

How would you use the platform of this elected office to advance gender equity?

**Working to make the bus more reliable, affordable and equitable is advancing gender equity.** Women often take responsibility for transporting children, caring for elders, and running household errands, making them more likely to make multiple trips per day, and not necessarily at “peak” travel time when buses run more frequently. Low income riders, who are more likely to pay with cash, can’t always take advantage of the daily fare cap or afford to pay the high upfront cost of a monthly pass, and ironically end up paying more. When riders transfer to other transit agencies, like BART, they pay yet again. I will work on expanding discounts for low income riders and I will push for fare integration, scheduling coordination, and greater collaboration between transit agencies.

I also imagine there are ways to improve the experience of women who work as bus operators and staff at AC Transit. I will work with labor unions, workers and staff to improve the experience of AC Transit employees of all genders.

How will you work to end discrimination based on age, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, socioeconomic status, and disability?

It’s not an exaggeration to say we are in a health crisis, a housing crisis, a climate crisis, an economic crisis, and a racial justice crisis. **Transportation intersects all of them.** A seamless public transportation network that is **fast, frequent, affordable, safe, and easy to use** is an important step towards achieving racial, economic, social and environmental justice.

What do you think are the top 5 issues that impact women that are relevant to the elected office you are seeking? (Please rank in order of priority)

- 1) **Rider experience.** We need to improve basic rider amenities like real-time arrival displays, benches, shade, lighting/safety, and maps at bus stops. I will also work to improve AC Transit’s communications with riders.

- 2) **Bus reliability.** We need to expand bus rapid transit, bus lanes, and transit prioritization so the bus moves fast, doesn't get stuck in traffic, and arrives on time. We also need to expand rear door boarding to speed boarding times and reduce delays.
- 3) **Service and scheduling.** If service adjustments are needed due to budget shortfalls, I will work to ensure reliable service in low income neighborhoods with low car ownership and a high transit dependency. I will work to coordinate schedules with other transit agencies and increase secure bike and scooter parking at transit hubs so people have options for their “first and last” mile connection to transit.
- 4) **Fare integration.** I will push for integrated fares to avoid overcharging when riders transfer to other transit agencies. I also support expanding discounted fares for youth and low income riders.

What have you done to mentor women? \*

I've hired, managed and mentored many young women throughout my career. I've tried to lead by example and show that a woman can be confident, have her own style, be bold, and effective.

What is the gender breakdown of your campaign staff/volunteers?

I have an even mix of men and women on my team; I'm also working with trans individuals.

If you are currently in public office, please provide examples of votes that you have taken or positions promoted which supported women's gender equality and/or reproductive health.

N/A

How many volunteers are on a part of your campaign?

I currently have 25 volunteers helping with my campaign.

Please paste here your biography (up to 500 **words**).

I'm a transit and bike rider. I've spent decades doing community relations, advocating for the public and helping resolve issues and find solutions. I'm an active member of East Bay Transit Riders, Transbay Coalition, Bike East Bay and Walk Oakland Bike Oakland. In my work to expand bike and scooter share I've built relationships with Bay Area community groups, city staff, and elected officials. I hold a Masters in Urban Planning at MIT, served in the Peace Corps, and am fluent in Spanish. I'm President of the Longfellow Community Association.

Please use the space below to provide any additional information to complete your questionnaire.

I bring new energy and a fresh perspective at a critical time when we can't go back to the status quo. I will work every day to make AC Transit more equitable for low income riders, seniors, people with disabilities and our most vulnerable residents who rely on it. I will coordinate with other agencies and micro-mobility providers to create a seamless transportation experience for everyone.

I'm proud to have the endorsement of the Sierra Club, AFSCME, East Bay Young Dems, Berkeley Mayor Arreguin; Oakland School Board President, Jody London; Emeryville Councilmembers Bauters, Medina, and Martinez; and more.

Your answer

Without an in-person Endorsement Meeting, EBWPA will be hosting a video gallery of all candidates for members to access in order to inform their endorsement vote. For the

video, please answer the following **2 questions in 4 minutes total** (please include closed captioning). Longer videos will be cut at the 4 minute mark.

Questions:

1) How will you work to end discrimination based on age, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, socioeconomic status, and disability?

2) How would you use the platform of this elected office to advance gender equity?

Hi, I'm Jean Walsh and I'm running for AC Transit Director because I believe public transportation should be **fast, frequent, reliable, affordable, equitable, and easy-to-use**. We are confronting a climate emergency and getting us out of our cars and onto more sustainable modes of transportation is critical to ensuring clean air, equitable communities, and a sustainable future. We need to improve transit for dependent riders, and we need to attract new riders.

It's not an exaggeration to say we are in a health crisis, a housing crisis, a climate crisis, an economic crisis, and a racial justice crisis. **Transportation intersects all of them**. A seamless public transportation network that is **fast, frequent, affordable, safe, and easy to use** is an important step towards achieving racial, economic, social and environmental justice and advancing gender equity.

Women often take responsibility for transporting children and running household errands, making them more likely to make multiple trips per day, and not necessarily at "peak" travel time when buses run more frequently. Low income riders, who are more likely to pay with cash, can't always take advantage of the daily fare cap or afford to pay the high upfront cost of a monthly pass, and ironically end up paying more. When riders transfer to other transit agencies, like BART, they pay yet again. I will work on expanding discounts for low income riders and I will push for fare integration, scheduling

coordination, and greater collaboration between transit agencies. I will coordinate with other agencies and micro-mobility providers to create a seamless transportation experience for everyone.

I also imagine there are ways to improve the experience of women who work as bus operators and staff at AC Transit. I will work with labor unions, workers and staff to improve the experience of AC Transit employees of all genders.

**(Why me?)**

I get around on the bus, BART, and my bike; I haven't owned a car for 16 years. I've spent my career doing public outreach and community relations for nonprofits, City agencies, and sustainable transportation services. I hold a Masters in Urban Planning from MIT, I served in the Peace Corps, and I'm fluent in Spanish. I'm also a transportation advocate with Bike East Bay, Walk Oakland Bike Oakland, and the East Bay Transit Riders. I'm President of my neighborhood group, the Longfellow Community Association.

I bring **new energy and a fresh perspective** at a critical time when we can't go back to the status quo. I will work every day to make AC Transit more equitable for low income riders, seniors, people with disabilities and our most vulnerable residents who rely on it.

I'm proud to have the **endorsement** of the Sierra Club, AFSCME, East Bay Young Dems, Berkeley Mayor Arreguin, Emeryville Councilmembers Bauters, Medina, and Martinez, and more.

I would be honored to receive an endorsement from the East Bay Women's Political Alliance.

\*Note: If you have any trouble uploading your video, reach out to [ebwpaendorsements@gmail.com](mailto:ebwpaendorsements@gmail.com). \*