

## EBDSA 2018 Electoral Endorsement Questionnaire

### General

#### **Why do you want East Bay DSA's endorsement?**

It would be honored to be endorsed by the East Bay DSA because the East Bay DSA stands firm in its social justice on issues such as wealth inequality, health care, housing, wages, and climate action. Being endorsed would mean that these are the values that I represent and these are the institutions that plans to hold me accountable for my politico actions.

#### **Are you a democratic socialist? How do you define democratic socialism?**

I believe that I am a democratic socialist because

- 1) I believe in Universal Healthcare
- 2) I believe in Debt Free College
- 3) I believe in a livable wage
- 4) I believe in ending mass incarceration
- 5) I believe in ending the school to prison pipeline
- 6) I believe in ending cash bail
- 7) I believe in LGBTQ equality
- 8) I believe in Women, and a Women's right to full access of her health, reproductive health, and abortion
- 9) I believe in racial equity because it makes us stronger and better
- 10) I believe in funding our vets and rolling back military spending
- 11) I believe in the lifting up the most marginalized in my community
- 12) I believe that our country should be judged based on how we treat our most vulnerable no our most "successful"

#### **If elected, how would you relate to East Bay DSA?**

If elected to the Rent Board, I would be committed to making sure that we continue to stabilize rent, increase the units of stabilize rent, and expand renters rights.

I also plan on using my platform to endorse DSA backed candidates like Jovanka Beckles and Pamela Price

#### **Describe your top priorities and the policy areas that will be of most interest to you if elected.**

Because the scope of the rent board is very limited, I plan to use my role to:

- Increased Renter Protections: Protecting Berkeley tenant through increased legal aid funding and expansion of access for tenants services
- Statewide Advocacy for Tenants: Lobbying California State representatives for statewide renter protection and housing rights
- Coalition Building: Building an inclusive, pro-tenant coalition through community organizing and advocating for pro-tenant policies and candidates

#### **Please describe your plan to win this race. What is your "win number"? How will you get there?**

Win # is about 18,000.

I am running on the Community Power Slate: Soli Alpert, Maria Poblet, Paola Laverde, John Selwasky. We will be helping each other and mobilize voters.

I am a recent graduate of the Victory Institute Fellowship program. I just recently launched the general election part of my campaign. I have hired Jovanka Beckle's 2018 Primary Election consultant, Katherine Welch, and Berkeley Councilmember Cheryl Davila's consultant, Jacie Rowe, to consult my campaign, especially the fundraising part. Our slate (Maria Poblet, Soli Alpert, James Chang, John Selawsky, and Paola Laverde) will be hiring a campaign manager in the near future to run a coordinated campaign.

**If endorsed, what participation would you like to see from East Bay DSA in your campaign?**

Depends on Slate. I believe in coalition politics, if my whole slate gets endorsed, we plan on working with other DSA slate members, like Jovanka to work on our campaign.

Jovanka has already endorsed many of our campaigns. I am personally endorsed by her.

What is your campaign budget, and how much have you raised thus far? What is your average donation size?

I have raised over \$1,000, average donation about \$75.

My election will probably cost \$5,000.

**What is your strategy to continue fundraising?**

Making calls and asking for money

**Do you use public financing?**

I would if I could, my race is not eligible

**Have you ever, during this race, or in a previous electoral race, accepted campaign contributions from a corporation, corporate PAC, or lobbyist? If yes, please explain in detail.**

No

**Is your race partisan? What is your relationship to your political party, if any? Why?**

My race is non-partisan. I am a Democrat, I believe in shift the Democratic Party leftwards. Many times in platform votes on issues, the votes come down 10 to 11; 9 to 10; the Democrat needs a systematic shift, but at the same time is very close to pushing for real change. I have generally supported candidates, especially in party politics, that are insurgents trying to change the party, I hope my record speaks for itself when I say that while I am a Democrat, I am a Democratic Progressive that wants to push the party to be more Democratic Socialist.

**What community organizations are you a part of?**

- a. I was a former steering committee member and a current member of the Berkeley Tenants Union
- b. I am a member of the Berkeley Progressive Alliance
- c. I am a member of Berkeley Citizens Action
- d. I am the Vice President of Finance of the East Bay Young Democrats.
- e. I am the Secretary (former Vice President) of the Stonewall Democratic Club
- f. I am the Northern California Regional Director of the California Young Democrats LGBTQ Caucus.
- g. I was the former Northern California Regional Director for the CDP API Caucus
- h. I was the former Parliamentarian for the CYD API Caucus

**What is your profession? Is a significant portion of your income derived from capital holdings (e.g. investments, property, etc.)**

I am a Legislative Aide to Councilmember Kriss Worthington

I have no capital holdings besides my car that I rent out to make ends meet in this desperate economy.

