

# EL CERRITO DEMOCRATIC CLUB

## AD15 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for being a part of the El Cerrito Democratic Club endorsement process. Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses to the questionnaire will be shared with our general membership prior to the candidate forum at **Harding Elementary School auditorium on February 27, 2018**. Please complete this questionnaire electronically, print and sign the first page, scan and return signed page and a PDF by email to [ECDC\\_Pres@gmail.com](mailto:ECDC_Pres@gmail.com) prior to 5PM on Friday February 2, 2018.

### Candidate Information

Candidate Name: [Judy Appel](#)  
Occupation: [Senior Grants Manager](#)  
Employer: [James Ford Foundation](#)  
Campaign Address: [1805 Stuart Street, Berkeley CA](#)  
Campaign Phone: [510-499-4303](#)  
Campaign Email: [Judy@JudyAppel.com](mailto:Judy@JudyAppel.com)  
Campaign Committee Name: [Neighbors for Judy Appel for Assembly](#)  
Campaign Committee Number: [FPPC# 1397430](#)  
Elected offices currently held: [Berkeley Unified School Board Trustee](#)  
Elected offices previously held: [Berkeley Unified School Board Trustee](#)  
Other campaigns for elected office: [Berkeley Unified School Board Trustee, 2012 and 2016](#)  
Appointed offices currently or previously held: [N/A](#)  
When did you become a registered AD-15 Democrat:     
Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform? [Yes](#)       



2/2/18

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Signature

Date

### Yes and No Questions; If 'Yes', please name them:

Are you accepting campaign funds from any PACs or SuperPACs? [Yes, small contributor PACs through labor](#)

Are you accepting campaign funds from Unions? [Yes](#)

Are you accepting campaign funds from large oil corporations? [No](#)

Are you accepting campaign funds from large pharmaceutical corporations? [No](#)

Are you accepting campaign funds from natural resource extraction companies? [No](#)

Are you accepting campaign funds from charter school advocates? [No](#)

Are you accepting campaign funds from construction companies?

No

**Policy Statements**

	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>15 word (or less) statement</b>
<b>Business and Economy</b>				
1. The rights of all employees to organize and strike			<b>X</b>	I will always support the rights of employees to organize and strike
2. Privatizing essential governmental services and outsourcing public sector jobs	<b>X</b>			Have opposed privatization of public sector jobs on the School Board.
3. Implementation of tax policies that provide a higher degree of equity, including a fair-self-employment tax rate to support small businesses			<b>X</b>	I support this, especially the closing of loopholes like Prop 13. Corporations must pay their fair share.
4. Financial institutions for recreational marijuana industry			<b>X</b>	I support the development of public banking institutions.
5. Split property tax roles for businesses			<b>X</b>	I support repealing Prop 13 to do just that.
<b>Children, Young Adults, and their Families</b>				
6. Comprehensive immunization services			<b>X</b>	Yes, this service must be available for all children and youth
<b>Civil Justice</b>				
7. The right of people to join together in class action lawsuits			<b>X</b>	As an attorney who has represented communities in class action lawsuits, I very much support this
8. Funding for the Courts			<b>X</b>	
<b>Communications and the Internet</b>				
9. Build-out of high speed wired and wireless networks			<b>X</b>	High speed wireless networks should definitely be built out and available for all communities
10. Online access for everyone to all legal content and data services			<b>X</b>	
<b>Criminal Justice</b>				
11. Drug addiction treatments located in the community			<b>X</b>	
12. Capital Punishment	<b>X</b>			I am against capital punishment. My wife represents men and women on death row.
13. Marijuana regulation and taxation with respect to California's health and safety			<b>X</b>	I'm a long time advocate for cannabis legalization, including running Measure M in Oakland in 1994.
14. Increasing pay and benefits for law enforcement officers		<b>See note</b>		I believe that organized law enforcement should be trained and compensated fairly.

