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

Name: SOPHIE HAHN

Address: 1130 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

Email and Phone: Sophie@sophiehahn.com; 510-682-5905

Candidate for what office: Berkeley City Council, District 5

Campaign Web site: www.sophiehahn.com

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

I grew up in District 5, and have raised my own family here. My life of activism began as a youth at Berkeley High, where I participated in the civil rights movement and worked to “integrate” the school’s extracurricular activities. Since that time, I have been continuously engaged in civil rights, human rights, women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, labor, the environment, choice, and more. Passionate about all that makes Berkeley unique, **I am running to forge a dynamic future that embodies our progressive values** of equity, diversity, opportunity, sustainability and participation.

The affordability and displacement crisis threaten to change the character of Berkeley forever. **I am running to ensure that Berkeley’s citizens are lifted up, not pushed out.** Affordable Housing and housing for families and long-term residents – as well as for our homeless citizens - must be the drivers of Berkeley’s housing policies. I welcome new market rate housing as well, but in the short run, it won’t help to house our teachers, firefighters, city workers, nurses, police, artists, seniors, single parent families and others who are unable to afford market rent.

Sustainability, resilience and environmental concerns are equally pressing issues. **I am running to put sustainability at the center of everything we do in Berkeley.**

In 2010, Berkeley citizens approved a Downtown Plan that promised tree-lined streets, parks and plazas, preservation of historic resources, green buildings, dynamic streetscapes, culture, arts, and transit-oriented housing for all income levels and family sizes. **I am running to ensure that all elements of Berkeley’s visionary Downtown Plan are implemented.**

Berkeley’s schools, libraries, parks, shopping districts and historic civic center require investment to become the dynamic, inviting, community-serving commons they should be. **I am running to ensure that our public spaces and institutions are enhanced and enlivened, and that Berkeley as a Place is as dynamic and engaging as the people who live here.**

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

- I have a passion for service, and for the people of Berkeley
- I have worked for decades to successfully build community and support our schools, libraries and other institutions
- I believe in the people of Berkeley and trust the intelligence, compassion and initiative of our citizens
- I have lived in Berkeley most of my life, and know the schools, University, neighborhoods, people, places and values that make Berkeley unique
- I am a strategic, can-do person with energy and vision, and know how to move people and processes to achieve results
- I am an experienced member of Berkeley Commissions and Boards, and work collaboratively to make decisions that are fair, balanced and reflect the input of the community
- I have deep experience in law, policy, small business, community organizing, advocacy and leadership

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)

See #1, above

4. Do you support the

Berkeley Progressive Alliance’s mission statement and progressive agenda?

a) Is there anything you would add? Yes XXX No _____

What would you add?

- Working across the community to end the “commitment gap” in our schools, which results in an “achievement gap” that falls along racial lines. Almost 50 years after Berkeley voted to integrate its public schools, we are still failing students of color in disproportionate numbers.
- Increasing funding to our Rent Board to ensure adequate staffing and resources to work effectively with tenants and landlords during this housing crisis, and to increase outreach. Rent control is our most important bulwark against displacement.
- Advocate to roll back the State Costa Hawkins law, which prohibits rent control on vacant units.
- Advocate for a regional commercial-linkage fee fund to support affordable housing
- Advocate to reform Proposition 13, which puts a disproportionate tax burden on homeowners and keeps commercial property taxes artificially low, starving cities and the state of needed resources
- Incentivize moving from gas to all-electric appliances in Berkeley buildings, to further reduce GHGs
- Support urban agriculture and the growing of significant amounts of fresh produce within Berkeley, and support and expand farmer’s markets offering food grown/produced regionally
- Encourage the State to increase funding to the UC, State University and Community College systems to relieve financial pressures and increase access to affordable or free public higher education

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)

Housing:

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

Yes XXX No _____

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

Yes XXX No _____

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

What would you add? See responses to 4(a) above

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

Which Items would you not support? _____

(Please limit your response to 250 words)

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 X 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?

Much of this displacement is achieved via large rent increases and evictions. Strengthen the Rent Board and its administration to allow vigorous outreach to vulnerable tenants, and to provide services to tenants under pressure. Establish a renters' hotline to provide easy access and rapid service beyond regular business hours. Celebrate, serve, represent and empower people of color in Berkeley to ensure that Berkeley is a desirable place to live, that our schools provide high quality education to all students of color (as well as all other students), and that all of our institutions are actively working to attract, serve and retain people of color in Berkeley. (Please limit comments to 75 words or less)

12. How will you campaign in your race?

I will run a full campaign including all traditional campaign components.

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

(Please limit response to 11. to 75 words)

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

Berkeley Progressive Alliance
PO Box 2961,
Berkeley, CA 94702
<http://berkeleyprogressivealliance.org>