**Describe your record of public service.**

Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner 2014-Present

Berkeley Tenants Union- Member

Vice President External Affairs/ Board Member- Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC)

Student Trustee- Ventura County Community College District

**Please list other major endorsements.**

Name	Title
Berkeley Tenants Union	
Berkeley Progressive Alliance	
Nancy Skinner	California State Senator
Jesse Arreguin	Berkeley Mayor
Linda Maio	Berkeley City Councilmember
Cheryl Davila	Vice Mayor/ Councilmember District 2
Ben Bartlett	Berkeley City Councilmember
Kate Harrison	Berkeley City Councilmember, District 4
Sophie Hahn	Berkeley City Councilmember, District 5
Kriss Worthington	Berkeley City Council
Ying Lee	Former City Councilmember
Ty Alpert	Berkeley School Board Director
Karen Weinstein	Trustee, Peralta Community College District
Andy Katz	Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Igor Tregub	Rent Board Commissioner; Chair, Zoning Adjustments Board & Housing Advisory Commission, City Council Candidate, District 1
Christina Murphy	Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Jesse Townley	Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Leah Simon-Weisberg	Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
John T Selawsky	Chair, Berkeley Rent Board
Paola Laverde	Vice Chair- Rent Board Commissioner
Maria Poblet	Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner, and 2018 Tenants Convention Endorsed Candidate
Soli Alpert	Executive Vice President, Progressive Student Association, and 2018 Tenant Convention Endorsed Rent Board Candidate

## **Housing**

**Do you support Proposition 10, the Affordable Housing Act?**

Yes

**What are the causes of the housing crisis in California and the Bay Area?**

- Speculation, foreign and domestic
- Lack of government investment, defunding of HUD
- Eviction for profit

**Describe your vision for housing justice. If elected, how will you use your position to advocate for this vision? Please cite any specific policy examples.**

- Expand Renters protect 2.0 like San Francisco. I helped advocate for this legislation through Supervisor Jane Kim's Office
- Repeal Prop 13. Make corporations pay their fair share in property taxes
- Statewide Rent Control with Vacancy Control

## **Healthcare**

**Do you support Medicare for All, and what would such a system entail?**

Yes. Single Payer Healthcare

**If elected, how will you use your position to fight for Medicare for All?**

I would support legislation and help other people who do elected

## **Education**

**What's wrong with the current education system? What reforms would you like to see, and has the contemporary educational reform movement been effective at achieving them?**

- Currently: lack of funding (prop 13)
- Reforms: Make sure public schools are prioritized when it comes to funding (not charter)
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**What is the role of charter schools in your desired education system? Would you support a immediate, statewide moratorium on charter schools in California?**

Yes, but the reality is that charter school parents love charter schools, and unfortunately they have made large strides in taking over places like Los Angeles.

If we can place a statewide moratorium, yes we should.

We should also consider the following alternatives as a package:

- Make charter schools adopt a public boards that people can hold accountable for failures
- Make charter schools accept students and not allow them to pick and chose
- Adopt successful charter school models in public schools, not to continue to fund them. Especially, since charter school contract much of their school expenses to private companies that offers little to no protections
- Close down low performing charter schools and have them be held to the same standards as all other schools. Including employing teachers.

**What role do teachers' unions play in the education system? What role should they play, and what policies would you pursue to achieve this vision?**

I think they should play a critical role in advocating for better treatment of teachers, like Korea and China, where they are considered nation builders.

Policies:

- Statewide minimum salary for teachers
- Ability to easily form Unions and encourage them especially in Charter Schools

## **Anti-Militarism**

**How will you use your office to oppose war and imperialism?**

By saying no to war

**Do you support the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement to oppose the occupation of Palestine?**

I agree that: "The U.S. must have a just approach to the Palestinian and Israeli conflict; one that supports Israel's right to exist and that denounces human rights abuses and crimes against humanity committed by the state of Israel against the Palestinian people. - Our Revolution East Bay"

The United States should be an agent of peace in the Israel Palestine conflict. We should work towards a future where both Israelis and Palestinians can each have their own free and independent state.

## **Police & Prisons**

**How will you use your office to fight against police brutality and other forms of state violence?**

I believe that bad police officers, like politicians, like doctors, like construction workers, like any job, should be fired.

I will not support state violence especially against peaceful protests, including the initial occupy movement

**What policies do you support to reduce and end mass incarceration?**

End cash bail. Support a more just, well resourced, restorative, and rehabilitative form of sentencing.

**The Environment**

**What's your ideal timetable for phasing out fossil fuel production and consumption including coal, oil and natural gas?**

2040. I made up that number, but that seems reasonable. Keep in mind, Germany made their decisions about its current energy consumptions in the 90s, so we have to plan ahead now if we even want to reach that goal.

**Please describe your vision for combating climate change, both globally and locally. How will you use your office to fight climate change?**

Globally: continue to stand with the global community and recognize and realize that climate change is real, and the lack of fight on climate change will only cause more harm to everybody.

Locally: promote less use of cars, ban plastics, building housing around transit

**Immigration**

**How will you use your office to fight against deportations and other attacks on immigrant communities?**

As an immigrant, first generation immigrant, I will use my elected roles to pass legislation and to not be afraid to get arrested in standing with immigrant communities

**How would you use your office to strengthen the rights of immigrants and their access to public services and quality of life?**

Pass and pressure legislation to make sure they have access. Like the CA Dream Act

**Anti-Racism**

**How would you use your office to strengthen the rights of people of color and their access to public services and quality of life?**

By holding our institutions we oversee to recognize institutional racism and not be afraid to talk about it

**How would you fight against the criminalization of people of color?**

By supporting decriminalization of drug use, petty crimes and support policies that ends mass incarceration and the school to prison pipeline.

**Taxation**

**How do you propose to change our budget and tax structure (on the federal, state, or municipal level) to better fund public services?**

We need a progressive tax and treat capital gains taxes like income

**Labor Movement**

**Are you a member of a union? Have you ever been? Please provide specifics and describe and leadership roles you have played.**

No, but I have benefited in getting a raise as a non-exempt employee because of Unions, so I 120% support them and will get arrested with them.

**What is the role of the labor movement in achieving your policy priorities?**

They are the ones who selflessly fought for \$15 even for their non-union members. Any economic issue, bread and butter issues should be built on working people and union solidarity

**What specific labor or workers rights policies will you pursue?**

Make it easier for workers to unionize