

OREB Endorsement 2024-4

This is part of the OREB endorsement process. Please complete this form. Questions 7 through 40 require a **SHORT** (no more than 800 characters) explanation as part of your answer. Click the button below to start. There are 13 sections. After launching, please click the "NEXT" button at lower left to go to the next section. If you have concerns, please contact Carol Coyote or Michael Cheng.

Email *

averygrahamarbaugh@gmail.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Avery Arbaugh

2. Preferred Pronouns

she/they

3. Position Running For

Berkeley Rent Board

4. Email Address

averygrahamarbaugh@gmail.com

5. Phone number

(707) 499-4376

6. Campaign website

<https://www.averyarbaugh.org/>

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

Soli Alpert, Alfred Twu, Otto Pippenger, Michael Cheng, Carol Coyote, Ana Vasudeo, Kate Harrison, Cecilia Lunaparra, Boona Cheema, Nicolas Glass, MJ Baumann, Luca Dhagat, Xavier Johnson

8. Other than individual donations, who do and will you receive donations from? List all groups, unions, businesses (especially those doing business with the entity in which you seek to hold office).

I will only be accepting donations from individuals. I accept no corporate or PAC money.

9. Please list persons and organizations who have endorsed you.

The Berkeley Tenant Convention, Berkeley City Councilmember Cecilia Lunaparra, Former Berkeley City Councilmember Kate Harrison, Rent Board Chair Leah Simon Weisberg, Rent Board Vice-Chair Soli Alpert, Oakland City Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas, AC Transit Director Jovanka Beckles, Berkeley School Board President Ana Vasudeo, and a supermajority of current Rent Board members.

10. Please list PACs, Super PACs, and independent expenditure committees supporting you.

There are no independent expenditure committees or PACs supporting me.

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

I reject any support or donations from corporations or corporate PACs, police unions, the fossil fuel industry, and military contractors.

III. Crime and law enforcement

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

Any use of force that is disproportionate is unacceptable, police should never escalate the amount of force being used in an interaction. In particular I oppose any use of force against non-violent protestors.

13. Do you support banning private prisons? Please explain.

I support banning private prisons. The privatization of the prison system causes perverse incentives which reduce the quality of life for prisoners and allow the exploitation of prison slave labor by private corporations.

14. Do you support abolishing cash bail? Please explain.

I support abolishing cash bail, we should not criminalize poverty.

15. Do you support decriminalizing (and/or legalizing) all drugs? Please explain.

I support legalizing and regulating all drugs. While rehab systems should be widely advertised and available, criminalizing a medical condition does little to reduce harm.

16. Do you oppose the use of capital punishment? Please explain.

I oppose the use of capital punishment in all cases.

17. Should convicted felons and prison inmates be granted the right to vote? Please explain your view.

Absolutely, I believe in a rehabilitative justice system, and granting the rights of citizenship to all, including those undergoing rehabilitation, is essential to the process of bonding broken ties with community.

IV. Immigration

18. What is your view on immigrants and immigration? What new legislation is needed? And what laws should be removed?

I believe in a pathway to citizenship for all immigrants currently in the United States, and a humane pathway to citizenship for anyone outside of the United States who wishes to become a citizen. My long term goal is a world without militarized borders.

V. Infrastructure issues

19. What kind of health care insurance system do you support? And why?

I support single-payer healthcare as it allows for medical aid to be distributed by need rather than wealth. Any health care system that preserves private health insurance preserves the incentive for misappropriation of medical care.

20. Do you support public banking? Why or why not?

I support public banking because anybody regardless of the wealth or credit score should have access to financial services and security. Public banking would allow us to guarantee this as a right.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Absolutely.

VI. Labor

22. What do you think the minimum wage should be in California? Nationwide? What does a “living wage” mean to you?

The minimum wage in California should be as high as is needed to support adequate living conditions including housing, food, and healthcare expenses. According to MIT's living wage calculator (<https://livingwage.mit.edu/>) for an adult living alone in California, that means a wage above \$27 an hour for someone working full time. As such, I believe \$27/hour would be the bare minimum for California, though it would ideally be higher and supplemented by a robust welfare state with extra support for those with dependents and disabilities. In the United States generally I support a minimum wage of at least \$22/hour. A living wage is a wage where people can thrive with a full time job, not merely survive.

