

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 prior to 5PM on Friday February 2, 2018.

Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Ben Bartlett
Occupation: Berkeley City Councilmember, Lawyer
Employer: Re: Public Good
Campaign Address: 1939 Harrison St. 9th Floor Suite 921 Oakland, CA 94612
Campaign Phone: (510) 982-6557
Campaign Email: Ben@BenBartlettCA.com
Campaign Committee Name: Ben Bartlett for Assembly 2018
Campaign Committee Number: 1398518
Elected offices currently held: Berkeley City Council
Elected offices previously held: N/A
Other campaigns for elected office: Treasurer for Berkeley NAACP

Appointed offices currently or previously held:

Berkeley Planning Commissioner
Loan Administration Board Member
Transportation Commissioner
Police Review Commissioner
Vice-Chair of the Zero Waste Commission

When did you become a registered AD-15 Democrat: 2009

Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform? Yes

Signature _____ Date 2/1/2018

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

Are you accepting campaign funds from any PACs or SuperPACs?

Yes, such as the Turkish Coalition PAC, NAACP PAC. That being said, I have signed the pledge to not take contributions from the oil, gas, and coal industry.

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?

It is possible. I am an advocate of building more affordable housing and would accept contributions from donors who support my positions.

Policy Statements

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
Business and Economy				
1. The rights of all employees to organize and strike			X	I am committed to expanding worker power and innovating new ways to protect workers' rights.
2. Privatizing essential governmental services and outsourcing public sector jobs	X			Government services should be safeguarded from privatization. Outsourcing hurts local economies and worker power.
3. Implementation of tax policies that provide a higher degree of equity, including a fair-self-employment tax rate to support small businesses			X	I have called for more equitable new public funding models that expand the circle of opportunity for everyone.
4. Financial institutions for recreational marijuana industry			X	I support creating a state bank, which could provide financial services for our cannabis industry.
5. Split property tax roles for businesses			X	Commercial property owners must pay their fair share.
Children, Young Adults, and their Families				
6. Comprehensive immunization services			X	Comprehensive immunization services needs to be accessible and affordable.
Civil Justice				
7. The right of people to join together in class action lawsuits			X	Mandatory arbitration deprives workers and consumers of their

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
				rights.
8. Funding for the Courts			X	
Communications and the Internet				
9. Build-out of high speed wired and wireless networks			X	Conquering the digital divide will help reduce the achievement gap.
10. Online access for everyone to all legal content and data services			X	
Criminal Justice				
11. Drug addiction treatments located in the community			X	
12. Capital Punishment	X			
13. Marijuana regulation and taxation with respect to California's health and safety			X	
14. Increasing pay and benefits for law enforcement officers			X	Along with other workers, police officers need to be able to bargain good wages and contracts.
15. Body worn cameras			X	I helped craft a resolution to fund body cameras for Berkeley police.
16. Overcrowded prison populations	X			Overcrowding is one of many inhumane practices of mass incarceration that needs to be addressed.
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			X	Gun control needs to be expanded and enforced to keep our communities safe.
18. Restorative Justice Programs			X	Restorative justice is imperative in moving away from incarceration and toward resolution for victims, families, and those who have committed crime.
Death with Dignity				
19. Death with dignity			X	Patients and their families should have say in the way they and their loved ones pass.
Education				
20. Access to free world-class K-12 Public Education			X	Access to free Public Education is imperative to closing the achievement gap and reducing educational disparities.
21. Teacher retirement plans should be funded by all students				
22. Charter schools teaching more than 20% of a District's student body	X			
23. Free Community Colleges			X	Access to education shouldn't be dictated by ability to pay.

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24. Restorative policies and practices			X	Restorative practices have better outcomes and reduce the rate of suspension/expulsions which hurt students.
25. Curricula development by teachers		X		Curriculum and text books need to be evidence-based
26. Parents should be able to choose where their children are educated			X	
Energy and Environment				
27. Fracking	X			Fracking is unduly harmful to the environment and should be prohibited.
28. Transportation of fracking oil, tar (oil) sand oils and other hazardous materials on the county's rail corridors	X			
29. Statewide plastic bag ban should include micro-beads and micro-fibers			X	Micro- beads and fibers are harmful to the environment and should be banned alongside plastic bags
30. Fossil fuel extraction tax			X	
31. Utility pricing should change to promote resource conservation and public good			X	
32. Community Choice Aggregation			X	
33. Increased reliance on the electricity grid for industry, residential and transportation uses	X			Reduced reliance on the electricity grid will reduce the need for fossil fuel plants.
34. Twin Tunnels are good for the Bay-Delta ecosystem	X			
Equality of Opportunity				
34. Affirmative action			X	
35. Full equality for LGBT individuals, including marriage			X	
36. Pay inequities	X			I have worked to ban employers from asking prior salary to advance pay parity. I have worked to pass paid family leave in Berkeley.
Health Care				
37. Universal comprehensive health care for all Californians			X	I support healthcare for all.
38. Respite care and in-home support services and associated home care workers			X	These are indispensable services and workers who provide them should be receive good pay and benefits.
39. Holistic healing practices and alternative medicines			X	I promoted the creation of an African American Holistic Resource Center to reduce health inequities in Berkeley.
40. California should lead the nation in funding opioid addiction treatment research			X	

