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 *

charleneforoakland@gmail.com

Untitled Title

Campaign Information

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

Charlene Wang

2. Preferred Pronouns: *

she/her

3. Position running for *

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

4. Email *

charleneforoakland@gmail.com

5. Phone number *

917-922-6749

6. Campaign website *

charleneforoakland.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). *

Sheetmetal Workers, Operating Engineers, Liuna

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

My colleagues Kevin Jenkins and Janani Ramachandran

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

Barbara Lee, all members of the city council (Rowena Brown, Zac Unger, Carroll Fife, Janani Ramachandran, Noel Gallo, Kevin Jenkins, Ken Houston), Elisa Marquez, Lena Tam, Victor Flores, Jane Kim, Jesse Arreguin, Igor Tregub, Teamsters, Sierra Club, Sheetmetal Workers, Alameda Building Trades, North Coast States Carpenters (formerly Norcal Carpenters), Liuna, Operating Engineers, and many others - full list at charleneforoakland.com

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

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association PAC

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

I will not accept corporate PAC contributions or contributions from registered lobbyists and senior executives representing coal, oil and gas extraction, tobacco manufacturers, firearms and weapons manufacturers, private prison or immigration-detention companies

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? *

It should be a last resort when needed to protect the officer or innocents. I support robust de-escalation training, a culture of accountability through neutral investigations after wrong doing, and a model of policing that staffs departments to the extent necessary for officers to really get to know the neighborhoods they serve instead of being rushed from one crisis to the next.

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)

While I voted to extend Oakland City Council's Flock Contract as part of council's 7-1 vote, I authored a number of important amendments to the contract including significant financial penalties for Flock for every instance of data misuse, civilian oversight, required hard-coding that removes the National Lookup feature (this is the feature that has been the cause of data sharing with federal agencies), and an independent audit carried out by our city auditor.

I also authored and passed Oakland's new City of Refuge ordinance which ensures that Oakland does not collect any immigration status information on any city database.

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)

Current Labor Issues

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

Yes, a living wage means that a full time job can cover rent, standard expenses, and leave some left over for savings and leisure. Oakland has one of the lowest minimum wages in the area and I support raising it.

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

Intervene earlier, before homelessness becomes chronic. We need to approach homelessness the way we approach cancer: intervene at Stage 1, not Stage 4. That means expanding eviction prevention, flexible rental assistance, and rapid rehousing when someone first loses housing—or is at immediate risk—rather than waiting until they have spent months or years on the street. Earlier intervention is less expensive, more humane, and far more likely to succeed.

Invest directly in the people living in encampments. Our current system too often directs millions of dollars to nonprofit contractors while treating unhoused residents as passive recipients. We should pay people living in encampments to clean, maintain, and care for their own sites, while connecting that work to income, job training, sanitation resources, and pathways into permanent housing. People should be given the tools and agency to stabilize their communities and rebuild their lives.

Turn vacant buildings into shelter and affordable housing. Oakland has empty warehouses and obsolete office buildings while thousands of people lack stable shelter. I have already placed a measure on the ballot that uses the tax code to encourage the conversion of vacant commercial buildings into shelter and affordable housing housing. We should stop rewarding speculation and prolonged vacancy and instead make it financially advantageous to put underused buildings to work meeting urgent community needs.

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? *

At the state level, I support repealing the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act (the law is totally outdated), and reforming the Ellis Act to prevent speculative displacement.

Applying rent control laws to older housing stock is an injustice especially for renters with disabilities. Much of Oakland's rent-controlled housing stock is older and may lack elevators, accessible entrances, wider doorways, or bathrooms and kitchens that can accommodate people with mobility disabilities. Newer buildings are more likely to meet modern accessibility standards, but they are also more likely to be excluded from local rent stabilization under Costa-Hawkins.

However, there is an opportunity with AB 1620, this is a 2024 State law that allows a city with rent control to require that a qualifying tenant with a permanent mobility disability keep their existing controlled rent when transferring to a comparable or smaller accessible unit in the same building or parcel. Oakland has not adopted that protection into our local renters protection ordinance. I am committed to changing that and introducing that change at Oakland City Council.

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 need an "all hands on deck" approach to the housing crisis. Devoting public lands to social housing, upzoning with requirements for permanently affordable units, anti-displacement measures like right to return, and adding units by allowing homeowners to sell backyard ADUs to buyers are all parts of the solution. I will also explore tax incentives for property owners for lowering rent to affordable levels, so we incentivize the conversion of market-rate units to below market rate units, particularly in neighborhoods that are seeing the most displacement. I also support a regional bond measure to fund affordable housing.

