

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: Andy Katz

Occupation: Attorney

Employer: Law Offices of Andy Katz

Campaign Address: 2001 Addison St, Suite 300, Berkeley, CA 94704

Campaign Phone: (510)679-3264

Campaign Email: andy@andykatz.com

Campaign Committee Name: Andy Katz for Assembly 2018

Campaign Committee Number: 1397755

Elected offices currently held: East Bay Municipal Utility District Board Director

Elected offices previously held: East Bay Municipal Utility District Board Director and President (2007-present)

Other campaigns for elected office: Berkeley City Council 2002, EBMUD Director 2006, 2010, 2014

Appointed offices currently or previously held: City of Berkeley Health Commissioner (2017-current);

Member Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board (2001-2006)

When did you become a registered AD-15 Democrat: 1998

Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform? Yes.

02/02/2018

Signature

Date

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

Are you accepting campaign funds from any PACs or SuperPACs?

I am accepting funds from unions and progressive organizational PACs.

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

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
Business and Economy				
1. The rights of all employees to organize and strike			X	As a former union member, I am an ardent advocate for unionization.
2. Privatizing essential governmental services and outsourcing public sector jobs	X			It is critical that we keep our public services in the public trust.
3. Implementation of tax policies that provide a higher degree of equity, including a fair-self-employment tax rate to support small businesses			X	Income tax brackets should be more progressive.
4. Financial institutions for recreational marijuana industry			X	
5. Split property tax roles for businesses			X	Important to raise \$8-11B for the state budget.
Children, Young Adults, and their Families				
6. Comprehensive immunization services			X	Immunization is necessary for public health and disease prevention in our communities.
Civil Justice				
7. The right of people to join together in class action lawsuits			X	As a consumer attorney, I support class action lawsuits as an important tool for corporate accountability.
8. Funding for the Courts			X	Our courts must be fully funded to ensure the right to fair trial for all Californians.
Communications and the Internet				
9. Build-out of high speed wired and wireless networks			X	Universal Internet access is a necessity for 21 st Century economic mobility for all.
10. Online access for everyone to all legal content and data services			X	Net neutrality and equitable Internet accessibility is a fight for equality in the virtual realm.
Criminal Justice				
11. Drug addiction treatments located in the community			X	Substance abuse hurts our communities, and we need community-conscious solutions to solve the crisis.
12. Capital Punishment	X			It's more costly and applied unequally.
13. Marijuana regulation and taxation with respect to California's health and safety			X	With legalization, taxes and regulation ensures consumer safety.

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
14. Increasing pay and benefits for law enforcement officers		X	X	Varies by city - cities should pay what's needed to recruit and retain quality officers.
15. Body worn cameras			X	Body cameras help advance police accountability for racial equity and de-escalation practices.
16. Overcrowded prison populations	X			California's prisons are overcrowded. We must reform our mass incarceration system immediately.
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	Each mass shooting is a painful reminder of the importance of commonsense gun regulation.
18. Restorative Justice Programs			X	This is essential for youth diversion, and can help adult offenders resolve disputes in a way that facilitates re-entry.
Death with Dignity				
19. Death with dignity			X	Safeguards must be in place to protect people with disabilities from abuse.
Education				
20. Access to free world-class K-12 Public Education			X	Public education is the greatest driver of economic mobility and provides everyone a chance to learn.
21. Teacher retirement plans should be funded by all students				Teacher retirement is funded by districts, with assistance by the state.
22. Charter schools teaching more than 20% of a District's student body	X			Local districts need more control to manage public school quality.
23. Free Community Colleges			X	Community colleges provide access to skills that are key to future jobs in a changing economy.
24. Restorative policies and practices			X	Restorative practices promote equity in our classrooms and teach children important de-escalation strategies.
25. Curricula development by teachers			X	Our teachers know our students best and understand what is needed to maximize learning outcomes.
26. Parents should be able to choose where their children are educated		X		Districts should have local discretion to set assignment plans within the boundaries of civil rights and inclusion.
Energy and Environment				
27. Fracking	X			Fracking is unsustainable, threatens water systems, and destroys our public lands.
28. Transportation of fracking oil, tar (oil sand oils and other hazardous materials on the county's rail corridors	X			Oil and other toxic spills on our rail corridors put our communities at severe risk.
29. Statewide plastic bag ban should include micro-beads and micro-fibers			X	Problematic plastics are littering our oceans and wildlife and we must hold producers accountable.

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30. Fossil fuel extraction tax			X	Fossil fuel producers must pay their fair share for the impact of pollution on communities.
31. Utility pricing should change to promote resource conservation and public good			X	As EBMUD board director, I've pushed for conservation incentives and low-income affordability in rates.
32. Community Choice Aggregation				I helped lead efforts to form East Bay Clean Power.
33. Increased reliance on the electricity grid for industry, residential and transportation uses			X	We must phase-out fossil fuel as the electric grid gets cleaner.
34. Twin Tunnels are good for the Bay-Delta ecosystem	X			Twin Tunnels would overdraft the estuary and lead to species collapse.
Equality of Opportunity				
35. Affirmative action			X	Affirmative action empowers representation of underrepresented communities in education, business, and public spaces.
36. Full equality for LGBT individuals, including marriage			X	As an LGBTQ-identifying person, I proudly fight for full equality for everyone in our community.
37. Pay inequities	X			Women, LGBTQ, and people of color deserve equal pay for equal work.
Health Care				
38. Universal comprehensive health care for all Californians			X	I support Medicare for All and would champion universal health care measures in the Assembly.
39. Respite care and in-home support services and associated home care workers			X	We must bring affordable health care to people if they necessitate home care support.
40. Holistic healing practices and alternative medicines			X	Holistic modalities should be covered by health insurance when supported by clinical evidence. Health providers should be licensed to ensure safety.
41. California should lead the nation in funding opioid addiction treatment research			X	UC public health programs lead nationally and should be funded to lead in opioid research.
Immigration				
42. Family reunification and naturalization			X	Immigration policies must have heart and allow for the reunification of families and citizenship pathways.
43. Local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement	X			I am a proponent of sanctuary policies. Local law enforcement should focus on our community.
44. State and Local law enforcement cooperation with immigrant communities			X	Community-conscious policing promotes trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement.
Labor, Economic Justice and Poverty Elimination				
45. Public assistance programs that allow individuals to support themselves and their families			X	Public assistance helps individuals and families get back on their feet during difficult times.

