OREB 2026 Endorsement Questions and Information

The first step to gaining endorsement from Our Revolution East Bay is completing the Endorsement Questions. Please answer **every** question; it is important to know your values. Most questions are Yes or No at the end of each section you may expand on any of your answers. Your explanation should be **CONCISE.** We may publish your answers to any question. **The purpose of the questionnaire is to ensure that endorsed candidates' values align with those of OREB. OREB continually monitors the actions of endorsed candidates regarding their questionnaire responses.**

If you have concerns or questions, please contact Carol Coyote and Michael Cheng.

Email *

majdiforberkeley@gmail.com

Untitled Title

Campaign Information

1. Name (as listed on the ballot): *

Majdi "Gaith" Abuhamdieh aka as Majdi Gaith

2. Preferred Pronouns: *

He/Him

3. Position running for *

Berkeley City Council District 4

4. Email *

majdiforberkeley@gmail.com

5. Phone number *

7078532778

6. Campaign website *

majdiforberkeley.com (under construction)

Core Values

1. Do you pledge to take no money from Super PACs? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Have you or will you accept contributions from AIPAC? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

3. Have you or will you accept contributions from police unions?: *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

4. Have you or will you accept contributions from landlord/real estate developers? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5. Do you support the Fair Elections/Clean Money Proposition (SB42)? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

6. Do you support and will work for Universal Single payer Healthcare? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

7. Do you oppose genocide and military occupation? For example: Gaza? Venezuela? Ukraine? Cuba? Greenland? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8. Do you support abolishing ICE? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

9. Do you support legislation to tax billionaires? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

10. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be brief)

I am a progressive and I support progressive issues. I live in the richest state in the richest country in the world and I know we have enough resources to share with those who are not fortunate enough.

I am opposed to ICE because nobody is illegal. Undocumented comrades work hard to keep this country afloat and should be naturalized into US citizenship. I also oppose ICE because they operate similarly to the IDF. I am a West Bank ID holder which means I cannot move freely, I am not afforded due process and I am not allowed to vote in Israel's October 27 election eventhough its rules over all West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem Israeli issued and enforced, Palestinian ID holders.

Campaign finances and support (please be explicit)

1. Who contributed to your campaign? Other than individual donations, who have and who will you receive donations? List all groups, unions, businesses (especially those doing business with the entity in which you seek to hold office). *

No groups, unions or businesses have contributed nor will they contribute. I plan to focus solely on individual contributions from Berkeley based residents. I hope to receive the 6:1 matching program offered by the City of Berkeley.

2. Which candidates will/have you endorse/d and/or contribute/d? *

I have not endorsed anyone for the time being. If I do endorse a candidate, it will be first in the City of Berkeley and eventually nearby cities in the East Bay.

3. Please list persons and organizations who have endorsed you. *

*Berkeley-based ballot endorsements:

Boona Chema - Former Executive Director Boss

Moni T. Law, J.D. - Community Advocate

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb - Rabbi, educator, interfaith organizer, over 50 years of practicing and teaching nonviolence, board member of Interfaith Movement of Human Integrity

Liz Jackson - Jewish Voice for Peace National Board; Founding attorney, Palestine Legal and K-12 Legal Defense; BUSD Parent

Carol Coyote Cook - Co-Chair - Our Revolution East Bay

Paola Laverde - Former Chair - Berkeley Rent Board

Margot Smith Dr. PH - Organizer and activist

Andrea Prichett - Public School and former Police Review Commissioner and Mental Health Commissioner. Founder Berkeley Copwatch

Paul- Kealoha Blake - President East Bay Media Center, Berkeley Homeless Panel of Experts, Former Chair Mental Health Commission

Cheryl Davila - Former Council Member, City of Berkeley

Negeene Mosaed - Small business owner, Berkeley Community Physical Therapy Clinic. Former Chair of Berkeley Tenants Union

Simin Shamji O'Brien - Attorney, SF Public Defender's Office

Willie Phillips - NAACP member

Sandy Park - Berkeley School Board Candidate

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*Non ballot confirmed endorsements:

Pastor Todd Benson - A pastor who is affiliated with Faith in Action (FAI) East Bay but FAI East Bay cannot endorse me as a 501c3

Dr. Hatem Bazian - Palestinian-American professor in the Departments of Near Eastern and Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies at UC Berkeley, founder of Students for Justice in Palestine, Zaytuna College and Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project (IRDP)

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*In Progress endorsements

Our Revolution East Bay

Alameda Labor Council

SEIU 1021

Arab Resource and Organizing Center

Mayor of Oakland Barbara Lee

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib

Congresswoman Lateefa Simon

Gigi Wong - Industry Fellow & Faculty Chair at UC Berkeley's Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology, UC Berkeley

**MUCH MORE (Joined the race late and working on increasing this list)

4. Please list PACs, and independent expenditure committees supporting you. *

No PACs or independent expenditure committees supporting me.