And again, I have already placed a measure on the ballot that uses the tax code to encourage the conversion of vacant commercial buildings into shelter and affordable housing housing.

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.

Absolutely - this is a really great idea, at this helps to address some of the issues related to 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) *

To clarify my earlier response on my support for charter schools, I don't support expansion of charter schools as they have led to decreases in enrollment at OUSD but am not actively seeking to shut down the charter schools that exist in the community.

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. *

Before joining the Oakland City Council, I worked in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Civil Rights and Environmental Justice. That experience taught me that environmental regulation is not abstract: weak enforcement falls hardest on low-income communities, communities of color, children, seniors, and people with existing health conditions. Protecting clean air, safe water, and healthy neighborhoods requires both strong rules and institutions willing to enforce them.

At Oakland City Council, I have introduced a resolution supporting Bay Area Air Quality Management District regulations that would transition buildings from gas appliances to electric stoves and heat pumps. This is critical for reducing indoor and outdoor air pollution, lowering climate emissions, and protecting public safety, particularly as gas infrastructure and appliances can contribute to wildfire risks.

I also introduced a resolution supporting the closure of a proposed CEQA loophole for advanced manufacturing. That loophole could have allowed projects such as data centers and other large industrial facilities to move forward without full environmental review, even though they can place major demands on electricity and water systems and create significant impacts for surrounding communities. Economic development should not come at the expense of public health, environmental justice, or meaningful community review.

As the federal government attempts to weaken environmental agencies and regulations, cities like Oakland must do more—not less.

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

I think the most critical environmental issue is ensuring Oakland gets a Green New Deal that sets Oakland on the path to be an epicenter of California's renewable energy and decarbonization economy while uplifting vulnerable, environmental justice communities. Too many people have been left out of the economy and need a job, especially with less than half of Oaklanders having a college degree. We need to create good, blue collar jobs while reducing black carbon emissions that increase cancer, asthma, and other health risks in the flatlands.

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)

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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 was one of the Biden-Harris officials who signed the letter calling for ceasefire shortly after October 7. I support a boycott of specific companies that advance illegal settlements in the West Bank settler economy.

The US should continue to press for ceasefire, and should not fund any government committing war crimes, including the current Israeli government.

The United States should specifically support the "A Land for All" (also known as Two States, One Homeland) joint Israeli-Palestinian movement that proposes a two-state confederation model. It features two independent sovereign states, freedom of movement across the land, and a shared capital in Jerusalem.

Any aid to Israel must be conditional on policy changes for movement towards the "A Land for All" model, a cessation to to additional settlements on the West Bank, and the ending of occupation of Palestine.

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

The question is unclear because the United States does not currently impose comprehensive economic sanctions on Israel. I support targeted sanctions against individuals and entities responsible for settlement expansion, violent attacks against civilians, forced displacement, or serious human-rights violations. I also support conditioning U.S. military assistance on compliance with U.S. and international law.

Economic pressure should be targeted, enforceable, and tied to clear goals: ending settlement expansion and annexation, protecting civilians, securing Palestinian freedom and self-determination, and advancing a durable political solution.

4. What are your views on the tariff policy?

I'm against the tariffs as they have increases the cost of goods for working class families, and have hit small businesses in my district the hardest.

Anything Else?

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

My record reflects a belief that progressive values must be translated into durable local law.

I authored Oakland's new City of Refuge Ordinance, strengthening protections for immigrant communities by limiting the use of City resources, property, and information for federal immigration enforcement and helping ensure that residents can access City services without fear.

I also created California's first municipal survivor support fund for human trafficking survivors. District 2 includes International Boulevard's "Blade," a longstanding hub of commercial sexual exploitation, including the trafficking of minors. The fund shifts resources toward survivors by using significant penalties imposed on sex buyers and traffickers to support services, safety, and pathways to stability.

I also placed a measure on the ballot to close a tax loophole that allows corporate investors and other purchasers to acquire distressed properties through foreclosure or deeds in lieu of foreclosure without paying the same real estate transfer tax that applies to ordinary property sales. The measure would ensure that powerful financial interests pay their fair share, discourage speculative exploitation of foreclosures, and support the public services Oakland residents rely on.

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