15. Body worn cameras			<b>X</b>	I absolutely support body cameras to ensure that all sides are held accountable.
16. Overcrowded prison populations	<b>X</b>			Expanding the West County Detention Facility is not the solution, we must reform our criminal justice system.
17. Gun control legislation to keep guns out of the hands of the people with mental illness and of persons identified as dangerous to society			<b>X</b>	This should be a starting point for ending gun violence.
18. Restorative Justice Programs			<b>X</b>	Absolutely support and is one of the programs I brought to BUSD as Trustee
<b>Death with Dignity</b>				
19. Death with dignity			<b>X</b>	
<b>Education</b>				
20. Access to free world-class K-12 Public Education			<b>X</b>	I absolutely support a free and quality educational system.
21. Teacher retirement plans should be funded by all students	<b>X (see note)</b>			I am a little unclear what you mean by this. I support public pensions and believe they should be paid for by the state and local entities.
22. Charter schools teaching more than 20% of a District's student body	<b>X</b>			I 100% support public education, not charter schools.
23. Free Community Colleges			<b>X</b>	Yes, something I plan to champion in the legislature
24. Restorative policies and practices			<b>X</b>	Yes, and something I will continue to champion in the legislature.
25. Curricula development by teachers			<b>X</b>	
26. Parents should be able to choose where their children are educated		<b>See note</b>		This question is unclear. I oppose vouchers and the growth of charter schools. Some districts have lottery systems within the public schools so that parents can state their preferences, and I support this, especially when coupled with desegregation measures such as in Berkeley.
<b>Energy and Environment</b>				
27. Fracking	<b>X</b>			I absolutely support a ban on fracking.
28. Transportation of fracking oil, tar (oil sand oils and other hazardous materials on the county's rail corridors	<b>X</b>			I support a ban on the transportation of these materials
29. Statewide plastic bag ban should include micro-beads and micro-fibers			<b>X</b>	Yes, I support the plastic bag ban and ban of other resources that threaten the environment

30. Fossil fuel extraction tax			<b>X</b>	Yes, on existing facilities to help reduce dependence. No new facilities should be built to extract fossil fuels that harm our environment.
31. Utility pricing should change to promote resource conservation and public good			<b>X</b>	
32. Community Choice Aggregation			<b>X</b>	100% support
33. Increased reliance on the electricity grid for industry, residential and transportation uses			<b>X</b>	We must reduce GHG emissions, which can only happen if we utilize electricity rather than gas-powered appliances and vehicles
34. Twin Tunnels are good for the Bay-Delta ecosystem		<b>X</b>		
<b>Equality of Opportunity</b>				
35. Affirmative action			<b>X</b>	
36. Full equality for LGBT individuals, including marriage			<b>X</b>	Yes. I have spent over a decade of my career working for equality for LGBTQ families and marriage equality
37. Pay inequities	<b>X</b>			
<b>Health Care</b>				
38. Universal comprehensive health care for all Californians			<b>X</b>	I support Medicare for All
39. Respite care and in-home support services and associated home care workers			<b>X</b>	Caregivers like these gave my sister the dignity and freedom of living alone at the end of her life. I am forever grateful.
40. Holistic healing practices and alternative medicines			<b>X</b>	
41. California should lead the nation in funding opioid addiction treatment research			<b>X (with a caveat)</b>	The opioid epidemic is serious and is impacting many people of all ages and all races. CA, as the state with the largest budget and most recourses public university system, should be a leader in research on opioid addiction treatment. My 22 year old nephew died of an opioid overdose only three years ago, making this issue very personal.
<b>Immigration</b>				
42. Family reunification and naturalization			<b>X</b>	Family unification and naturalization is very important.
43. Local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement	<b>X</b>			I strongly support sanctuary jurisdictions and SB54.
44. State and Local law enforcement cooperation with immigrant communities	<b>X</b>			Definitely not. I am a member of Berkeley's Sanctuary City Task Force and have championed the

				issue on the school board.
<b>Labor, Economic Justice and Poverty Elimination</b>				
45. Public assistance programs that allow individuals to support themselves and their families			X	
46. Tax reform which eliminates corporate welfare and achieves an equitable tax system for working families			X	
47. Preference for contractors who employ Californians during selection for publicly funded construction work			X	
48. Project Labor Agreements for private and public-sector infrastructure projects that provide for local hire, returning veterans, and training programs for the community			X	Berkeley Unified has one of the most successful PLAs in CA.
<b>National Security</b>				
49. Work with gun owners and sporting associations regarding responsible gun ownership, safety education and reasonable background checks			X	
50. Infrastructure improvements that promote energy independence through renewable sources			X	
<b>Political Reform</b>				
51. Supreme Court Decision <i>Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission</i>	X			Absolutely oppose. This decision opened up special interests like the Koch Brothers to influence the outcomes of elections.
52. Full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements			X	
53. Public financing of elections campaigns at the local, state and federal levels			X	Absolutely.
<b>Seniors</b>				
54. Mandatory training for Public Employee to recognize and serve seniors suffering with dementia			X	Again, this is personal. I have and am experiencing the impact of dementia/Alzheimers on seniors in my family.
<b>Sustainable Communities</b>				
55. Constrain urban and suburban sprawl	X			While we need to preserve our open spaces, we also need to build more (affordable) housing near transit hubs to maximize open space preservation.
56. Regional tax revenue sharing			X	Regional tax revenue sharing is a way of regionalizing the costs and benefits of new developments to keep negotiating power into the hands of the municipalities.
57. Limit eminent domain to reasonable uses			X	

