

Abel Guillén

Oakland City Council | District 2

5111 Telegraph Ave. #312 | Oakland, CA 94609

510-205-9307 | abelforoakland@gmail.com | voteabelguillen.com

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? Since when? **NO**

Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? **Two spirit**

PART 1: Short-Answer Questionnaire (Please limit responses to 5 sentences or 150 words)

1) Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek. Include any key endorsements you'd like to share plus anything else that you would like our Members to know about you and your candidacy.

1A. I've served as an elected official for the past 12 years, and know how to build coalitions and work with partners to get things done. An experienced finance professional, I've also worked as vice president of a school-finance firm, raising more than \$3 billion for public schools and community colleges statewide. I chair the Council's Finance Committee, overseeing a \$1.3 billion budget. I authored the \$600 million affordable housing and infrastructure bond measure to slow displacement and rebuild our streets and public facilities.

I want to continue my leadership for the construction, rehabilitation and protection of more affordable housing in District 2 and throughout Oakland, an expanded range of stronger protections for tenants and the implementation of infrastructure improvements, including fixing streets, sidewalks, sewers, and public parks and facilities, while fostering local economic growth and living-wage jobs. I want to continue fighting for clean, safe neighborhoods and equitable, inclusive and diverse communities.

1B. ENDORSEMENTS (partial list)

Organizations: Building Construction and Trades Council, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 595, LiUNA!, Laborers, Local 304, Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, Oakland Firefighters Local 55, Sheet Metal Workers, Local 104, Teamsters Local 70, UNITE HERE Local 2850, United Association Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342, East Bay Animal PAC, Oakland Builders Alliance and Comite Civico Patriotico Mexicano Alameda County, Oakland Builders Alliance, Latino Task Force, East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, League of Conservation Voters of the East Bay

State and regional officials: Controller Betty Yee, Senator Kevin De Leon, Assemblymembers Rob Bonta and Tony Thurmond, BART Director Rebecca Saltzman, California Democratic Party Vice Chair Ces Rosales, Alameda County Board of Education Director Joaquin Rivera, Alameda County Supervisors Wilma Chan and Keith Carson

I also enjoy the support of LGBT leaders like Joe Hawkins, Jeffrey Meyers, Mayor Gabe Quinto, Andy Kelley, Hon. Lori Dorste, George Perezvelez, former District 2 Councilmember Danny Wan and Tiffany Woods, Michael Colbruno and dozens more.

For a full list of early endorsers, including residents by District 2 neighborhoods: www.voteabelguillen.com/endorsements

2) What are your plans to address housing affordability and economic inequality in the region you wish to represent? What have you done to address this crisis, if anything?

To provide more housing for all income levels that also improves the regional jobs-housing balance, I've supported increasing the number of both market-rate and affordable units.

The Housing Element has identified 221 opportunity sites for 24,000 new housing units – along transit corridors. A longtime proponent of TOD to build higher-density, infill housing and strengthen transportation alternatives, I've also pursued funding and implementation of a complete-streets approach combined with impact fees and inclusionary rules to help fold a greater number of affordable units into market-rate development projects.

I've had success in getting developers in my district to provide affordable housing as part of several Community Benefits Agreements (2,000+ total units).

I've encouraged legislation to foster more second units, especially near transit hubs and walkable to neighborhood shops. Oakland has 20,000 vacant and underutilized lots, so I'm pushing for Measure W that I coauthored (the vacant parcel tax) to encourage/underwrite construction of affordable housing and securing funding for homeless services for our unsheltered.

3) The anti-black racial biases of both the police and the criminal justice system are well documented. What are the most important actions that you can take in your office to stabilize and support the African American community against these threats?

I was proud to support legislation in support of the Oakland Police Oversight Commission. I also support a future ballot measure to secure the independence for the commission from the City Attorney's office.

4) What would you describe as your most important actions or plans to support the LGBTQ community?

Among my most significant accomplishments as Councilmember is securing more than \$200,000 to address human trafficking and homeless youth who are disproportionately LGBTQ teens. We must continue to provide funding for housing for this vulnerable population.

