



## Candidate Questionnaire

### 1. General Information

Candidate Name:

**Ben Bartlett**

Office Sought:

**Alameda County Supervisor, District 5**

Proposed Ballot Designation:

(Or Occupation Listing)

**Berkeley City Councilmember, Father**

### 2. Campaign Team

Provide the names, email, and cell phone numbers for your campaign team:

### 3. Elected Office

Do you currently, or have you ever held public office?

**Yes.**

If yes, which public office(s) have you held and when did you do so?

**I am currently serving as the Berkeley Councilmember for District 3. I have held this position for two terms since 2016.**

### 4. Personal and Political Background

Current Occupation:

**Berkeley City Councilmember, District 3**

**Environmental Attorney**

Are you a registered Democrat?

**Yes.**

Have you ever been registered with another political party or selected "Decline to State" or "No Party Preference" for your voter registration party affiliation, and if so, for what period?

**No.**

In less than 250 words, briefly summarize your personal background (work experience, education, community involvement, etc.).

**I am a fifth-generation resident of Alameda County, driven by a commitment to public service and the well-being of our community. After my mother's displacement from her senior home in 2016, I ran for Berkeley City Council, championing impactful legislation that has resulted in the creation of over 1,000 affordable homes, expanded paid family leave, and established a comprehensive wildfire prevention plan. My dedication to community safety led to the implementation of civilian response teams for mental health crises, allowing law enforcement to focus on more serious crimes. Additionally, my leadership secured a \$1,000,000 grant for public safety in the City of Berkeley.**

**As a lifelong Democrat and the nephew of former Congressman Ron Dellums, I actively participate in various Democratic clubs in the East Bay, including the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, the John George Democratic Club, the El Cerrito Democratic Club, and the Berkeley Democratic Caucus. Drawing inspiration from my work as a field director on the Obama Campaign in Minneapolis, I pursued a career as an Environmental Attorney after attending law school at UC San Francisco College of Law (formerly UC Hastings). My goal is to contribute to the rebuilding of Alameda County, creating a safe, inclusive, and equitable community for all.**

What endorsements have you received from organizations and prominent individuals? (You may either use the space below or attach a separate list.)

**Organizations**

**Berkeley Democratic Caucus**

**SEIU Local 1021**

**Berkeley Firefighters Association IAFF Local 1227**

**Sheet Metal Workers Local 104**

**Boilermakers Local 569**

**International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union Local 6**

**Community Leaders**

**Former State Assemblymember and Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris**

**Former State Assembly Speaker and San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown**

**Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin**

**Berkeley Councilmember Sophie Hahn**

**Berkeley Councilmember Mark Humbert**

**Berkeley Councilmember Terry Taplin**

**Berkeley Councilmember Susan Wengraf**

**Former Berkeley Councilmember Kate Harrison**

**Former Berkeley Councilmember Gordon Wozniak**

**Oakland Councilmember Kevin Jenkins**

**Oakland Councilmember Janani Ramachandran**

**Former Oakland Councilmember Loren Taylor**

**Piedmont Councilmember Jennifer Long**

**Berkeley School Board President Ana Vasuedo**

**Berkeley Unified School District Board Member Ka'Dijah Brown**

**Berkeley Unified School District Board Member Jennifer Shanoski,**

**Berkeley Unified School District Board Member Laura Babbitt**

**AC Transit Board President Joel Young**

**Former Alameda County Treasurer Don White**

**Former Alameda County Assistant District Attorney Terry Wiley**

**East Bay Municipal Utility District Board Member April Chan**

**East Bay Municipal Utility District Board Member Doug Linney**

**Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board Member Stefan Elgstrand**

**Former Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board Member James Chang**

**Oakland NAACP President Cynthia Adams**

**Berkeley NAACP President Tajmal Payne**

**Boona Cheema, Past Chair, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Commission**

**Shirley Gee, Oakland community activist**

**Oakland's Jobs and Housing Coalition President and CEO Greg McConnell**

**David Newton of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union**

**Former Supervisor Leslie Katz**

**California Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon (ret.)**

5. Check boxes:

Previously held positions in the 2022 election cycle:

In the 2022 cycle have you:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Have you affirmed to any other organization to boycott or not take trips to Israel from any
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	particular sponsor to learn about Israel or Palestine?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Have you endorsed, supported or opposed any bills as a result of your position, would reduce, withhold or condition aid to Israel?

In the past five years, have you:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	While holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues or the Jewish community? If yes, please specify which kinds in this box below:

6. **Policy Questions**

Please describe your positions on the following issues. Please limit your responses to 250 words for each response. If you wish, one response may include up to 500 words.

