

B.A.R. CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE – For Oakland City Council

1. Candidate's name: Warren Logan

Cellphone:

District: 3

2. Political party affiliation: Democrat

3. Date of birth:

Month: May Day: 16 Year: 1989

4. Please specify your sexual orientation and/or gender identity: Gay male

Preferred pronouns: He/him

5. Why do you think the Bay Area Reporter should endorse you?

As a gay Black man, I see how governments ignore the real needs in our communities every day. That's why I have spent my life learning and working to ensure that city governments do better for us. It's why I am running for City Council because Oakland can and must do better.

I am a policy-driven candidate who has always put Oakland's needs first and delivered on solutions that prioritize our communities of color, our small businesses, our unhoused and ignored communities. I took real actions that led to real, nationally-lauded results during a time of crisis for the city.

This campaign is also a historic one since I would be the first gay Black councilmember in Oakland's history.

6. What is your background and what are your qualifications for this office?

I've spent my life seeing how governments have often ignored the real needs in our communities. As a gay black man, I see it every day. That's why I pursued an undergraduate degree in Urban Studies and then earned my Masters in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley because I believe cities must do better for all of us.

My work for over a decade has been making policies, designing projects, and developing programs for cities around the Bay Area and across the county in times of need. As one of Oakland's emergency directors during the city's response to COVID-19, 2020's massive wildfire season, and the power shutdowns, I served as the City's Emergency Community Resilience Director, where I led an interdisciplinary team that fast-tracked community testing and vaccination sites, directed departments to work collaboratively, and helped small businesses take advantage of outdoor merchant programs. And it got done in just weeks – not years.

I'm running for Oakland City Council District 3 because I feel our city is on the wrong track. Neighbors continue to share concerns about public safety, homelessness, and pollution. We deserve a representative who responds to us and can deliver meaningful changes that help our residents, workers, and business owners. I know what it takes to

make change effectively, and I'm ready to serve as the next Oakland City Council Member for District 3.

7 What would you do as a councilmember to support LGBTQ nonprofits like the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center and other agencies, such as Covenant House, that work with queer youth, LGBTQ elders, and queer people of color? Since Oakland is experiencing budgetary concerns, what are things other than financial resources that can help?

As councilmember, I would be fully committed to supporting LGBTQ nonprofits. While Oakland is facing significant budgetary challenges, there are several key strategies that I would pursue to ensure these organizations continue to thrive and serve our community including better connecting them to existing city resources, facilitating key partnerships, and engaging local philanthropists for these critical organizations.

While direct financial support may be limited, the city can still provide valuable non-monetary resources. I would push to streamline the permitting process for LGBTQ nonprofits seeking to host events, rallies, or fundraisers, ensuring they have access to public spaces at low to no cost. Additionally, I would work to improve access to city grants and other funding opportunities by simplifying the application process and providing technical assistance to ensure LGBTQ organizations can compete effectively for available resources.

At the same time, I would actively work to connect LGBTQ nonprofits with other community-based organizations, local businesses, educational institutions, and healthcare providers. These partnerships can lead to in-kind donations, shared resources, and collaborative programs that expand the reach and impact of these organizations. For example, I would encourage local businesses to offer discounted services, volunteer hours, or space for events, and promote collaborations with healthcare providers to offer mental health and wellness services to LGBTQ individuals.

In order to receive the funds needed to support the community, I would also work to engage Oakland's philanthropic community, encouraging local foundations and donors to prioritize LGBTQ nonprofits in their giving strategies. By fostering relationships between these organizations and potential funders, we can help ensure they have the financial support they need to continue their vital work.

8 Relatedly, what kind of city funding can Oakland provide to better assist LGBTQ homeless youth through programs like Covenant House and others?

To better assist LGBTQ homeless youth in Oakland, city resources, including staff hours and grantwriting support, can be strategically allocated for programs like Homekey and Roomkey, which focus on converting hotels and motels into transitional housing. By applying for state funding and partnering with Alameda County, we can ensure that these

sites are specifically designed to meet the needs of at-risk populations, such as LGBTQ youth. This approach not only provides immediate shelter but also creates safe and supportive environments where these young individuals feel comfortable and secure.