I have also been an active supporter financially and recognizing the work of the formation of Oakland's LGBT Center. I am proud to be endorsed by center founders Joe Hawkins and Jeffrey Meyers and look forward to looking at securing additional funds through government resources to sustain the center's vital community work.

I have been a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club since 2012. I have also been a member of the Human Rights Campaign, founding donor of the Oakland LGBT Community Center (recently opened in my district – the first in the East Bay) and HonorPAC member.

I'm also proud to have LGBT high-school interns work in my office as well as appoint youth commissioners.

PART 2: YES-NO QUESTIONS

1. Are you registered to vote as a Democrat? **YES**

2. Have you ever run for elected office before? **YES**

3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who?

Lew-Edwards Group (use mobile/email contact above)

4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past? **No. Up until recently, I was unaware that the Club made endorsements in the East Bay.**

5. Do you support public funding for employment development specifically for transgender individuals? **YES**

6. Do you support expanding LGBTQ curriculum in our public schools? **YES. I served on the state's curriculum committee on social studies to ensure that queer and Latino voices were included in updated textbooks.**

7. Do you support the expansion of rent control for buildings constructed after 1979?

YES, and I also voted at the July 24 Council meeting to place a measure of the November 2018 ballot to extend just-cause eviction protections to tenants in 2- and 3-unit owner-occupied buildings.

8. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer or agent in the eviction of a tenant? If so, please explain at the end of the questionnaire. **NO**

9. Do you support requiring Short Term Rental platforms (e.g. AirBnB, VRBO) to publish registration numbers for properly registered short-term rentals on their respective websites; handing over booking data to the Planning Department; and increasing funding for enforcement capacity?

YES. I have you supported this and the Council will be considering regulations.

12. Do you support the statewide ballot initiative Prop 10 to repeal Costa-Hawkins?

YES, I support the repeal of Costa Hawkins because it will give Oakland the opportunity to make choices about adjusting our city's rent-stabilization measures. We should be able to decide what

works best for our community – and not have those choices restricted by outside interests.

If Costa-Hawkins is repealed, we can move to quickly extend rent stabilization and eviction protections to more Oakland tenants. In addition to swift Council action, I would want voter approval for the more sweeping adjustments to ensure that these protections are permanent, and not subject to the whim of future Councils.

13. Do you support Sanctuary City? **YES**

14. Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes? **YES**

15. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to School Board? **YES**

16. Do you support expanding funding for immigrant defense services? **YES**

[questionnaire form doesn't have any questions #17-19]

20. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection sites? **YES**

21. Did you support allowing localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 AM?

YES

22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?

YES, while strengthening protections of children exploited by sex traffickers. I have worked hard to implement other programs to help take care of and provide safe, alternative housing and support services for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC). In the 2017-19 budget, I allocated \$200,000 for housing grants to assist housing-insecure and homeless victims; and added \$25,000 for prevention education for Oakland Unified School District youth as part of the 2018 mid-cycle budget amendments. I allocated \$50,000 in the mid-cycle budget adjustment for diversion programs for both johns and sellers to help with public health alternatives.

23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain below.

NO, and I speak out in support of unions and have walked the picket with union members.

24. Do you support efforts to allow employees of Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services to unionize? **YES**

25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?

YES, I supported and voted to put the new police oversight commission on the ballot. As the Chair of the Finance Committee, also fought for funding to enable the commission to fulfill its responsibilities.

26. Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?

YES, but only under strict protocols approved by the Council/police commission that call for their rare use after de-escalation procedures have been exhausted and the life and safety of officers are threatened, and as an alternative to the use of deadly force.

27. Do you support the death penalty? **NO**

28. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections? **YES.**

29. Do you support Common Core education standards? **NO, but would defer to the Oakland Education Association on this matter.**

30. Do you support teacher training to implement alternatives to suspension in instances of disruption or willful defiance? **YES**

31. Do you ride public transit on a regular basis? More than once a week? **YES**

32. Do you support community choice aggregation? **YES**

33. Do you support expanding free access to public transit for seniors and disabled persons?

YES (in theory, and certainly substantial discounts for seniors, youth and people with disabilities, as financially feasible for transit agencies)

34. Do you support requiring ridesharing companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft) to provide trip data to local government order to operate in your locality?

YES, in a manner that protects individual privacy.