23. How would you protect workers not covered by the National Labor Relations Act?

As much as is possible I would create local protections for government employees and independent contractors not covered by the NLRA, and be an advocate as an elected official for our staff unions. I also support measures to reduce the number of situations where workers can be classified by their employer as an independent contractor.

24. Would you propose to tax the companies that rely upon contract workers? And how?

Yes, I think Berkeley's Uber and Lyft tax serves as a good example of taxes to disincentivize employment systems which reduce the rights and benefits of workers.

VII. Housing

25. What are the causes of the housing crisis in California and the Bay Area?

The housing crisis in California is driven by a combination of corporate speculative buying of housing stock, a lack of affordable housing development, and a lack of state action to create alternative systems of housing such as housing cooperatives and social housing. In the Bay Area and Berkeley in particular, while we have met many of our goals when it comes to the creation of luxury housing, we have neglected the creation of middle, low, and very low income housing. Because of Prop 13 and Costa Hawkins, we have been unable to adequately create new affordable housing, and stabilize rents in existing housing.

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

We need to repeal Costa Hawkins and Prop 13, and pass the Berkeley Tenant Protection and Right to Organize Act, to create funds for affordable housing, and give our local Rent Board the power to stabilize rents and protect tenants. In addition, our city needs to make an active effort to create alternatives to the traditional landlord-tenant model of renting. Berkeley should expand cooperative housing through the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act and the release of vacant properties to cooperatives and Community Land Trusts, along with advocacy for social housing.

27. Do you support the repeal of all laws that criminalize or punish homeless persons? What will you do to protect our unhoused communities?

As someone who is formerly homeless, I absolutely hope to decriminalize homelessness and stop the sweeps. The ideology of "out of sight out of mind" when it comes to homelessness is inhumane and ineffective, instead we need to provide transitional and permanent housing solutions to unhoused people and to provide proper medical, social, and healthcare services to those in need.

28. How do we provide/develop more affordable and low-cost housings?

We need to increase as much as possible without significantly disincentivizing housing development, the percentage of new development that needs to be affordable. We also need to streamline the development process for new affordable housing and whenever an opportunity emerges, put land into public hands for future affordable or social housing development. In addition, the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act must be passed to increase the number of opportunities for Community Land Trusts and Cooperatives to create opportunities for low-cost housing.

29. Do you support social housing? How do you propose to create it?

I support social housing, we need to reform state law to make it easier to use affordable housing grants for social housing projects, and put significant investments into local, state, and federal government run social housing developments. As we see from successful models of social housing, such as in countries such as Finland, and cities like Vienna, significant public investments in social housing reduce rents for tenants whether they're housed through social housing or not. Creating alternatives to landlords forces landlords to be better in the short-term, and is essential to the long-term fight to decommodify housing, making it a human right.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I am opposed to charter schools receiving public funds.

31. What is your opinion about no cost public college and university?

I am in favor of making public college and university educations free.

32. Do you support the cancellation of all student debt?

Yes.

33. How do you propose to make universal public pre-K free?

Ideally the federal government would institute federal free and universal public pre-K, but in the meantime local and state governments should step in with child-care subsidies and opportunities for low-income parents who can't afford alternative childcare solutions.

34. Do you support "strengthening" Title IX?

I support strengthening Title IX with increased enforcement and opportunities for co-ed services which reduce gender segregation and inequality.

IX. Environmental

35. What do you think, broadly, a "Green New Deal" should contain?

A green new deal should include robust just transition programs for frontline communities and those in carbon emitting industries, alongside massive investments in green infrastructure and energy systems. On the Rent Board I hope to expand the right of tenants to improve their rental units' climate sustainability and resiliency, and ideally request and require improvements to their rental units as environmental changes reduce livability.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes.

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes, and I'm participating in Berkeley's public financing system. Ideally we would have a system similar to Seattle's election vouchers program in place of our current system of private funding of electoral campaigns.

38. Do you support ranked choice voting for your office, and in general?

Yes and yes.

XI. US foreign policy

39. Do you support the international campaign of BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions)? And what should the US policy be on Palestine/Israel?

I support BDS. The US should call for a ceasefire and support UN intervention to end the genocide in Gaza and apartheid in Palestine broadly. We should also support the creation of a democratic Palestinian state.

XII. Anything else?

40. And if you have chosen not to answer some questions, please explain why.

I look forward to co-governing with you!

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