
**Berkeley Progressive Alliance
Candidate Questionnaire
Nov 2016 Election**

**Name: Fred Dodsworth
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Candidate for what office: City Council, District 6
Campaign Web site: dodsworthforsix2016.com**

1. Why are you running for mayor / city council?

I'm running out of necessity. Our council is broken, our city is falling apart, and our current council member has been horribly ineffective at dealing with Berkeley's many systemic problems.

2. Why do you think you'd make a good mayor / council member?

As an active participant in Berkeley's political process, I am aware of our problems. As a reporter I've covered politics in Berkeley, Emeryville, Albany, Oakland, Contra Costa, and SF so I'm more than familiar with what has worked in surrounding communities and what hasn't worked. I'm also aware these interconnected problems require regional rather than just municipal solutions.

Finally I am hard working and I think outside the constraints that seem to have trapped our so-called political leaders.

3. What are the key issues that the City Council should address?

(Please limit your responses to questions 1 ,2 and 3 to 325 words total)

We have neglected our municipal infrastructure, which is now actually falling apart. For years now we have not resolved unfunded liabilities, which must be addressed. We have a homeless problem that is being used as a political weapon to divide us rather than treating the problem.

We have an affordable housing crisis that is driving working people and our children out of Berkeley.

We're giving away development rights at fire sale prices while getting too little in return while our historic character and culture are being destroyed for out-of-town profits.

Cutting expenses is no longer feasible but containing our expenses is possible.

Our city's revenues must be increased without adding additional tax burdens to our residents.

Berkeley has few sources of flexible income but those must be increased, more retail sales results in more sale taxes and the city needs to see all its actions through that lens.

Additional fees for development and additional revenues from large property owners can be "share the wealth" solutions that will help us address our structural deficits without adding additional economic burdens on our residents.

The council must stop being reactive and become proactive.

The council must take active steps to protect and improve our infrastructure.

The council must protect and improve our retail business community.

The council must protect and improve our historic and diverse culture.

4. Do you support the Berkeley Progressive Alliance's mission statement and progressive agenda?

a) Is there anything you would add? Yes

What would you add? _____

b) Is there anything you would not support? No

Which Items would you not support? _____

Housing:

5. Do you support The Berkeley Progressive Alliance's Affordable Housing Platform?

Yes

6. Do you support our proposed funding sources for affordable housing? Yes

a) Is there anything you would add? Yes

What would you add?

The city needs to aggressively work to create long-term, tenant-owned, limited-equity residential projects, both from existing, built-properties and as new construction.

Only by doing so can we actually solve the problem of residential real estate as a speculative investment. [http://www.economist.com/news/international/21693219-having-launched-and-led-battle-against-offshore-tax-evasion-america-now-part]

Additionally, Berkeley must lead the way in combatting America's current status as a safe-haven for dirty money, too much of which goes into residential real estate.

[http://www.48hills.org/2016/04/04/panama-papers-show-sfs-housing-marked/]

b) Is there anything you would not support? No

Our affordable housing platform:

<http://berkeleyprogressivealliance.org/2016/02/26/affordable-housing-platform/>

7. Will you commit to supporting the candidates for Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board chosen at the Tenant Convention on April 24? Yes

Ballot Measures:

8. Will you support the ballot measure to increase the Berkeley minimum wage to \$15 in 2017 and provide paid sick leave? Yes

(See pdf attached to e-mail for info.)

9. Will you support the ballot measure to increase the business license tax paid by landlords with five or more units to pay for affordable housing, with an increase sufficient to generate \$4 million a year? Yes

Info here: <http://www.fundaffordablehousing.org>

10. Will you support a ballot measure to implement public financing of local elections for Mayor and City Council? Yes

Info about this proposed initiative:

<http://records.cityofberkeley.info/Agenda/Meetings/ViewMeeting?id=178&doctype=1>

See Item 12, with supporting documents in the April 5 Council agenda.

(Please limit comments, if any, to 75 words on questions 9, 10 and 11)

11, Berkeley has a rich history of being a community that is economically and racially diverse. What do you think the city could do immediately to stop the displacement of African-Americans and other people of color?

The city needs to aggressively work to create long-term, tenant-owned, limited-equity residential projects, both from existing, built-properties and as new construction. Only by doing this can we solve the problem of residential real estate as a speculative investment. [<http://www.economist.com/news/international/21693219-having-launched-and-led-battle-against-offshore-tax-evasion-america-now-part>] Only by doing so can we protect the historic diversity of this University town. Similarly, by protecting African-Americans from economic ethnic cleansing we will protect the rest of us — our children, our friends and neighbors, teachers, shopkeepers, firefighters, and the other people in our community — who are not and will never be high-tech billionaires.

12. How will you campaign in your race?

a) If you run, will you knock on doors and talk to voters? Yes

b) Will you call and e-mail people and ask them to contribute money to your campaign? Yes

c) About how many hours a week would you devote to campaigning between Labor Day (Sept 5) and Election Day (November 8)?

35 hours a week or more