5. List any/all industries, organizations and people that you will decline donations and endorsements from, * please be inclusive.

We will avoid all donations from AIPAC-aligned organizations, super pacs, police unions, real estate pacs or big developers.

Crime and Law Enforcement

1. What do you think about the use of force by police? What and when is appropriate and what and when is not? *

Force by police should be a last resort. Our police should be trained to only use lethal force in circumstances where they are absolutely certain their lives are in danger. Otherwise their lethality is our collective danger. I operate a small business and I relay to business owners to not call the police for minor infractions from unruly individuals. A lot of people are suffering at this time, especially from mental health. I always look to deescalate and to find ways to involve social workers and their trained response method in dealing with non-dangerous situations.

2. Do you support banning private prisons? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support installing surveillance cameras such as FLOCK, which stores individual information, at public areas? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

4. Do you oppose capital punishment? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Should convicted felons and prison in-mates be granted the right to vote? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

6. Do you believe it is ever warranted to suspend due process? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

7. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

Again, as an American progressive, I oppose private prisons, surveillance, discriminating against felons, and suspending due process.

As a Palestinian who has 2000 family members between West Bank and Old City Jerusalem, we oppose the surveillance state that stores our data without consent, we have 10,000+ prisoners in Israeli jails who I consider hostages. Finally, we have never had due process and all we know is military rule and having zero rights.

Human Rights, Immigration, and Civil Rights

1. Do you support DACA? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Do you support closing immigration detention facilities? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support increased funding for immigration assistance? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Should immigrants without felonies be given a path to citizenship? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Do you support DEI? (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

6. Do you support reparations? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

7. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

The disenfranchised and marginalized deserve better. I view immigration, prison reform and DEI through a lens of human rights, economic contribution, and racial justice. The US has had a long history of oppression and because this context, we must fight to gain justice to those who are owed. For example, reparations for slavery and or pillaging of native land, are deserved for African Americans and Native Americans. I also sympathize because the history of the Nakba and the lost of over 550+ cities and villages via 1948.

Infrastructure Issues

1. Do you support public banking? *

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

2. Do you think public transit should be free? *

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

3. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

I support public banking and I also prefer collectives and/or credit unions over big banks. Public banking helps make things more fair for the entire market and free public transit will help us decenter cars and make our streets safer and our lives healthier.

Current Labor Issues

1. Do you support a California “living wage”? How? *

Yes. I support a living wage by paying one to my employees - we must find solutions to both support the worker and the small business owners . Fair trade is sustainable trade and sustainable means profitable. It is good business to have ethical practices.

My employees at Jaffa Coffee Roaster start at $19.61 and move up depending on role and/or shift lead. Their average tip rate is above $10 per hour whereby they can ear $30 an hour working at a local coffee shop.

2. List 3 ideas to reduce the price of shelter in your community? *

1. Put more pressure on big-time (non mom and pop) landlords to fight eronous charges, algorithmic pricing and deceitful leases,

2. Build more mixed-usage development in underdeveloped areas (e.g., dead malls , idle hotels, rundown areas that could be turned into art areas and redeveloped as a hip, midtown, cafe, bar, restaurant district with apartments / duplexes that include affordable housing units.

3. Lower city fees as possible by making city government spend funds more efficiently.

3. What do you propose to protect renters in your community? Please comment on laws/acts, such as Costa Hawkins and others, to be repealed, and added/legislated? *

Renters bill of rights, pressure on BIG landlords/landowners for health/upkeep compliance, repeal Costa Hawkins because democratic control over housing issues is a form of building justice in our democracy.

