

350 Bay Area Action Candidate Survey - Oakland City Council 2024

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City Race - City and District

Describe your vision for moving to renewable energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels. Please include what specific policies you would work to pass to achieve this, and why doing so is important to you.

My vision for transitioning to renewable energy is rooted in a commitment to environmental sustainability, economic justice, and creating walkable, livable neighborhoods. Addressing climate change requires us to move beyond fossil fuels by investing heavily in clean technologies, such as renewable energy sources, mass transit, and dense, energy-efficient housing. I will advocate for policies that align with the California Green New Deal, pushing for robust investments in public transit, expanding bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and promoting walkable communities to reduce our carbon footprint and promote sustainable urban development.

My background in transportation planning, with a strong focus on bike and pedestrian infrastructure, has shown me the transformative impact of creating cities where people can safely walk, bike, and use public transit. I am committed to expanding these efforts, ensuring that our streets are designed for people, not just cars. This not only supports our climate goals but also enhances the quality of life in our communities, making them safer, healthier, and more vibrant.

Equally important is ensuring that the transition to green energy creates economic opportunities for all. By supporting local hiring initiatives and promoting the development of green jobs, we can ensure that the economic benefits of this transition are shared equitably within our communities. I also believe that modernizing our infrastructure, such as electrifying transportation and expanding solar power, is essential for building a resilient, sustainable future. This approach not only addresses the immediate climate crisis but also creates a long-term pathway for economic growth that benefits everyone, particularly those in underserved communities.

Describe how you would take into consideration low-income communities in the transition off of fossil fuels.

In transitioning off fossil fuels, it's essential to prioritize low-income communities by making sustainable transportation, housing, and job opportunities accessible. I would focus on safer streets for biking and walking, reducing car dependency, and reconnecting West Oakland by tearing down I-980. Building affordable housing near transit hubs would ensure low-income families have access to both sustainable transportation and economic opportunities. Additionally, I would advocate for job training programs in green industries to create middle-class jobs and ensure the benefits of the transition are shared equitably. This approach addresses environmental justice and fosters a more inclusive and resilient city.

Experience

In the following three boxes please list 3 specific climate action and/or environmental justice-related activities you have been active involved with in the last 5 years. Include activities such as pushing for legislation, initiatives, programs, non-profit and other organizations, campaigns, etc. Please list the Organization, Activity, Your Role in it, And the Year(s).

1. Activity, Organization, Your Role and Year(s)

1. Transport Oakland

As President of Transport Oakland for 2 years, I actively advocated for equitable transportation solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve safety outcomes for Oakland residents. My work focused on promoting sustainable transit options that benefit all community members, especially those in underserved areas.

2. City of Oakland Mayor's Office

Serving as Policy Director of Mobility for 3 years, I managed Oakland's policies on traffic safety and emissions reduction. I focused on encouraging residents, employees, and visitors to adopt walking, biking, and public transit to lower the city's carbon footprint and enhance urban livability.

3. TransForm CA

As a Board Member of TransForm CA for 3 years, I supported the organization's mission at the intersection of affordable housing, transportation, and equitable climate

action. My contributions included recruitment, fundraising, and providing policy management support to advance sustainable and inclusive urban development

What is your position on natural gas as a fuel? (For the purposes of this question, “new natural gas projects” refers specifically to gas extraction - wells, drilling, production, etc.)

It’s an important fuel source and should be supported in California.

I do not oppose continued investments in new natural gas projects, as long as they protect communities disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel facilities and pollution.

I support natural gas as a transition fuel, but I do not support continued investments in new natural gas extraction or refining and related infrastructure like new pipelines.

I support a phase-out of all natural gas use as soon as possible.

The state has mandated the ban on the sale of gas-powered cars in California by 2035. What do you think about this decision, and about this timeframe? Gas powered cars should be banned from sale in California by:

2035 as proposed by Governor Newsom

2040 as suggested as a possible alternate scenario by the California Air Resources Board

2030

Almost immediately - 2025 In line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change goals

OR: I do not support a policy of California mandating bans of gas-powered cars

If you were appointed to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission board, would you support MTC in declaring a climate emergency and funding a regional plan to fully support California's 2045 goal to eliminate fossil fuels from transportation?

Yes

No

What do you see as the big opportunities for your county coming out of the Inflation Reduction Act (through mechanisms like grants, cooperative agreements or the Direct Pay Program), out of the Infrastructure Act, and out of state of California funded clean energy initiatives? How might you imagine funds being allocated? (You do not have to answer each point or question, just please share some thoughts.)

The Inflation Reduction Act presents a significant opportunity for Oakland to secure grants for local transit projects, green jobs, and transitioning away from fossil fuels. However, to fully benefit from this, Oakland must hire more staff to manage these funds effectively. In the past, the city has missed out on critical opportunities simply due to a lack of staff to track deadlines and submit applications. It's essential that we invest in the capacity to take full advantage of this historic funding, ensuring it drives sustainable growth and equity for Oakland.

