

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

Name: **Kriss Worthington**
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Candidate for what office: **Mayor** Campaign Web site: **To be established**

1. Why are you running for Mayor/City Council?

Berkeley needs a Twenty-First Century Mayor who will treasure transparency, defend democracy, reflect our diversity, respect our residents, prioritize the public interest, and celebrate our historic achievements, while embracing technological innovation and modern best practices.

Berkeley people are social, political, economic and intellectual leaders within our region and nation. They deserve a Twenty-First Century Mayor who will perform the City Charter mandated role of chairing meetings fairly and dispensing ceremonial items with dignity and grace. Berkeley deserves an end to the Tuesday Night Circus, and the implementation of common sense reforms to facilitate full-fledged public participation while respecting our talented professional staff.

Council member Jesse Arreguin and I are both running for Mayor in a political partnership that I describe as combining the best qualities of both Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. Each of us can motivate and mobilize various constituencies. By joining together we hope to maximize community organizing and coalition building to produce a practical progressive Twenty-First Century Mayor.

2. Why do you think you'd make a good Mayor / Council Member?

For nineteen years I have sponsored the most Council items and shepherded about 98% of them to victory. Hundreds have been supporting city state, or national programs or policies proposed by local activist groups or individuals. Dozens have been trailblazing ordinances. I have also appointed a racially diverse team of different Commissioners including the most African American, Asian and Latino representatives. I have played the roles of Parliamentarian and Whistleblower. In presenting proclamations I practice inclusion and avoid politics. As the Chair of multiple City and County committees I have won respect for meticulous following of the rules and laws, while maintaining a congenial disposition and approachability to the public.

I think either Jesse Arreguin or I would make an excellent Mayor.

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

BPA Platform plus- South and West Berkeley deserve fairness not cuts; Participatory Democracy; Public Safety; Technological innovation; Seniors on fixed incomes ; Disabled Community; In-sourcing; Living Wage phase-in; Massive Management Transition; Balancing Baseline/Innovation; City-wide Newsletter; Full-funding FUNDS replacement; 50% Solar; & Fiscal Responsibility/Reinstating the Rainy Day Fund.

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

YES, and I have been fighting for these and many other social justice issues for decades. I see my role as an elected official as being of service to the people of Berkeley and any and all practical progressive affordable policy or program ideas.

a) Is there anything you would add? YES, next year,

b) Is there anything you would not support? No

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, YES, YES

a) Is there anything you would add? Yes

What would you add?

Twenty-First Century Best Practices for incentivizing non-profit developers.

Prioritizing predevelopment to jump start multiple projects to prepare a pipeline for regional, state and federal funding sources.

Expediting funding/permitting for BRIDGE/BFHP housing for homeless and low income

Thousands of beds of student housing close to campus, in projects that include rents equal to dorms, prevailing wage/joint apprenticeships, and green building sustainability

Extending existing housing contracts to PERMANENT instead of decades

b) Is there anything you would not support? YES

Which Items would you not support?

Minor things like typos on calculating percent and number of units. Outdated description of mitigation fee

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

YES, I have actively participated in and supported every convention.

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

YES, I wrote sponsored the very first proposal to raise the minimum wage, cosponsored the Bates, Arreguin, Worthington proposal, and made repeated motions to accomplish this. (Unfortunately they only received three or four votes.)

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

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

YES . I sponsored the Council item to create this campaign finance reform. The small donor match feature offers a powerful way to empower people who make small donations.

In the face of Berkeley's "curious coincidence" of waiving millions of dollars in fees and special treatment for campaign contributors it is an urgently needed reform.

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?

Racism and Classism persist and the first step towards solutions is admitting the problems. There are many things we can do to address displacement but we also need to address mistreatment of African Americans and other People of Color who are still here.

People of Color are underrepresented in who gets City contracts adding up to millions of dollars. Asians and Latinas are vastly underrepresented in who gets hired, and who is appointed to Commissions. Now that records are reported there appear to be significant indications of racial profiling right here in Berkeley. In recent years numerous African American City employees identified problems with how they were mistreated and sparked the Mason Tilman report, the NAACP solutions report, and a massive ongoing overhaul of City training, hiring, supervision and promotions practices. I think we still need to bring back Mason Tilman to evaluate how far we've come and how far we still have to go.

Stopping Displacement of African Americans and other People of Color and low income residents needs comprehensive interventions in health, housing, jobs, and education. This is not just a land-use problem. Many vulnerable residents were driven out by foreclosures. The loss of union industrial jobs and widening gap between rich and poor are factors. Development Without Displacement is a new Oakland report by Just Causa Oakland that details principles and policies to protect residents, produce and preserve truly affordable housing, neighborhood stabilization, displacement prevention and participatory planning.

(The Civil Rights Movement is the first cause that opened my eyes to injustice and sparked my political involvement. Please forgive my exceeding the word limit here, since I used less words than allowed on some other questions.)

12. How will you campaign in your race?

I will campaign in close cooperation with Council member Jesse Arreguin. I will work harder on this than any campaign in my life, because we will need to do that to overcome massive money against us.

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)? Minimum of 40 to 60 hours per week

E-mail the completed document to: berkeleyprogressivealliance@gmail.com

Deadline for submitting completed questionnaires: Friday, April 22