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
Immigration				
41. Family reunification and naturalization			X	
42. Local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement	X			Berkeley is the first sanctuary city. We are doing everything we can to protect <i>all</i> our residents.
43. State and Local law enforcement cooperation with immigrant communities			X	See above.
Labor, Economic Justice and Poverty Elimination				
44. Public assistance programs that allow individuals to support themselves and their families			X	
45. Tax reform which eliminates corporate welfare and achieves an equitable tax system for working families			X	
46. Preference for contractors who employ Californians during selection for publically funded construction work			X	Yes, companies using locally sourced materials and labor should be prioritized.
47. Project Labor Agreements for private and public-sector infrastructure projects that provide for local hire, returning veterans, and training programs for the community			X	Project Labor Agreements are important to uphold good labor practices and pay.
National Security				
48. Work with gun owners and sporting associations regarding responsible gun ownership, safety education and reasonable background checks			X	
49. Infrastructure improvements that promote energy independence through renewable sources			X	
Political Reform				
50. Supreme Court Decision <i>Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission</i>	X			
51. Full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements			X	I was a district leader for the California Clean Money Campaign
52. Public financing of elections campaigns at the local, state and federal levels			X	I was a leader in promoting Measure X1 in Berkeley, to institute a public campaign finance program in our city.
Seniors				
53. Mandatory training for Public Employee to recognize and serve seniors suffering with dementia			X	
Sustainable Communities				
54. Constrain urban and suburban sprawl			X	This is one of the biggest health and social justice issues of our time.

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
55. Regional tax revenue sharing			X	Larger regional housing trust funds for the Bay Area should be established to fund affordable housing.
56. Limit eminent domain to reasonable uses			X	I support governments using eminent domain to fight foreclosure.
Veterans and Military Families				
57. Leases and use of Veteran Administration property solely benefit veterans and/or their families			X	
58. Provide our troops with the latest protective equipment, weaponry and training prior to deployment			X	
Women				
59. Age-appropriate sex education in California school curriculum			X	
60. 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	
World Peace and International Relations				
61. International efforts to establish Arms Trade Treaty			X	
62. Follow the Geneva and Hague Conventions			X	
63. 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

There are no circumstances under which I favor the death penalty. There is nothing about the use of the death penalty that represents justice or rehabilitation. The death penalty is administered by a criminal justice system that is rife with flaws, racism, and wrongful convictions and we cannot allow this system to kill.

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

All circumstances. My housing platform proposes that municipalities must meet their affordable housing obligations or pay into regional funds to be used to develop affordable housing projects elsewhere. I believe that communities can choose how they would like to meet these obligations. They can develop projects that are entirely affordable or they can include affordable housing within market-rate housing projects.

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

Concerns regarding the evaluation of negligence under the no-fault system as well how the no-fault system could hold doctors accountable for repeated violations and/or negligence are both hurdles. Another is a question of financing the system as well as patient and doctor buy-in.

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

I support repealing commercial protections under Proposition 13 and using those tax dollars to fund healthcare. Through the creation of a state bank, rather than depositing the billions of dollars of California's annual tax revenues in private banks, California could put those funds to work to fund things such as restoring full-service healthcare hospital(s).

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

Charter schools should be supported when they have true measurable innovation and outcomes and when they are subjected to the same rules and regulations as public schools, regarding population. The guiding determination should be to protect the integrity of the public education system for all children. All schools should be governed with transparency and accountability in mind.

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

I support partial (split-roll) repeal. Commercial property owners need to pay their fair share. I am more cautious with respect to repealing protections for residential property. I have concerns about seniors on fixed-incomes and homeowners living on the margins or at risk of displacement. I recognize the inequities caused by Prop 13, but this is a complex issue and deserves a nuanced approach.

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

Increased funding for anti-displacement programs like eviction defense and legal advocates. Small Sites Acquisition Program to preserve affordable housing. A Tenants Opportunity to Purchase Act to prevent displacement. A Tenant Protection Ordinance to guard against tenant harassment. Prohibit renter discrimination based on source of income/ section 8 status. and statewide just cause protections.

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

The housing crisis and the overall creation of a new underclass, largely populated by people of color. Property values and housing demand have created record-breaking rents and displacement, altering the economic and cultural landscapes of AD15. [The median worth for families of color is projected to drop to zero within the next 55 years.](#) creating a treacherous foundation for poverty, instability, and loss of freedom.