With the funding I would focus on improving public transit, making streets safer for biking and walking, and building affordable housing near transit hubs. I would invest in green job training programs to ensure local residents benefit from the shift to a sustainable economy.

Appliances that burn methane “natural gas” in buildings, such as water heaters and furnaces, are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Many cities and agencies such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District have adopted rules to phase out gas equipment. Which of the following do you support (check all that apply even if your city already has some electrification measures in place):

I would Not support requiring all-electric new construction

I would Not support requiring all-electric for major remodels of existing buildings

Yes, require all-electric in new construction of single-family homes

Yes in new construction of multi-family homes and commercial buildings, (not including industrial and restaurants)

Yes, I support Air District rules phasing out the sale of gas water heaters in 2027 and furnaces in 2029

Comments (optional) - Please use this space if you wish to comment on or clarify any of the choices in the last segment.

Gas appliances like stoves and furnaces contribute to poor indoor air quality, increasing asthma rates, especially in children. Many cities, including some restaurants, are transitioning to cleaner alternatives like induction cooktops. I support electrification measures to replace gas appliances, improving health and reducing emissions.

The next question is to help us get to know you better on various climate issues. Please answer as best you can. (There is comment space below, if you want to clarify anything.)

Some of the most important decisions you'll make in office involve the general plan and other land use issues. Please rate your support / lack of support for each of the climate change land-use issues below.

- 1- I would like to lead on this issue
- 2- I am likely to support this
- 3- Neutral / I don't know
- 4- I am not likely to support this at this time

- 1_ Design that supports active transportation (such as biking and walking)
- 1_ Seeking solutions to EV charging needs for residents without home access, including multi-family dwellers and home-owners with street-side parking
- 1_ Developing dense, affordable, multi-family, transit-oriented housing (without displacement)
- 4_ Expanding urban growth boundaries to allow for more housing
- 1_ Banning new gas stations (where needs are reasonably met)
- 1_ Zoning flexibility to allow for more housing near employment centers

Comments (optional) - Please use this space if you wish to comment on or clarify any of the choices in the last segment.

I am a strong advocate for dense, transit-oriented housing and walkable communities because they reduce reliance on cars, lower emissions, and create vibrant, accessible neighborhoods. We can have better, denser, cities without expanding our existing growth boundaries.

Do you support the No Coal in Oakland pledge to bolster the City of Oakland in its ongoing and future efforts to prohibit coal shipments through Oakland's West Gateway?

- I agree with the No Coal in Oakland pledge and will sign it. (see link above)
- I agree with the No Coal in Oakland pledge and have already signed it!
- I disagree with the No Coal in Oakland pledge.

In September 2023, the Oakland City Council voted to add Oakland's first ever Environmental Justice Element to the Oakland General Plan, aimed at mitigating environmental harms that have historically been inflicted on certain Oakland communities, especially West and East Oakland. Do you support the implementation of Oakland's General Plan Environmental Justice Element?

- I fully support the implementation of Oakland's General Plan Environmental Justice Element.

I have concerns about the full implementation of Oakland's General Plan Environmental Justice Element.

I do not support the implementation of Oakland's General Plan Environmental Justice Element.

In July 2023, the Port of Oakland published a Draft Environmental Impact Report proposal to expand the Oakland airport with the addition of a third terminal, with 16 additional gates, citing potential economic benefits of the proposal. A coalition of 78 environmental justice, scientific, labor, youth climate, religious, and elder organizations have registered their opposition to the proposed expansion because of the potential increase in greenhouse gas emissions that additional flights would bring, and the additional air pollution affecting communities under the flight paths, including in East Oakland. What is your position?

I support the proposal to add a third terminal with 16 additional gates as outlined in the current environmental impact report

I would support improvements to the existing two terminals but not construction of a third terminal or addition of gates.

Will you agree to our pledge at 350 Bay Area Action not to take Fossil Fuel money? In particular, will you pledge not to knowingly take any contributions over \$200 from the PACs, lobbyists or SEC-named executives of fossil fuel companies? These are companies whose primary business is the extraction, processing, distributing and/or sale of oil, gas and coal.

*

Yes

No

Have you signed or will you sign the public, national No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge which names all of the above agreements, and also states that candidates will not take money from energy utilities that get more than 50% of their electricity, or revenue from business in, fossil fuels? (<https://nofossilfuelmoney.org/>) - This is not a requirement for endorsement, but we strongly support the effort to raise awareness of the power of fossil fuel lobbying in politics.

Yes

No

Is there anything else you'd like for us to know about your positions, vision, experience (or anything you'd like to explain about your responses in this survey)? You may answer in detail here (include links if you like).

My experience as an urban planner and working for the Mayor of Oakland has given me a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in creating sustainable cities. I played a key role in launching Oakland's Slow Streets program, which prioritized safe, walkable spaces during the pandemic. My work focused on improving transportation infrastructure, enhancing community resilience, and promoting equitable development. These experiences have shaped my vision for dense, transit-oriented housing and walkable communities that benefit all residents. I'm committed to making these visions a reality for Oakland.