Additionally, it's crucial that the housing and programs developed with city support are tailored to the unique needs of LGBTQ youth. Many LGBTQ youth, especially transgender individuals, refuse housing because they do not feel safe or welcomed in certain facilities. To address this, I will establish policies that ensure these programs and housing options are designed with their specific concerns in mind. Additionally, this must include providing necessary support services, such as mental health care and social services, that cater to their well-being. This targeted, thoughtful approach will make a significant difference in the lives of LGBTQ homeless youth in Oakland.

9 Since Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed SB 57 in 2022, which would have established safe consumption site pilot programs in Oakland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, would you push for Oakland to start its own program by using a nonprofit organization? Would you go to the mayor for backing and to the city attorney for an opinion and guidance? Would you push for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to provide funding? What is your philosophy on harm reduction programs like supervised consumption sites as a means to address substance use

As a candidate for Oakland City Council, District 3, I believe in the power of harm reduction programs, including supervised consumption sites, as an essential tool in addressing substance use and promoting public health. My philosophy on harm reduction is rooted in the understanding that we must meet people where they are, providing them with the resources and support they need to stay safe and healthy, while also connecting them to treatment and recovery services when they are ready.

The veto of SB 57 was a significant setback for communities like Oakland that are grappling with the impacts of substance use on public health and safety. However, I believe that we can and should explore alternative avenues to implement these life-saving programs at the local level.

1. Partnering with Nonprofits:

Yes, I would advocate for Oakland to partner with nonprofit organizations to establish supervised consumption site pilot programs. Nonprofits have the expertise and community connections necessary to run these programs effectively, and partnering with them allows the city to navigate some of the legal and logistical challenges associated with starting such programs independently.

2. Seeking Support from the Mayor and City Attorney:

I would absolutely seek the backing of the mayor and engage the city attorney to provide an opinion and guidance on the legal framework for implementing a supervised consumption site program. Their support and legal expertise would be crucial in ensuring that the program operates within the bounds of the law and has the necessary political and institutional backing to succeed.

3. Engaging the Alameda County Board of Supervisors:

I would also push for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to provide funding for these harm reduction initiatives. County-level support could be instrumental in scaling the program and ensuring that it has the resources needed to make a meaningful impact. I believe that working collaboratively with county officials is essential for addressing substance use as a regional issue that affects all of Alameda County.

In summary, I see harm reduction programs like supervised consumption sites as a vital component of a comprehensive strategy to address substance use. These programs not only save lives by reducing overdose deaths, but they also connect individuals to critical services, reduce public drug use, and alleviate the burden on emergency services. As a City Councilmember, I would be committed to exploring every possible avenue to implement these programs in Oakland, ensuring that our city takes a compassionate, evidence-based approach to substance use and public health.

10. Last year the Oakland City Council established the Lakeshore LGBTQ Cultural District. How would you work to help maintain and promote the district and attract more LGBTQ-owned businesses to it? Are there other areas of the city that could also have an LGBTQ cultural district, perhaps centering the transgender community like San Francisco has?

The establishment of the Lakeshore LGBTQ Cultural District is a significant step towards recognizing and celebrating Oakland's vibrant LGBTQ community. As a councilmember, I would work diligently to maintain and promote this district through our partners at Visit Oakland and to ensure that the district remains a thriving hub of culture, commerce, and inclusivity. I would advocate for city resources to be allocated towards marketing and events that highlight the district, such as Pride celebrations, arts festivals, and other cultural activities that draw both locals and visitors. Additionally, I would push for policies that offer incentives, such as grants, to attract and support LGBTQ-owned businesses and artists in the district, ensuring that it remains a welcoming and economically vibrant area.