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
46. Tax reform which eliminates corporate welfare and achieves an equitable tax system for working families			X	Corporations must pay their fair share in taxes and it starts with Proposition 13 reform.
47. Preference for contractors who employ Californians during selection for publically funded construction work			X	Policies should be designed to meet Constitutional requirements.
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	PLAs help secure good jobs and community benefits.
National Security				
49. Work with gun owners and sporting associations regarding responsible gun ownership, safety education and reasonable background checks			X	Commonsense solutions to gun violence prevention are long overdue and must involve all interested parties.
50. Infrastructure improvements that promote energy independence through renewable sources			X	Green collar jobs build our economy and create sustainable employment opportunities.
Political Reform				
51. Supreme Court Decision <i>Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission</i>	X			We can't let corporations buy our democracy. Fair elections require an equal playing field.
52. Full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements			X	The public has a right to full transparency of who funds political advertisements and campaigns.
53. Public financing of elections campaigns at the local, state and federal levels			X	Our democracy is worth investments in clean money elections.
Seniors				
54. Mandatory training for Public Employee to recognize and serve seniors suffering with dementia			X	Our public employees must be adequately trained to effectively serve Californians of all mental capacities.
Sustainable Communities				
55. Constrain urban and suburban sprawl			X	I campaigned for urban limit lines in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.
56. Regional tax revenue sharing			X	Regional tax sharing reduce perverse land use incentives.
57. Limit eminent domain to reasonable uses			X	Eminent domain can displace communities and diminish the public trust. There should be safeguards.
Veterans and Military Families				
58. Leases and use of Veteran Administration property solely benefit veterans and/or their families			X	VA facilities must always be focused on giving back to those who served our country.
59. Provide our troops with the latest protective equipment, weaponry and training prior to deployment			X	Military deployment should ensure the safety of our troops within a reasonable and necessary budget.
Women				
60. Age-appropriate sex education in California school curriculum				Sex education reduces teen pregnancy and improves health

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
				outcomes.
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	Women should have autonomy over their own bodies and the choices that impact themselves. I fully support Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to choose.
World Peace and International Relations				
62. International efforts to establish Arms Trade Treaty			X	I support efforts to reduce nuclear armaments of mass destruction in our world.
63. Follow the Geneva and Hague Conventions			X	The Geneva and Hague Conventions protect the universal and inalienable human rights of all.
64. Reduce trade deficits and restore America's global economic leadership by designing policies regarding globalization			X	Trade agreements must plan for domestic workforce development, promote fair trade and environmental sustainability.

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 do not support the death penalty. It is overall more costly than a life incarceration, and cannot be applied equitably from a racial justice and civil rights perspective. Wrongful convictions are known to occur, and can lead to wrongful executions. The United States is the last industrialized country to allow for the death penalty, and should abolish it.

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

The State should require cities to implement plans to meet their Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA), including affordable housing allocations. Cities should be able to have discretion regarding how to achieve these allocations, but should be held accountable. Many cities would likely join the growing number of cities requiring inclusionary zoning or impact fees to support affordable housing.

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

A no-fault compensation system would likely either fail to adequately compensate for injury for some, even if it improved certainty of recovery for all, or would increase liability insurance rates. The no-fault compensation system in workers' compensation ends up rationing benefits and delaying care. Our civil justice system requires a functional insurance market and increased court funding.

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

I stood with the community at rallies to keep Doctor's Medical Center from closing and am leading efforts to save Alta Bates. I will introduce legislation to provide for an equitable share of state funding for hospital districts that are separate from County Hospitals, and if needed, authorizing legislation for the West Contra Costa Healthcare District, or a new District or Joint Powers Authority to finance a new public hospital.

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

When the proposed school satisfies a unique need that the district does not meet, has a strong financial plan, commits to ongoing accountability and transparency, supports comparably or better paid union labor, implements accessibility and nondiscrimination policies and enrollment practices, and does not impair the district's ability to manage its enrollment and facilities planning

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

Proposition 13's provisions should be repealed for commercial property tax exemptions from reassessment to raise \$8 – 11 billion for the state budget and to restore funding to our public schools and city services. Local voters should be able to decide what tax rate best funds schools and local services. Its requirement of a 2/3 vote of the legislature to adopt new revenue measures should also be reduced to a majority vote

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

I support Just Cause for Eviction protections, protections against harassment, and the repeal of Costa-Hawkins. The state should advance health and safety standards and model city and county testing services to address the growing problem of mold exposure.

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

- 1) Our schools and safety-net programs are underfunded. We need to increase state revenue so we can lead the nation in education spending instead of California ranking near the bottom.
- 2) The loss of Doctor's Medical Center and potential loss of Alta Bates Hospital poses a serious challenge for AD 15 communities. I will continue to lead efforts to protect and restore hospital services.