

August 26, 2024

Dear Candidate for Oakland City Councilmember,

Congratulations on your candidacy. The League of Conservation Voters of the East Bay consider Bay Area city councils crucial in achieving our goals for a sustainable Bay Area. We plan to make endorsements to help voters decide which candidates are best equipped to advance environmental protections in our city and region.

Below you will find a short set of questions to help us make our endorsements. If you would like to be considered for endorsement, please return your answers as a PDF file by Friday, September 13th.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to public service.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron Clay". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Best regards,".

Aaron Clay,

President. League of Conservation Voters of the East Bay

Key Basic Information

Name: Warren Logan
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Campaign Manager: Audrey-Shola Momoh
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Position you are running for: Oakland City Council District 3

Motivation and Alignment with LCV Values

1. Why did you choose to run for political office, and how do your goals align with the LCV's mission to ensure clean air, clean water, and access to democracy for every community?

If you are running against an incumbent, what is your primary dissatisfaction with their environmental policies, and what would you do differently?

I am running for office because I believe Oakland is on the wrong track, and it's time for a change in leadership that prioritizes practical solutions and strong governance. As a city planner with extensive experience in land use and community resilience, I bring a unique perspective and skill set that are critically needed at this moment. My background includes working at nearly every level of government, where I have successfully implemented policies and projects that address the very challenges Oakland faces today.

What sets me apart is my commitment to pragmatic, results-driven leadership. By focusing on dense, transit-oriented housing and protecting open spaces, I aim to reduce car dependency, improve air quality, and conserve natural resources. Additionally, I'm committed to amplifying community voices in shaping policies that directly impact their neighborhoods, ensuring everyone has access to democracy and the opportunity to thrive in a healthier, more sustainable city.

Qualifications and Track Record

2. Please provide a brief summary of your background and qualifications for this office, particularly as they relate to advancing environmental policies.

If you have previously held public office, what specific environmental initiatives have you championed, and what impact have they had on the community?

I have extensive experience as a city planner and policy director, focusing on land use, transportation, and community resilience. I've worked at every level of government, leading efforts to create sustainable, equitable cities. My background includes serving as Oakland's Policy Director of Transportation and Government Affairs, where I helped implement the nation's largest Slow Streets program, reducing car dependency and supporting safer, greener neighborhoods. I've championed dense, transit-oriented housing, protected green spaces, and improved air quality. While I have not held public office, I've advanced policies that align with creating a more sustainable, environmentally responsible future for Oakland.

3. Please provide a summary of your core vision and top three priorities to address the most significant environmental and social issues facing Oakland right now?

My core vision for Oakland is centered on addressing the intertwined environmental and social injustices that disproportionately impact communities like West Oakland. The most significant issue is air pollution, with District 3 experiencing the highest levels of toxic air in the city due to heavy industry, traffic on major freeways, and underinvestment in green spaces. My first priority is improving air quality by planting trees, creating green buffers along freeways, and supporting sustainable practices at the Port of Oakland. I will work collaboratively with agencies like Caltrans and the Air Quality District to implement these changes and secure grant funding for district-wide sustainability measures.

My second priority is promoting sustainable housing development by building dense, affordable housing near transit hubs. This not only addresses our housing crisis but also reduces reliance on cars, cutting transportation emissions and improving air quality.

Finally, I will prioritize expanding alternative transportation options, such as biking, walking, and public transit, to further reduce our city's carbon footprint and create safer, healthier streets. By working with Oakland's transportation agencies and local communities, we can build a more resilient city where clean air, equitable housing, and sustainable transit are accessible to everyone. Together, we can shape a better future for Oakland.

Climate Change

Oakland is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. With 19 miles of San Francisco Bay shoreline, wildfire and drought vulnerability, and social inequities that exacerbate the human impacts of a changing climate, Oakland has to significantly address climate change. The 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP) is the City's 10-year roadmap to bring about an equitable transition, mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis.

4. The ECAP sets ambitious goals for decarbonizing Oakland's buildings and transportation sectors. What specific policies and initiatives will you support to accelerate the transition to electrification and zero-emission transportation, and how will you ensure these efforts are implemented equitably, especially in underserved communities?

I support requiring all-electric systems in new construction for single-family homes, multi-family residences, and many commercial buildings. Gas appliances, like stoves and furnaces, contribute to poor indoor air quality, increasing asthma rates, particularly in children. Many cities and restaurants are already transitioning to cleaner alternatives, such as induction cooktops, and I back these electrification efforts to improve health and reduce emissions.