1. Please describe your relationship, if any, with the Jewish community in the area you serve as an elected official:

**Having served as a Berkeley Councilmember for over seven years, I have consistently demonstrated my dedication as a trusted leader whom constituents can rely on for guidance. Throughout my tenure, my office has maintained an open-door policy, ensuring I make time to meet with community members and address their concerns within our district. Notably, leaders from the Jewish community have scheduled meetings with my office to discuss safety concerns for their members. In these sessions, I have actively listened and offered my support. My role has allowed me to**

**be an ally for the Jewish community, and I am committed to sustaining and strengthening these relationships as I extend my open-door policy to the County level.**

2. Hate Crimes: Do you see Anti-Semitism as a Hate Crime? How do you propose working on Hate Crimes if you are elected?

**Certainly, Anti-Semitism qualifies as a Hate Crime. In Berkeley, I played a key role in co-sponsoring the resolution that officially recognized racism as a public health crisis due to its immediate threat to our community's safety. This initiative empowers us to organize a series of town hall sessions, engaging all community members, City workers, and small business owners in discussions addressing the concerns of people of color and marginalized communities. Our goal is to formulate strategies and programs, with a particular focus on Mental Health Programs for keeping the unhoused housed, fostering greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity.**

**These sessions aim to enhance anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. I firmly believe that as elected leaders, it is our responsibility to educate the public on critical issues like these. If elected as Supervisor, I will carry these principles to the County level, advocating for measures against Hate Crimes and reinforcing our collective commitment to a more inclusive and compassionate community.**

3. Do you support or oppose efforts to boycott Israel (BDS)? Have you had any discussions with your community about BDS?

**I oppose efforts of selective prosecution; they reek of bias. I have had discussions on this, and at this time, I have made my opposition clear in every public and private forum.**

4. Ethnic Studies Program: Would you support state policies that ensure that Jewish-American lesson plans are included in the Ethnic Studies curriculum? Would you work to change lesson plans that denigrate Jews, Judaism and Israel?

**Absolutely, I am committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful learning environment within the Ethnic Studies Program. I believe it is crucial to incorporate diverse perspectives, including Jewish-American lesson plans, into the curriculum to provide a comprehensive understanding of our nation's rich tapestry. It is my stance that no group, including the Jewish community, should be subject to denigration in educational materials. If elected, I would actively support policies that ensure the inclusion of Jewish-American lesson plans, contributing to a curriculum that promotes cultural understanding and appreciation.**

**Additionally, I am dedicated to addressing and rectifying any lesson plans that perpetuate negative stereotypes or misinformation about Jews, Judaism, or Israel. It is essential to create an educational framework that encourages**

respect, tolerance, and accurate representation. I will work collaboratively to review and revise any materials that may perpetuate bias or harm, ensuring that our educational system reflects the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

5. As a Democrat, what steps can we take to help fight anti-Semitism on both the left and the right?

As a Democrat, addressing anti-Semitism requires a multifaceted approach that transcends political divides. Firstly, fostering education and awareness within the party is crucial. Establishing mandatory training on recognizing and combating anti-Semitism can enhance understanding and sensitivity among members. It is vital to create a space for open dialogue, ensuring that concerns from the Jewish community are heard and addressed.

Secondly, promoting inclusivity in party platforms is essential. Democrats should actively work to include diverse voices, including Jewish perspectives, in policy discussions to ensure a more comprehensive and nuanced approach to issues. By embracing intersectionality and acknowledging the diverse experiences within the Jewish community, we can foster a more inclusive party culture.

Additionally, Democrats should consistently condemn and confront instances of anti-Semitism wherever they arise, whether on the left or the right. Promoting unity against hate should be a shared commitment, transcending political affiliations. Collaborating with Jewish organizations and leaders to develop strategies for combating anti-Semitism can also be instrumental in fostering a more inclusive Democratic Party.

By combining education, inclusivity, and a commitment to denounce anti-Semitism wherever it exists, Democrats can contribute to a political environment that actively combats discrimination and promotes understanding among all its members.

6. What other issues do you think are unique or important to the Jewish and pro-Israel community, and how do you propose to make a difference with these issues and keep in touch with the community?

I firmly believe that combating anti-Semitism remains a top priority. I will advocate for comprehensive educational initiatives to raise awareness about the historical and contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism. Additionally, I will work to ensure that hate crime legislation includes robust protections for religious communities, including the Jewish community.

Affordable and accessible education is another critical concern. I will propose policies that promote religious diversity and cultural understanding within educational curricula. Collaborating with educators and community leaders, I aim to create an inclusive learning environment that reflects the contributions and perspectives of the Jewish and pro-Israel community.

Understanding the issues that are important to our Jewish and pro-Israel community is paramount, and I will continue my all-doors-open model at the County level. By staying attuned to community needs and concerns, I aim to be

**an effective advocate and ally, working collaboratively to address unique challenges and promote a more inclusive and supportive environment.**

Thank you for your time and effort to complete this Questionnaire

Contact information:

Dorene Kastelman

President Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley

