

## EBYD Questionnaire for Democratic Central Committee Candidates

Please limit responses to each question to no more than 200 words.

Name: \_\_\_\_ Kathy Neal \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_ Oakland \_\_\_\_\_

AD District: \_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member or honorary member of EBYD? \_\_No\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your professional, volunteer, and public service history (profession, clubs, organizations, affiliations, etc.)

1. Identify a moment you stood up for young people in our region.

*I wholeheartedly believe that those of us who have political experience should seek out and mentor young people who have similar interests. I have mentored then young adults including Aisha Knowles and Marlon Mc Wilson, now elected members of the Alameda County Board of Education. As the former 16<sup>th</sup> AD vice chair and current 15<sup>th</sup> AD vice chair, of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, I have a commitment to including more young people in official party positions. My Committee Alternates, who are empowered to act in my absence, have been young adults who I have sought out. I also assured that other young Dems were appointed as Alternates by other ACDCC 15<sup>th</sup> AD caucus members.*

2. What are your top three priorities for the Central Committee if you are elected as a delegate?

*1. Greater inclusion of young Democrats. This is a continuing desire that I have repeatedly expressed and acted on for years. I believe this requires assuring that the Party is and increasingly becomes more relevant to current issues and that we act on and promote our actions relative to these issues.*

*2. Increasing diverse representation on and involvement in the Democratic Party that includes increased local party involvement and voter registration. I have supported this by seeking out and recruiting more young Dems to be ACDCC Alternates and Associates to get them into the pipeline, and doing voter registration for new citizens immediately after they are sworn in.*

*3. Recruiting good Democratic candidates to run for office and preparing them for success. I have chaired the ACDCC Committee responsible for candidate education and created our "So You Think You Want to Run" program out of a need I saw to inform prospective candidates on how to prepare to run and what to realistically expect when campaigning.*

3. If you had to identify one policy goal that you think the state legislature and governor can achieve by 2020, what is it and how can our region and regional party help?

*I have several such goals that I consider critical including protecting and improving our public education system, from pre kindergarten through college, for all students irrespective of ability to pay; equal access to health care irrespective of ability to pay and growth and protection of good jobs at liveable wages. But, difficult as it may be, if I had to choose a most immediate goal it would be passing and implementing aggressive environmental protection requirements and a broad base of programs, because if we don't solve the global warming challenge the potential impacts on millions (perhaps billions) of people could be devastating and irreversible.*

4. What does Black Lives Matter mean to you and what lessons can we learn from this movement in our region?

*While many people wanted to believe that in this country racism was dead – or almost gone – because we elected a Black President, many of us knew that such was definitely not the case. As a Black person, I am angered every time one of us, mostly our young men, is wantonly murdered by the authorities. The Black Lives Matters movement has positively, visible, vocally and effectively serves to remind people that we are all still impacted by this country's historical racist roots. We like to believe that the Bay Area is more progressive than most, and in many regards we are. However, we continue to learn that racism still exists here and Black Lives Matters keeps this issue at our forefront .*

For the following, **please rank your support on a 1-5 scale** (1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support). You can provide additional optional commentary on the issues if you like.

- Fight for \$15 minimum wage: **5**
- Reproductive health care access regardless of income: **5**
- Rent control: **5**
- Affordable housing set asides (e.g. Affordable Housing Mitigation Fee, inclusionary housing, etc.): **5**
- Sanctuary cities: **5**
- Full LGBT equality: **5**
- Collective bargaining rights for all workers: **5**
- Cannabis legalization: **5**
- Guaranteed paid sick leave: **5**
- Free community college: **5** *(I was a member of the California community College Board of Governors when then Governor Deukmejian imposed tuition on community college students. Although the entire Board membership was composed of Jerry Brown appointees, Only one other board member, the student representative and myself vocally and vehemently opposed this action. The other members rolled over to support).*