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 *

syrakforsouthside@gmail.com

Untitled Title

Campaign Information

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

Syrak Micael

2. Preferred Pronouns: *

He/Him/His

3. Position running for *

- ( ) Primary
- (•) General
- ( ) Special

4. Email *

syrakforsouthside@gmail.com

5. Phone number *

510-517-4786

6. Campaign website *

https://www.syrakforsouthside.com/

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)

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). *

I have only received donations from individuals and no more than $60. These are students, colleagues, friends, neighbors, union members, and other members of the community. I have not taken money from any organized groups and I am participating in the city's public financing.

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

I have endorsed the Berkeley Right to Housing Rent Board Slate, 5 candidates running on a pro-tenant platform to fight for housing justice on the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board. I have not made any contributions in this election season yet.

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

Adena Ishii, Mayor of Berkeley
Cecilia Lunaparra, incumbent Councilmember, Berkeley City Council District 7
Soli Alpert, Berkeley Rent Board Chair
Jen Corn, Berkeley School Board Vice President
Ana Vasudeo, Alameda County Board of Education, former Berkeley School Board Director
Jennifer Shanoski, Berkeley School Board Director/Clerk
Alfred Twu, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Ida Martinac, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Nathan Mizell, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Avery Arbaugh, Berkeley Tenants' Union Chair and Labor Commissioner
James Coleman, South San Francisco City Councilmember
Misha Kesselman, Climate & Environment Commissioner
Ellie Greene, Landmarks Preservation Commissioner
Margaret Solomon, Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) President (26-27)
Abigail Verino, ASUC President (25-26)
Isha Chander, ASUC Executive Vice President (25-26)
Joshua De Miguel, ASUC Transfer Representative
Reg Macarro, Indigenous & Native Community Endorsed ASUC Senator
Maddie Chesebro, ASUC Senator
Gurnoor Patti, ASUC Senator
Karuna Gray, ASUC Senator
Emma Enriquez, ASUC Senator
Tigran Aghbalyan, ASUC Senator
Gabby Torres, ASUC Senator
Mi Tang, ASUC Senator
Omar Espinoza, ASUC Senator

I am endorsed by the following organizations:
Berkeley Tenants Union
Cal Berkeley Democrats
Telegraph for People
United Auto Workers Region 6
East Bay Democratic Socialists
Future Urbanist Club
Flip the Berkeley City Council

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

None

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

Oil & gas/WSPA/fossil fuels, AIPAC, weapons/defense, surveillance, crypto, anti-union companies/law firms, and anyone affiliated with the Republican Party or similar oranizations

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? *

Use of force is rarely justified and nearly always overused. We must de-militarize our police force and send unarmed responders whenever possible.

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)

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)

Infrastructure Issues

1. Do you support public banking? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

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

I am excited to support the public bank initiative in Berkeley, as well as efforts to expand Clipper BayPass!

Current Labor Issues

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

Yes. I support language that county voters will decide this November, to raise the minimum wage to $30 by 2030 for large employers, and by 2035 for smaller employers. I also strongly support organized labor, which is the best way to fight back against attacks on workers.

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

Build more public housing to undercut the private market
Work with the rent board to continue the successful movement of tenant organizing, to create an effective apparatus that can demand lower rents
Expand rent control and enact vacancy control through the repeal of Costa-Hawkins

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? *

I fully support the repeal of Costa Hawkins and the Ellis Act. I also support a right to counsel, expanded eviction protections, capping rental increases at 3%, and rental assistance for tenants in need.

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? *

I believe we need a solution rooted in the "3 P's" of affordable housing.

Preservation: We must preserve existing affordable housing, such as co-ops and community land trusts, and expand the scope of these types of housing, to increase the amount of permanently affordable housing available.

Protection: Tenants must be protected. This includes rent control, rental assistance, eviction protections, and right to counsel. The best way to reduce homelessness is to keep people housed and prevent eviction.

Production: We must increase the supply of affordable housing. In my view this takes two main forms—inclusionary zoning to build mixed income housing, and publicly-funded housing construction. We cannot simply build entirely market-rate housing and trust that that alone will bring down costs.

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 they exist, yes. However, in their current form, charter schools essentially act as private schools with public money, which drains resources from the public school system. They are currently exempt from many laws and have low union density, so I favor public schools over charter schools.

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) *

No further comment at this time.

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. *

As a city and region we need to do everything in our power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. At the local level, we can address that by providing viable alternatives to cars, such as public transportation, walking, and biking, and making these car-free alternatives as easy and attractive as possible by expanding the city's network of protected bike lanes and dedicated bus lanes. We also need to ensure people are actually able to live near transit and other car-free transportation options by prioritizing the development of transit oriented housing at all income levels.

I also believe that we need to be protecting our air quality; while Berkeley does not have the large pollution point sources like the Port of Oakland or refineries in Richmond, a robust plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled can reduce pollution from motor vehicles. I would work to reduce emissions from idling vehicles along commercial corridors in District 7, and promote urban forestry to reduce heat impacts and aid in filtering the air in high density areas.

It is also important to make the transition to clean energy as quickly and on as many fronts as possible. I am excited about SB 868, a piece of pending legislation that would expand plug-in solar, making it more accessible to renters and people who cannot afford a longer payback horizon, and I am also excited to be supporting Berkeley's public bank initiative, which would help provide financing for green infrastructure and clean energy projects while keeping Berkeley money local. I hope to work with AVA Community energy on programs to provide funding for climate resilience and clean energy projects in tenant occupied properties.

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

As I describe above, we must do everything in our power to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles by making car-free alternatives more viable. This has the added benefit of improving air quality.

I also oppose efforts to ship coal from the Port of Oakland, which will only increase our global carbon emissions and worsen air quality in an already overburdened area.

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)

.....

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? *

I support withholding foreign aid and upholding international law. Individuals and governments complicit in genocide and in violation of international law must be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible, and reparations must be made to Palestinians.

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

I believe we should be sanctioning countries that do not abide by international law.

4. What are your views on the tariff policy?

While narrow tariffs in a targeted manner can be useful to protect workers and avoid a global race to the bottom, I oppose the current tariffs. They are haphazard, reckless, and only hurt consumers and working people by increasing prices.

Anything Else?

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

I am excited to be running on the following platform points and would be honored to have your endorsement.

Affordable Housing and Tenant Protections: Addressing Berkeley's affordable housing crisis requires both strong tenant protections and real investments in housing that keep both students and long-term residents in the city. As the Vice Chair of the Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission, I've voted to hold landlords accountable, fund improved housing infrastructure, support affordable housing development, and the renovation of existing affordable housing; as a Councilmember, I will use my relationships and experience to work with partners inside and outside the UC system to advance meaningful solutions for affordable student housing in Berkeley and across the state.

Building Public Safety with Community Trust: Public safety in Berkeley should be grounded in community trust, transparency, and solutions that address the root causes of harm rather than in punitive approaches with limited long-term success. I believe that safety policy is incomplete without safeguards on civil liberties, upholding and reinforcing Berkeley's commitment to sanctuary, and empowering community organizations to be partners in stewarding a safer city for everyone, especially our most vulnerable neighbors.

Meeting Basic Needs through Protecting Labor: As someone who has grown up in Berkeley my whole life, I understand that a thriving District 7 is built on the dignity of its workers and the strength of its unions and small businesses as pillars of the community. When wages are fair, workers have the power to organize, and local businesses can grow with a fighting chance, the entire community benefits from this investment.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms