic mobility and social and emotional wellness, work closely with local, regional, state, and national government, non-profit, educational, and advocacy coalitions to advance restorative practices and overall prosperity for all people.
4) Develop an Ad Hoc Committee of the Berkeley Rent Board to address vulnerable populations: young people, Latino and African American people, the aged and individuals with exceptionalities. Leveraging Commissioner with evidence in subject matter expertise and support for various local measures and statewide advocacy efforts. As an Ad Hoc committee, we can work to gather information from our local educational agencies, city departments and nonprofits to guide us in setting goals and executing strategies that uplift the vulnerable population's voice.

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 prohibitive cost-of-living in the Bay Area is a huge factor in the housing affordability crisis. Capitalism is the cause of the affordable housing crisis. Capitalism in Berkeley is demonstrated in Monopoly power such as two Targets in 6 block radius where a small thrift store used to stand. Private ownership of capital enables developers and other businesses to gain monopoly power in product and labor markets.

Capitalism in Berkeley is blatantly ignoring social benefit and is inherent in wealth generating greater unyielding inequities. Wealth inequalities are manifested in Berkeley; it creates social division. Thus, it diminishes the marginal utility of wealth for all people causing huge caps in basic human needs like housing. The consequence that I see from capitalism in Berkeley is an impenetrable system of resource scarcity which allows for landowners to maximize profit potential. It is based on the principles of greed and what will make the landowners richer on the backs of the poor. It is profit motive and does not work for the people of Berkeley. The focus is not quality, it is on the profit potential for the area. Simply put, housing is commodified. We need to fill the over 3k vacant dwelling first before building housing over Berkeley precious historic landmarks.

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. As previously mentioned, I support TOPA to allow tenants to more easily purchase their homes.

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?**

Yes

<u>Taxation</u>

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?**

I believe that we must redistribute wealth by taxing the wealthy and using taxes to support services to schools and colleges, community centers and non-profits and community crime prevention programs.