Additionally, I support expanding alternative transportation options like walking, biking, and public transit. Prioritizing low-income communities in the transition away from fossil fuels is essential. This means making sustainable transportation, housing, and job opportunities more accessible. My focus will be on creating safer streets, reducing car dependency, and reconnecting West Oakland by removing I-980. Building affordable housing near transit hubs will ensure that low-income families have access to both sustainable transportation and economic opportunities.

5. The ECAP aims to strengthen Oakland's economy by creating green jobs and supporting a just transition for workers in high-carbon industries. What steps will you take to expand job training programs, like those at Cypress Mandela Training Center and ensure that new green job opportunities are accessible to all residents, particularly those in historically underserved communities?

Use discretionary funding from the city's budget to provide targeted outreach and recruitment in the City's priority equity neighborhoods to get more people into these training programs. This is also an excellent opportunity for intersectional thinking: we should use job training recruitment as part of our violence prevention program to both reduce crimes, improve public safety and improve access to good paying jobs and skills-based training

6. The ECAP prioritizes empowering communities to build resilience against climate change impacts. How will you engage vulnerable communities in the ECAP's implementation, and what actions will you take to support and fund community-led resilience projects?

As District 3's councilmember, I will work to ensure that residents in our most affected neighborhoods—those facing the greatest risks from sea-level rise, wildfires, and other climate-related impacts—are empowered and informed in ways to lead the charge in building resilience. This means actively engaging with these communities and local organizations like the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, a group I am already connected to, through regular listening sessions, town halls, and partnerships with local organizations to ensure their voices are centered in decision-making processes. It also means prioritizing the needs of Black, Brown, and low-income residents, who often face the brunt of climate change's impacts due to historical inequities.

To fund and support community-led resilience projects, I will work to secure additional city, state, and federal resources, while pushing for increased investments in renewable energy projects, urban greening, and local infrastructure upgrades that align with ECAP's goals. I will advocate for partnerships with local non-profits, environmental justice groups, and private stakeholders to co-create solutions, such as expanding tree-planting initiatives, energy-efficient housing retrofits, and community-based disaster preparedness programs. This approach will not only advance climate resilience but will also generate job opportunities and improve quality of life for vulnerable communities.

Conservation and Sustainable Land Use

7. What is your strategy for preserving natural areas and protecting important habitats and other protected public lands and waters?

My strategy for preserving natural areas and protecting important habitats focuses on balancing urban development with environmental conservation. While Oakland is not part of the greenbelt, as the county seat and a major job center, it has a responsibility to build dense housing to prevent urban sprawl into surrounding valleys. By focusing growth within the city, we can reduce pressure on natural areas outside Oakland. However, it's equally important to preserve Oakland's waterways and shorelines from development. I will continue to support initiatives that protect these critical areas and prevent harmful encroachment.

I also believe in integrating green infrastructure into our urban landscape. This includes projects like bioswales and water catchments to manage stormwater, daylighting creeks to restore natural water flows, and creating greenways along rivers. These initiatives not only protect habitats but also help manage the flow of water through Oakland into the Bay, improving water quality and ecosystem health. By connecting our transportation

sector to sustainable practices, we can create a more resilient, environmentally friendly city while protecting the natural resources that make Oakland unique.

8. What is your understanding of how the City Council should help address the issue of wildfire prevention and safety?

I am fortunate to live in “the flats” away from the high fire severity zones which are primarily in the Oakland hills, but a large fire in the Oakland hills would have huge ramifications for the entire city. That’s why we must prioritize fire prevention by investing in vegetation management, such as clearing dry brush, maintaining firebreaks, and increasing tree trimming in high-risk areas. We must also ensure that resources for emergency preparedness, such as evacuation plans and early warning systems, are accessible to all residents, including those in underserved communities.

Community education is another key aspect, with the City Council promoting awareness campaigns that inform residents about fire safety practices and preparedness steps.

Community Issues

9. Oakland faces a significant homelessness crisis that has been exacerbated by economic inequalities and housing shortages. Given the complexity of this issue, what comprehensive strategies do you propose to address the unsheltered population in the City of Oakland?

I propose a comprehensive, equity-focused strategy. I will expand investments in non-congregate, low-barrier shelter beds to provide safe, dignified spaces for those without homes. We must also leverage state and federal resources to rapidly acquire and convert hotels, motels, and other properties into permanent affordable housing. Tackling homelessness requires a regional approach, so I will push for urgent, coordinated efforts with state and county partners to resolve unsafe encampments with housing solutions, not criminalization. Expanding Oakland’s successful "Keep Oakland Housed" initiative is crucial to preventing homelessness before it starts, by providing targeted resources to those most at risk. Finally, I’ll work to balance the needs of unsheltered residents with the broader community, ensuring clean, safe public spaces while holding criminal actors within encampments accountable. This new social contract, rooted in compassion and justice, will ensure we tackle homelessness with solutions that protect both the housed and unsheltered, creating a safer, more inclusive Oakland for everyone.

