

Berkeley Progressive Alliance
<http://berkeleyprogressivealliance.org>

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

Name__ Mark Coplan
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Candidate for what office__ Berkeley City Council District 3
Campaign Web site__ www.markcoplan.com

1. Why are you running for mayor / city council? My constituents want representation, someone who will look after the needs of District 3 from potholes to housing affordability, development, and other issues that impact south Berkeley; someone capable of participating in the complex work the council does together, making decisions that affect all of Berkeley's residents. They want someone who can work effectively on all sides of issues, with the ability to listen to all viewpoints and identify mutual ground and consensus. I'm running because I am that person, committed to working full time to get the job done.

2. Why do you think you'd make a good mayor / council member? I have spent my adult life in public service, I'm not a career politician, and what I have to offer is clear - Service and Commitment. My 20 years of serving Berkeley Unified School District have given me a solid, strong understanding of protocols, public process, transparency, and a foundation for a window into the workings of city government. As Public Information Officer for BUSD, my energy and passion has helped me to better serve parents and staff, who have always asked, "How can you be everywhere?" Deeply committed to my community, I will bring that energy and that reputation to District 3. I will visit District 3 businesses monthly and hold regular community meetings, listen to my District's concerns, and I will always be accessible to my constituents. I am a Berkeley native - my family lived across the street from Alta Bates Hospital where I was born, and I raised my son here. Thirteen years ago I moved into the LeConte neighborhood, where my wife has lived for 30 years. This is our community, and together we are committed to making it better.

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

- building affordable housing for low income, working and middle class families and individuals, while preserving the quality of neighborhoods throughout the city;
- homelessness in Berkeley, particularly with homeless teens
- education, starting with K-12, and supporting the 2020 Vision for Berkeley schools to eliminate the opportunity gap

4. Do you support the

[Berkeley Progressive Alliance's mission statement and progressive agenda?](#)

a) Is there anything you would add? Yes ___ No X

What would you add? _____

b) Is there anything you would **not support**? Yes ___ No X

Which Items would you not support? _____

Please visit our [mission statement and agenda.](#)

(Please limit your response to 250 words)

I have read through the BPA Mission Statement, and was impressed by the breadth and the level of detail. As a progressive, I agree with the principles and ideals in this document. I applaud the goals and will support their implementation, while maintaining my responsibility to the constituents of District 3 and

citywide, and will make the best decisions at the Council on their behalf. I share the values of this mission statement and look forward to doing all we can to make the Berkeley a better place for all of us.

Housing:

5. Do you support [The Berkeley Progressive Alliance's Affordable Housing Platform?](#)

Yes No

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

Yes No

a) Is there anything you would **add**? Yes No

What would you add? _____

b) Is there anything you would **not support**? Yes No

Which Items would you not support? _____

We need to build affordable housing for low income, homeless, working and middle class families and individuals, quickly and responsibly. We are obviously in crisis when many of these people cannot afford to move into our community in today's housing market. We need to progressively move forward with development of higher density housing along our primary corridors and It is important that these buildings are green in construction, and with mixed occupancy. For example, one building shouldn't solely be luxury apartments, while the next building be just teachers and custodians, and another only Section 8. We also need to work with developers to reward good practices with timely approvals and a collaborative process, and I believe any windfall that results from that collaboration should benefit the community, not the developer. I am not convinced that there should be a standard of six stories high and we don't need these buildings in every open space on every corridor --- nor should we consider a second row of high density buildings where our neighborhoods would be severely impacted. We need sufficient housing to minimize the crisis and stabilize the cost of housing, with a balance between added density while preserving the quality of neighborhoods throughout the city.

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 No

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 No

(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 No

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 No

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?

(Please limit comments to 75 words or less)

Berkeley is diverse; Our students go home to over 37 different languages, but we need to protect rental housing through stronger protection for renters, making sure that evictions are not being done immorally. We need sufficient affordable housing to impact the inflated rental market. Renters with deep roots in the community are pushed out of their homes to make room for people who can afford market rates, so even middle income families can't afford Berkeley.

12. How will you campaign in your race?

- a) If you run, will you **knock on doors** and talk to voters? Yes 3 times _____ No _____
- b) Will you **call and e-mail people** and ask them to contribute money to your campaign? Yes _____ No _____
- c) About how many **hours a week** would you devote to campaigning between Labor Day (Sept 5) and Election Day (November 8)? ___ 50 - 60 hours a week _____

How to submit your responses to the Questionnaire: Type your responses; they may be in a separate document, using the question numbers. Be sure to include your name, contact info and what you are running for. Then e-mail the completed document containing your responses to: berkeleyprogressivealliance@gmail.com

Deadline for submitting completed questionnaires: Friday, April 22

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