

Richmond Progressive Alliance Platform 2019

VALUE STATEMENT

The Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA) believes that government at all levels should put people first. We aggressively address the institutional injustices in our society and fight for policies that advance and benefit the people in our communities. We work with allies to further expand progressive influences. We are influenced by the needs and interests of these allied organizations and share their similar goals.

We recognize that the resources and power to make many necessary changes are at the county, state, and national levels. We work with identified allied organizations to make changes at these levels, even while our attention remains focused on local efforts.

We believe that all levels of government should directly represent the interests of working people and not the interests of corporations. We mobilize support for and advance policies that serve working people. We understand that the corporate control of our government has institutionalized injustice in our society.

The RPA will not accept money from corporations or corporate controlled foundations. Candidates endorsed by the RPA will not accept campaign contributions from corporations or businesses. The RPA endorsed candidates will conduct City business without benefitting themselves or their families financially.

We defend The Commons, that which belongs to all of us and which we *should* hold in trust for the benefit of all: the Bay, the Oceans, the land, human inhabited and wild, the shores, the wild life and resources we hold and share in common, such as commercial fish stocks and fresh water sources. Included in The Commons are our libraries, our public schools, our public spaces, our parks, our creative and cultural works, including music, science, languages and artifacts from previously existing cultures, as well as preserving the histories that carried us as a species to where we are today-the good and the bad.

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A. Social Justice and Responsible Governance

We stand together to fight against all societal injustices, both local and global.

1. We promote citizen engagement.
2. We promote open and transparent government with public discussion and input.
3. We believe that information and decisions must be made available to and easily accessible by the public.
4. We work to remove the power of corporations from politics through legislation and through reform of election procedures.

B. Protecting Our Environment and Commons

We protect our environment. We work with local environmental justice groups to support Clean and Renewable Energy and tackle pollution and related issues while holding polluters accountable. We work to achieve resilience and sustainability for our communities and to create economic opportunities for our communities.

1. We work within the framework of a Climate Change and Climate Disruption Analysis. We must prepare Richmond as a front-line, vulnerable community susceptible to sea level rise and shore-line impact.
2. We recognize the need to prepare our community for catastrophic climate change, and to create responses to mitigate and adapt.
3. We support Sustainable Business Development and Green Jobs, to aid in building a resilient infrastructure.
4. We oppose any type of local expansion of polluting industries; from the Chevron refinery to Coal Trains.
5. We support the expansion of open spaces and the Bay Trail.
6. We support access to safe and nutritious food that is produced locally.

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C. Economic Justice & Development without Displacement

RPA's vision for Socioeconomic development includes Just Transition for Richmond. We work for both a healthy economy and a clean environment that co-exist. This includes a non-extractive economy that is regenerative; one where people are in control of the decisions that affect their daily lives; from where they work to how they collectively manage resources. We believe steps to accomplish such a transition include the people being at the forefront of the policies that affect our economy.

1. We support small businesses and worker owned cooperatives.
2. We advocate and organize for work that provides a living wage and decent benefits.
3. We support employment that is healthy, family and environmentally friendly; we believe this is a prerequisite to the stabilization of our community.
4. We support economic and gender equity
5. We support the City Employees and their union to receive the Contracts they deserve; we support unions as the most important institution for working people to have a real voice and power in the current economic system and supports legislation that increases union power and the ability of unions to organize.
6. We organize to have local corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

D. Health Care is a Human Right:

We believe healthcare is a fundamental human right, not a privilege of the wealthy. Nobody should be denied quality health care for the inability to pay.

1. We support a local full-service hospital to serve the people of Richmond.
2. We support Health Care for All, which is also known as Single Payer and Medicare For All. (Expand the existing, successful and popular Medicare system to cover everyone for everything.) We support a health policy which removes the power of private insurance, pharmaceutical corporations and for-profit hospitals to ration healthcare by making healthcare decisions based on needs not their greed.

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E. Education is a Human Right: Our Youth are our Future

We support public education and seek policies to improve public education.

1. We recognize the crisis in public education is the result of a corporate campaign to privatize the commons and underfund public programs.
2. We oppose the use of public education funds to support Charter Schools. We work to stop the expansion of charter schools in the district and we advocate increased governmental and public oversight of the existing ones.
3. We support affordable college and vocational training, as well as lifelong education.
4. We respect our local families and their rights to act in the best interests of their children in ways that do not disadvantage other students.
5. We advocate for play lots in areas which lack safe places for children to play outdoors and we support community recreation spaces for sports fields.

F. Housing and Homelessness

We believe that housing is a human right and no one should be without housing. We believe that too many of our Richmond poor people are sleeping on the and this failure to house people must be rectified.

1. We support affordable, low income, and very-low income housing development and in-fill housing.
2. We support Rent Control and Just Cause for Eviction to stabilize communities and a rent board to support renters.
3. We oppose mega-developments on the shoreline. We support keeping the shorelines as open spaces for the public and as a buffer to absorb the inevitable sea level rise we face. We support innovation to end homelessness and foreclosures.
4. We recognize that social workers, health care workers and appropriate infrastructure are layered solutions to homelessness requiring investment.

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G. Public Safety Without Mass Incarceration

We have a vision of Public Safety that is not solely focused on policing.

1. We recognize that the criminal justice system is built on institutionalized racism, with extreme bias benefiting the upper class in society.
2. We support community policing.
3. We support strong citizen control and review of police actions, including reforming police use of deadly force and an empowered Civilian Police Review Commission to support the review process.
4. We support measures to reduce gun and gang violence.
5. We recognize that to reduce crime requires investment in our community. The investment includes employment, education and health care.
6. We support re-entry efforts and programs.
7. We support Bail Reform.

H. Protecting Immigrant Rights and Solidarity with Immigrants for their Rights

We recognize the historical US policies that drive immigration. US foreign policy acts on behalf of multinational corporations, whose greed driven actions enslave many communities which when they stand to resist, are subject to US led campaigns which, along with the economic devastation, incite immigration.

1. We support immigrant rights as human rights and oppose scapegoating of migrants.
2. We call for the elimination of ICE.
3. We support our status as a Sanctuary City.

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I. We are One Human Family

We believe in racial equality and we respect diversity. We recognize that Black people have suffered immensely due to racism.

1. We advocate for the unity of all peoples to ensure our common needs.
2. We defend the equal rights of people without regard of color, sex, age, diversity of cultural backgrounds, sexual orientation and physical abilities.
3. We advocate and work for an end to institutionalized oppression and for equality of opportunity in participation in civic, economic and political life of those who have been historically excluded.
4. We criticize patriarchy. We believe sexism hurts everyone and we recognize the systemic super-exploitation of women systemically.
5. We call for an end to LGBTQ discrimination.
6. We call for an end to racial discrimination and we believe that conversations to resolve reparations are necessary.
7. We call for an end to class discrimination.
8. We insist that women must have control over their bodies and must never be treated as secondhand citizens in our organization and in our city.