Beyond Lakeshore, I believe Oakland has the potential to establish additional LGBTQ districts, for businesses and for the transgender community. For example, neighborhoods like West Oakland which already have a history of activism and diversity, could be ideal locations for a transgender-focused cultural district. Such a district would need to provide a safe space for transgender individuals since we continue to feel the ongoing impact violence has had. I would work closely with the transgender community and other stakeholders to identify the best locations and resources needed to develop these districts, ensuring that Oakland continues to be a leader in LGBTQ rights and culture.

11. What is your plan to address homelessness in Oakland, particularly since the Wood Street encampment has been dismantled? Would you work to secure state funds for tiny cabins? More shelters?

Addressing homelessness in Oakland requires a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach that prioritizes both immediate relief and long-term solutions. The dismantling of the Wood Street encampment underscores the urgent need for safe, stable housing options for our unhoused residents. My plan begins with securing state funds and exploring additional resources to increase the availability of transitional housing, including tiny cabins and the conversion of hotels and motels into shelter spaces. These transitional homes provide a critical first step in getting people off the streets and into safe environments where they can begin the process of rebuilding their lives.

However, providing temporary shelter is only part of the solution. To address the root causes of homelessness, we must focus on creating affordable housing at all levels. Oakland's housing crisis is driven by the lack of affordable options, and it's unacceptable that nearly half of our unhoused residents are employed but still can't afford a place to live. My plan includes streamlining the development of affordable housing units and making legal different types of living arrangements, such as co-living spaces and group homes, to expand housing options that meet the diverse needs of our community.

In addition to increasing housing supply, I am committed to ensuring that those transitioning out of homelessness receive the wraparound services they need to succeed. This includes mental health care, job training, and substance abuse treatment, which are essential for helping individuals regain stability and move into permanent housing. By focusing on a holistic approach that combines immediate shelter, supportive services, and affordable housing development, we can make meaningful progress in reducing homelessness in Oakland.

12. What is your plan to create more affordable housing for LGBTQ seniors?

My plan for affordable housing for LGBTQ seniors involves creating dedicated living spaces by strengthening partnerships with both non-profits and private developers. I'm committed to offering financial incentives to encourage the development of supportive housing environments and pushing for legislation that ensures non-discrimination. Our goal is to provide not just housing, but a supportive community where LGBTQ seniors can live with dignity and respect.

13. Do you commit to appointing qualified LGBTQ people to the city's various boards and commissions?

Yes, I am fully committed to appointing qualified LGBTQ individuals to Oakland's various boards and commissions. Representation matters, and it's crucial that our city's leadership reflects the diversity of our community. By appointing LGBTQ people to these important roles, we ensure that their voices, experiences, and perspectives are included in decision-making processes that affect the entire city. This commitment aligns with my broader goal of creating an inclusive and equitable Oakland, where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our city's growth and development.

14. How will you work to help Oakland continue to recover economically from COVID-19? How would your plan include small businesses, which make up the backbone of many neighborhoods?

Oakland's economic recovery from COVID-19 requires a focused and inclusive strategy that prioritizes the needs of our small businesses, which are the backbone of many of our neighborhoods. As a councilmember, I am committed to supporting our local economy by creating an environment where small businesses can thrive. This includes streamlining the permitting process, providing access to low-interest loans and grants, and ensuring that city policies are designed to support the unique challenges faced by small businesses. Additionally, I will work to promote local entrepreneurship, especially among historically marginalized communities, by offering resources and mentorship opportunities to help new businesses get off the ground.

My economic recovery plan also emphasizes the importance of equitable development and investment in all of Oakland's neighborhoods. This means not only supporting existing businesses but also attracting new ones that align with the community's values and needs. You can learn more about my comprehensive approach to economic recovery and support for small businesses by visiting my established business policy. This policy outlines specific actions we can take to ensure that Oakland's recovery is sustainable, inclusive, and beneficial to all residents:

<https://warrenforoakland.com/policies/economic-policy>

By working together, we can build a stronger, more resilient economy that reflects the diversity and vibrancy of our city.