4. Do you support the repeal of all laws that criminalize or punish homeless people? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

How do we provide/develop more affordable and low-cost housing? In your community and in California? *

We build more low-cost units by using existing idle commercial properties / hostels, allow for more ADUs for regular homeowners and provide an easy legitimate path to do so, while helping small family situations get up to code, penalize AIR B&B super hosts (housing is for people, not vacationers)

Education (How do we provide affordable and quality education and childcare?)

1. Do you support charter schools? *

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No

2. Should charter schools be at no cost and unionized? Please use examples in your community.

If charter schools are to exist then they should be FREE, non-discriminatory and fully unionized. (PVT schools allow discrimination).

3. Do you support no cost public college and university? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Do you support the cancellation of all student debt? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Do you support free universal public pre-K? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

6. Do you support free universal childcare for children under 5? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

7. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX including trans rights? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

8. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise) *

I support effective and diverse public schooling options that support diversity.
We deserve free universities and schooling and the funds are being wrongfully used in the military-corporate state and empire. I support strengthening Title IX especially for trans rights.

Environmental

1. How will you work to uphold environmental regulations in the face of the government's attempt to eradicate? Include and use example from your community. *

We will uphold environmental regulations by ensuring that all existing programs will continue and the city has contingency plans for how to protect our environmentalism.

For example, in my community in Alameda/Oakland/Berkeley, California, we can protect the Bay/Lakes by throwing away trash properly, using less plastic, saving water, and joining cleanups, all while creating a reporting system to report pollution or illegal dumping.

2. What do you think is the most critical environmental issue? In your community? *

The biggest environmental issue may be carbon emissions, especially from transportation. We should support remote work to reduce commuting and support state, federal, and global efforts to lower emissions from all sources. I am a supercomputer to my tech job that requires me to badge in for the Seattle office, even though I can complete my work remotely.

3. Do you support community and government oversight in the approval of and the construction of data centers for corporations? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Election

1. Do you support the Constitutional amendment to repeal Citizens United? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Will you uphold the Voting Rights Act? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support universal mail-in ballots? (such as was used for Prop 50) *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

Our rights are all connected. I support for in-person voting too in case someone is transient - (e.g., lost the ballot etc).

We should not allow corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money on political elections.

US Foreign Policy – National Issues Affect Local Positions

1. Do you support the international campaign of BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions)? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. What should the US policy be on Palestine/Israel? *

Total arms embargo, divestment and sanctions. The US should support a one state federation from the river to the sea where one person gets one vote, enforce the right of return for 7 million Palestinians and work with Palestinians and Israelis to have the option to also live in the USA since the US funding of apartheid and occupation over the past century caused this. Perhaps reparations could also follow, along with the UK also being held responsible for the British Mandate of Palestine/Balfour Declaration.

3. Do you agree with the current economic sanctions? *

I disagree with the US sanction regime. We also should not arm states that use them on civilians. We need to uphold and implement the Leahey law.

4. What are your views on the tariff policy?

Targeted tariffs can be a smart way to support critical industries but we can't be irresponsible about them - the fewer the better given the recent experience whereby Trump appleid tariffs on coffee which affected the way we do business with farmers from Guatemala, Nicaragua and beyond.

Anything Else?

1. Thanks for your time and thoughtfulness. Is there anything else we should know? *

I currently work at YouTube, which is owned by Google, and previously worked at Meta/Facebook. In my Trust & Safety work, I try to find the positive impact in what I do. For more than a decade, I have developed policies that protect millions of people from harassment, fraud, abuse, and emerging threats. This experience has taught me how to evaluate evidence, solve complex problems, build consensus, and make balanced decisions that strengthen public trust.

At the same time, I have experienced significant cognitive dissonance working for major FAANG technology companies while navigating my Palestinian identity. For example, while working at Facebook, I wrote a 14-page paper shared with approximately 50,000 employees about my experience being detained at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. At the same time, I was unable to access Facebook's Tel Aviv office, despite being a Facebook employee, an American, and an Indigenous Palestinian whose great-great-grandfather was born in Ottoman Palestine. I was engaged in seven HR meetings for sharing my experiences as I was told I was violating the "Respectful Communication Policy", which does not allow me to illustrate the nature of the apartheid system that dominates my family in the Holy Land.

I plan to leave Google at the end of this year, but for now, it remains my only source of income and supports my family. I also attempted to transition into a California state job, but the market has been extremely competitive. In the meantime, my former YouTube team offered me a contracting opportunity, which unfortunately required me to become a supercommuter to Seattle.

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