

**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: Owen Poindexter  
Occupation: Freelance Writer  
Employer: Self  
Campaign Address: 2015 Prince St. Berkeley CA, 94703  
Campaign Phone: 718-551-1409  
Campaign Email: owen@owenpoindexter.com  
Campaign Committee Name: Owen Poindexter for Assembly 2018  
Campaign Committee Number: 1398622  
Elected offices currently held: n/a  
Elected offices previously held: n/a  
Other campaigns for elected office: n/a -  
Appointed offices currently or previously held: n/a  
When did you become a registered AD-15 Democrat: 2009 (when I moved to the area)  
Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform? Yes

Owen Poindexter 1/18/18  
Signature Date

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

Are you accepting campaign funds from any PACs or SuperPACs? -  
No  
Are you accepting campaign funds from Unions? -  
Yes, none to report  
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? -  
Case by case basis, none to report

**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>	We should be fighting to strengthen employee bargaining power.
2. Privatizing essential governmental services and outsourcing public sector jobs	<b>X</b>			Privatizing essential services has not improved efficiency or outcomes. Keep these public.
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 have a tax plan that is radically equitable: it funds a California basic income.
4. Financial institutions for recreational marijuana industry			<b>X</b>	Let's create a public bank to support cannabis business and fund community projects and independent businesses.
5. Split property tax roles for businesses			<b>X</b>	Both sides need reform, but not necessarily the same reform.
<b>Children, Young Adults, and their Families</b>				
6. Comprehensive immunization services			<b>X</b>	This is efficient, equitable public health and ideally would be covered by a single-payer system.
<b>Civil Justice</b>				
7. The right of people to join together in class action lawsuits			<b>X</b>	We should fight back against the trend of mandatory arbitration where possible.
8. Funding for the Courts			<b>X</b>	Our courts are terribly underfunded and rely on a system where very few cases go to trial.
<b>Communications and the Internet</b>				
9. Build-out of high speed wired and wireless networks			<b>X</b>	In today's world, access to a swift, net-neutral internet is an essential need.
10. Online access for everyone to all legal content and data services			<b>X</b>	It is essential that the internet remain open and democratic.
<b>Criminal Justice</b>				
11. Drug addiction treatments located in the community			<b>X</b>	Drug addiction should be treated as a public health and community health issue.
12. Capital Punishment	<b>X</b>			Capital punishment is a cruel practice with no practical value.
13. Marijuana regulation and taxation with respect to California's health and safety			<b>X</b>	Criminalization has been a terrible failure. Legalization and regulation is common sense.
14. Increasing pay and benefits for law enforcement officers			<b>X</b>	Our officers put themselves in harm's way for us, and should be compensated accordingly.
15. Body worn cameras			<b>X</b>	We need assurances that our peace officers are in fact keeping the peace.
16. Overcrowded prison populations			<b>X</b>	A human rights crisis. Incarceration is an act of violence and should only

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				be used to keep communities safe.
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>	I am wary of stigmatizing people with mental illness, but our gun laws ought to be much stricter.
18. Restorative Justice Programs			<b>X</b>	This is the common sense alternative to our punitive system.
<b>Death with Dignity</b>				
19. Death with dignity			<b>X</b>	People near the end of their life should have the right to make this choice.
<b>Education</b>				
20. Access to free world-class K-12 Public Education			<b>X</b>	This is one of the measuring sticks for how we judge societal progress.
21. Teacher retirement plans should be funded by all students			<b>X</b>	We should all have a stake in the health of our education system.
22. Charter schools teaching more than 20% of a District's student body	<b>X</b>			Our focus should be on delivering the best possible education in our public schools. There are numerous problems with the current charter system.
23. Free Community Colleges			<b>X</b>	And free pre-K. We should provide everyone with the education they need to be productive contributors to society.
24. Restorative policies and practices			<b>X</b>	Again, punitive systems ultimately hurt everyone. Restorative policies sustain healthier societies.
25. Curricula development by teachers			<b>X</b>	This can be somewhat case by case, but teachers know students and teaching best.
26. Parents should be able to choose where their children are educated		<b>X</b>		There are too many factors at play to give a blanket support or oppose here.
<b>Energy and Environment</b>				
27. Fracking	<b>X</b>			It provides a short term economic boost at tremendous long term cost.
28. Transportation of fracking oil, tar (oil sand oils and other hazardous materials on the county's rail corridors	<b>X</b>			This endangers the surrounding communities and supports a harmful industry.
29. Statewide plastic bag ban should include micro-beads and micro-fibers			<b>X</b>	These particles have proven quite harmful to the ecosystem and provide little social benefit.
30. Fossil fuel extraction tax			<b>X</b>	Yes! Return the revenue to the people as a public dividend to cancel out the cost of living increase for low-mid income people.
31. Utility pricing should change to promote resource conservation and public good			<b>X</b>	Yes, let's pair pro-environment market adjustments with a basic income to ensure no one is worse off.