15. How will you ensure that unhoused individuals suffering from mental health and substance use issues will receive the care they need, especially given the city's budget constraints?

To ensure that unhoused individuals suffering from mental health and substance use issues receive the care they need, I would focus on strengthening our collaboration with Alameda County, which already receives significant funding to provide these essential services. By partnering more effectively with the county, we can better target our outreach and connect individuals to the appropriate mental health and substance use treatment services without duplicating efforts. Given the city's budget constraints, this coordinated approach will allow us to maximize existing resources and ensure that those most in need receive the care and support they require.

16. Oaklanders are concerned about property crime and retail theft, and many businesses have closed as a result, such as In-N-Out, Denny's, and others along the Hegenberger Corridor. What are the priorities for you to address these issues in your district? Would you advocate for increased police patrols? Why or why not?

My priority is to ensure a balanced approach to property crime and retail theft that supports our local businesses while respecting the rights and dignity of all Oakland

residents. I believe in a strategy that does not solely rely on increasing police patrols. While having a visible police presence can be a deterrent to crime, it is not a standalone solution. We need to address the root causes of crime, which often stem from economic disparity and a lack of opportunities, particularly for our youth. Investing in access programs for youth that include education, job training, mentorship, and recreational activities can provide alternatives to criminal behavior and help prevent crime before it occurs

However, I do recognize the immediate need to ensure the safety and security of our local businesses and their patrons. Specifically, I advocate for increased police patrols in areas like the Hegenberger Corridor, where businesses have been particularly affected. These patrols will not only serve as a deterrent to crime but also start creating a safer environment for both businesses, patrons, and tourists using the airport.

17. Do you support funding for the city to hire a full-time grant writer to seek state grants that can help with funding for unhoused people, or to combat retail theft?

Yes, I am a strong advocate to fill the vacancies throughout City Hall and our government in order to best serve the Oakland community. This includes hiring a grant writer who will ensure that we do not leave money on the table again, especially when the city is in such a dire financial situation and Oaklanders continue to struggle.

18. How would you work with the Port of Oakland to promote the newly named San Francisco Bay Area Oakland International Airport? What are some ideas you have to work with the port and Visit Oakland to attract more visitors to the city?

By positioning Oakland as a clean, vibrant, diverse, and convenient destination for both business and leisure travelers, we can attract more visitors to our city and encourage them to explore everything Oakland has to offer beyond the airport.

I would advocate for the creation of travel packages and partnerships with local businesses, hotels, and cultural institutions that can be promoted through the airport and Visit Oakland. These packages could include discounted stays, guided tours, and exclusive experiences that showcase the best of Oakland, from our world-class dining scene to our rich arts and music culture. By integrating these offerings with seamless transportation options between the airport and key city attractions, we can enhance the visitor experience and make Oakland a must-visit destination for travelers to the Bay Area.

Furthermore, I would improve the connectivity between the airport and downtown Oakland, such as enhancing public transportation options and promoting shuttle services. Strengthening these links will not only make it easier for visitors to access our city but also encourage longer stays and greater engagement with local businesses. Through these efforts, we can leverage the airport as a critical asset in boosting Oakland's tourism industry and driving economic growth in our community.

19. Do you support or oppose the recall of Mayor Sheng Thao?

Oppose

20. Do you support or oppose the recall of Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price?

Oppose

21. How are you voting in the November presidential election?

For Kamala Harris and Tim Walz

22. List some of your major endorsements.

Housing Action Committee
Elaine Brown

23. Please provide contact information of the person in your campaign we should contact for any follow-up to this questionnaire.

Name: Kunal Basu-Dutta _____
Position in campaign: General Consultant

Address: _____

Phone: 706.984.9279 _____

Email: kunal.basudutta@modernbaystrategies.com

Please return this questionnaire to: Cynthia Laird, news editor, Bay Area Reporter, 44 Gough Street, #302, San Francisco, CA 94103 or via email to c.laird@ebar.com no later than August 23, 2024.

Please include a headshot of yourself, if available.