10. Illegal dumping is a significant issue that undermines the quality of life in many Oakland neighborhoods. How do you plan to address the persistent problem of trash dumping and blight in the city? What specific strategies will you implement to prevent illegal dumping, hold offenders accountable, and ensure that affected communities receive timely and effective clean-up services?

To address illegal dumping in Oakland, I propose tackling the root causes and reforming city policies that inadvertently encourage this behavior. First, I will advocate for a citywide "bank" of bulky pick-ups, allowing residents to use the service as needed rather than assigning one pick-up per household per year. Additionally, I support allowing free dumping at junkyards to eliminate the financial barrier that leads people to dump illegally.

We will also focus on monitoring known dumping hotspots with surveillance and increased enforcement to hold offenders accountable. Finally, I will push for community education on waste management and proper disposal options, ensuring residents and businesses are aware of available services.

11. The Port of Oakland is a key economic engine, but West Oakland residents have long suffered from severe air pollution due to the port's industrial activities and major transportation routes. Community groups like the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project have pushed for stricter environmental regulations and better air quality protections for decades.

How would you balance the economic benefits of the Port of Oakland with the need to improve air quality and protect West Oakland residents? What specific policies would you support to ensure environmental justice is prioritized

The Port plays a critical role in the local and national economy, at the same time West Oakland residents have struggled for years with environmental issues as a result. Poor air quality is a downstream indicator. It tells us that our status quo of underinvested vegetation and green spaces, heavily trafficked roads and freeways, and lack of clear environmental policies for our industries, is harming our health, and our district is long overdue for a clear approach to fix it.

We must modernize and improve our port by investing in sustainable port operations such as electrifying landside operations and supporting clean fuel trucking in order to reduce emissions and create a more sustainable supply chain.

We can also do more to ensure that new development in West Oakland does not set us up for conflicts down the road. One policy I would prioritize is land swaps. By exchanging industrial and maritime land for more strategically valuable parcels, we can ensure the preservation of essential port operations while also reducing the likelihood of conflicts between the port and residents. This approach helps create buffer zones to mitigate development pressures and fosters community benefits, such as parks or affordable housing, improving public relations. Additionally, swapping contaminated land for cleaner sites facilitates environmental remediation and safety improvements. Overall, land swaps enable the city to protect industrial jobs, enhance operational efficiency, and influence development in a way that aligns with both economic and community interests.

12. Youth organizations and community groups have raised concerns about residents ignoring 'no dog' regulations in parks like Defremery Park, leading to unsafe conditions that have caused the cancellation of youth and family activities. How would you work with the community to ensure equitable access to clean, safe parks, and enforce these regulations effectively?

I would prioritize community education and fair enforcement of 'no dog' regulations. Working with local groups, we can raise awareness, improve signage, and ensure consistent enforcement without over-policing. Additionally, creating designated off-leash dog areas nearby can help balance the needs of all park users.

13. Please attach a list of your endorsements and your official candidate statement.

ENDORSEMENTS

Below are some key endorsements, titles for identification. A full and updated list can also be found online: <https://warrenforoakland.com/endorsements>

- Jesse Arreguín — Mayor of Berkeley
- Ben Bartlett — Berkeley City Councilmember, District 3
- Gabriel Quinto — El Cerrito Councilmember; Second VP, League of California Cities
- Housing Action Coalition
- Alice Chen — Board Co-Chair, TransForm
- Dave Peters — Founder, West Oakland Cultural Action Network
- Jordan Grimes — Resilience Manager, Greenbelt Alliance
- Ryan Russo — Former Head of Oakland Department of Transportation
- Sahar Shirazi — Chair, Oakland Planning Commission

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I envision an Oakland where people can safely take their children to school, enjoy some time at Lake Merritt, or walk downtown at night. An Oakland where small businesses can open and feel supported by our city. An Oakland where we can all afford to live, grow, and thrive.

As a city planner and public policy expert, with more than a decade of experience living and working in Oakland, I have dedicated myself to improving the quality of life for our community.

I'm endorsed by legendary organizer Elaine Brown, housing advocate and mom Misty Cross, Former Councilmember Loren Taylor, and countless community members who agree that Oakland needs leaders who understand policy, respond transparently, and take collaborative action for our neighborhoods.

I believe in a future for Oakland that is clean, safe, and vibrant.

I'd be honored to have your vote. Learn more on my website at WarrenForOakland.com.