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
32. Community Choice Aggregation			X	Let's use community-scale power to bridge the gap to a clean energy future.
33. Increased reliance on the electricity grid for industry, residential and transportation uses			X	This will facilitate a broad shift toward clean power.
34. Twin Tunnels are good for the Bay-Delta ecosystem	X			Long-term, it is likely they would do more harm than good.
<b>Equality of Opportunity</b>				
35. Affirmative action			X	Just one piece of a broader reckoning with the wealth and opportunity robbed from POC.
36. Full equality for LGBT individuals, including marriage			x	Of course.
37. Pay inequities	X			Let's seek out and eliminate gender and race-based pay gaps.
<b>Health Care</b>				
38. Universal comprehensive health care for all Californians			X	It's good policy and a basic human right.
39. Respite care and in-home support services and associated home care workers			X	This should be included in a universal healthcare system.
40. Holistic healing practices and alternative medicines		X		Some are proven effective and deserve support. Others less so.
41. California should lead the nation in funding opioid addiction treatment research			X	Yes, and we should focus on harm reduction.
<b>Immigration</b>				
42. Family reunification and naturalization			X	California should lead the way in adopting humane immigration policies.
43. Local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement	X			Let's protect our immigrant communities from ICE.
44. State and Local law enforcement cooperation with immigrant communities			X	Trust between immigrants and local law enforcement benefits everyone.
<b>Labor, Economic Justice and Poverty Elimination</b>				
45. Public assistance programs that allow individuals to support themselves and their families			X	Yes, starting with a California basic income.
46. Tax reform which eliminates corporate welfare and achieves an equitable tax system for working families			X	This goes hand in hand with campaign finance reform.
47. Preference for contractors who employ Californians during selection for publically funded construction work			X	We should examine the feasibility of a California public works program that anyone could opt in to.
48. Project Labor Agreements for private and public-sector infrastructure projects that provide for local hire, returning veterans, and training programs for the			X	This is a win for communities and for the people that make them up.

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
community				
<b>National Security</b>				
49. Work with gun owners and sporting associations regarding responsible gun ownership, safety education and reasonable background checks			X	Background checks, safety education and a buyback program.
50. Infrastructure improvements that promote energy independence through renewable sources			X	We should spend aggressively here, using bonds where needed.
<b>Political Reform</b>				
51. Supreme Court Decision <i>Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission</i>	X			Possibly the worst SCOTUS decision ever. We should work to reduce the power of money in our democracy.
52. Full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements			X	Disclosure should be step one in the campaign finance reform fight.
53. Public financing of elections campaigns at the local, state and federal levels			X	This is hugely important. We should pair this with lower donation maximums.
<b>Seniors</b>				
54. Mandatory training for Public Employee to recognize and serve seniors suffering with dementia			X	We have a growing population of seniors and dementia can often be hard to detect.
<b>Sustainable Communities</b>				
55. Constrain urban and suburban sprawl			X	We should focus on density within our cities, especially near transit hubs.
56. Regional tax revenue sharing			X	Very important to ensure that top schools aren't only for the rich.
57. Limit eminent domain to reasonable uses			X	Eminent domain should only be for special cases.
<b>Veterans and Military Families</b>				
58. Leases and use of Veteran Administration property solely benefit veterans and/or their families		X		At the very least, veterans should be ensured priority.
59. Provide our troops with the latest protective equipment, weaponry and training prior to deployment			X	Yes, and we should deploy them very rarely.
<b>Women</b>				
60. Age-appropriate sex education in California school curriculum			X	Teens are going to be sexually active whether we educate them or not. Protection starts with education.
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	Paternalism around sexual matters does a lot of harm.
<b>World Peace and International Relations</b>				

	Oppose	Neutral	Support	15 word (or less) statement
62. International efforts to establish Arms Trade Treaty			X	Let's keep weapons of war under close watch.
63. Follow the Geneva and Hague Conventions			X	We should advance international norms and human rights wherever we can.
64. Reduce trade deficits and restore America's global economic leadership by designing policies regarding globalization			X	Globalization should be a chief concern in our trade policies, but that's just one piece of our global economic leadership.

### **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

No circumstances. The sense of justice we feel in certain rare instances pales in comparison to the injustices committed in the name of this policy. It has also not been shown to be a deterrent or to even save money for the state. I support ending the death penalty in California and nationwide.

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

Any project over four units should have a certain percent mandated toward affordable housing. Mixed-income housing is economically viable and counteracts income segregation. These mandates can allow the growth of market rate to pull affordable housing along with it.

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

This is a political challenge, one that would be much easier with comprehensive campaign finance reform. If politicians aren't worried about losing donors—in this case from the insurance industry among others—they will be more open to common sense policy such as a no-fault system.

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

As we push for universal healthcare, we should include the provision that proximity to a hospital is part and parcel with healthcare access. From there, we can mandate a maximum distance a population center can be from a hospital, and work to find funding for a hospital in Contra Costa County.

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

The charter school must select a representative or underserved population of students (not selecting rich or high achieving kids) and report any findings from the school about novel methods of education. We should also reform the charter system so that all schools produce annual reports on student achievement, and we hold each school to strict quality standards under threat of their charter being revoked among other reforms

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

Full repeal. It would make sense as a next step to treat commercial and residential property differently under the tax system, but we need greater flexibility in property taxation and assessments across the board. Commercial loopholes should be removed and residential property should be reassessed at a predictable schedule. We can also raise property or land taxes for some lots.

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

The state should provide legal representation for all people facing eviction. We should have blanket rent control, with municipalities allowed to make adjustments. Housing discrimination should be actively enforced. In addition to repealing the Costa Hawkins Act, we should repeal the Ellis Act as well.

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

- 1) Financial insecurity. This touches on housing and an uncertain job market, but the core issue is that people young and old live in a great deal of uncertainty when it comes to covering their basic needs.
- 2) Housing. We are losing long-time community members and potential new residents because the rent is too damn high. Stable communities become vibrant communities and we should work to make that happen.