<b>Veterans and Military Families</b>				
58. Leases and use of Veteran Administration property solely benefit veterans and/or their families			X	We can and should do more for veterans and their families
59. Provide our troops with the latest protective equipment, weaponry and training prior to deployment				This question is confusing to me. We need to protect our troops, but I believe that we should avoid military involvement.
<b>Women</b>				
60. Age-appropriate sex education in California school curriculum			X	I have worked for medically accurate and comprehensive Sex Ed – it's essential that our young people have the information they need to protect themselves.
61. Confidential, unrestricted access to health care services, including the full range of reproductive services, contraception and abortion, without requiring guardian, judicial, parental or spousal consent or notification			X	
<b>World Peace and International Relations</b>				
62. International efforts to establish Arms Trade Treaty			X	
63. Follow the Geneva and Hague Conventions			X	
64. Reduce trade deficits and restore America's global economic leadership by designing policies regarding globalization		X		

**Other Questions**

Each response box allows approximately 60 word response to show as 4 lines of text when in New Times Roman 10 point font. Please use the specified font and size.

1) Under what circumstances, if any, do you favor the death penalty? Please explain your position

I don't support the death penalty. The state should not be in the business of murder. My wife has represented men and women on death row for two decades. I am deeply familiar with the complexities in the lives of her clients on death row. This skewed spending equation needs to be fixed and invest in early interventions and support.

2) Under what circumstances should affordable housing be mandated in market-rate housing projects?

Every new development should follow the inclusionary housing guidelines and build the maximum affordable units. Every city should meet their affordable housing requirements and that processes to accomplish this, while taking CEQA and other considerations into account. For example, El

Cerrito's Special Plan for San Pablo is a great example of increasing housing stock, while keeping units affordable.

- 3) What hurdles prevent California converting to a no-fault compensation system that reduces business liability, costs and exposure while increasing health care outcomes?

Our most vulnerable populations are also our most disenfranchised. When these communities are impacted by unsafe or exploitative practices, they are the ones who have the least access to recourse or compensation. I support efforts made to ensure that those in our communities have a resource that will amplify their voices and help them navigate the often Byzantine legal process.

- 4) What specific legislative changes would you introduce to restore full service health care hospital(s) to northern Assembly District 15?

I will continue to work hard to keep Alta Bates in our community so we don't lose it. However, if we are not successful, I will work together with local government to develop a plan to bring a full service hospital back to the area, including exploring the use of incentives to bring a hospital back into our community.

- 5) Under what circumstances should a school district support charter schools?

As the public education candidate in this race, I have and will always support and prioritize public education funding. Charter schools take resources away from public school students, resources that could provide higher salaries for teachers, more classified staff in the classroom and ensure that all students have access to quality public education.

- 6) Should Proposition 13 be partially repealed (Split-roll) or fully repealed, and why?

I am a strong proponent of reforming Prop 13 through the Make it Fair split tax proposal. I believe we need to end the supermajority requirement for all revenue generating proposals and end the corporate tax giveaway, which allows commercial property owner to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes.

- 7) What types of renter protections should be mandated at the state level?

With the recent failure of AB1506 to get to the floor of the legislature, we need to repeal or reform Costa Hawkins to address our state's ongoing housing crisis. I am also open to exploring statewide efforts to encourage rent stabilization in municipalities that currently do not have it, while ensuring that local jurisdictions maintain control.

8) What are the two most serious issues facing AD 15 communities?

**Affordability for working families-** Working families are getting priced out of this district, unable to buy or rent in communities they've lived in for decades. We must protect our working families.

**Public Education-** There are so many inequities in our education system, especially among low-income students of color. We must craft policies that addresses student needs from cradle to career.