

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 *

info@bacon4mayor.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Vinnie Bacon

2. Preferred Pronouns

he/him

3. Position Running For

Mayor of Fremont

4. Email Address

vinnie@bacon4mayor.com

5. Phone number

650-863-6549

6. Campaign website

<https://www.bacon4mayor.com>

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

I have received donations only from individuals.

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 not take donations from developers, major property owners or others in the real estate industry. I will not accept corporate donations. I will accept donations from trade unions.

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

This is an incomplete list. We are still working on obtaining other endorsements. Elizabeth Ames - BART Board Director; Sunjay Muralitharan - National Vice President of College Democrats of America; Jenny Kassan - Fremont City Councilmember; George Syrop - Hayward City Councilmember; Scott Sakakihara - Union City City Councilmember; Mel Sheun-Mallory - New Haven Unified School District (former); Soli Albert - Berkeley Rent Board

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

None

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

I will NOT accept corporate donations of any type. I will NOT accept donations from developers, large property owners, or others in the real estate industry.

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?

I believe in the use of police review boards to act as an independent reviewer of police activities.

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

Yes, private prisons have a poor track record of caring for inmates. Decisions about how to treat prisoners should not be based on a profit motive.

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

Yes, it is clear that there is a two-tier system of justice - one for those that can afford bail, and one for those that can't. People who can't afford bail, even for lesser crimes, are forced to be held in jail for lengthy periods even before they've been found to be guilty.

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

Yes, the percentage of people in prison for minor drug crimes is alarmingly high. I'm in favor of decriminalizing many drug crimes, especially simple possession.

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

Yes, I believe the death penalty is immoral.

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

Yes, I believe people who have paid their debt to society should be allowed to vote.

IV. Immigration

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

The current fervor over the 'horrors' of immigrants is dangerous for many people. I'm not familiar with a lot of the legislation regarding immigration as it's not really relevant to a local elected position. I did successfully make a referral to have Fremont declared a sanctuary city while I was on the City Council.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I support Medicare for all, or 'Cal Care' as it's become known in California. I believe it is morally the right thing to provide health care to all who need it.

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

Yes, I've seen the profit motive in banking produce numerous societal ills. We need banking that considers societal impacts. I did some consulting for Beneficial Bank and liked what they were doing as a bank.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Yes, as a ex-MUNI driver I understand the operational difficulties in trying to collect fares. Driving the bus was a difficult enough job. Also, as an environmentalist, I believe we need to move towards more transit ridership. Making it free obviously does that. We should also consider the enormous subsidies that are given to the auto industry (i.e. road maintenance, land for parking).

VI. Labor

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

I don't have an opinion on the exact about a minimum wage but it certainly should be higher than it is now. I did bring a referral to increase the minimum wage in Fremont. The result was a compromise vote but we did get it passed. I also voted against an attempt to repeal the increase during COVID.

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

For City contracts with employers we can write into the contract that workers should be entitled to prevailing wage which includes medical benefits. I would be in favor of putting that language into any contracts the City. I would be open to other demands to be placed on contractors.

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

I'm not sure what taxes I would be in favor of imposing. As noted above, I would be in favor of insisting they treat their workforce well.

VII. Housing

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

In a couple of words - Developer greed. I have a web page on this issue on my website - <https://bacon4mayor.com/developer-money/>

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?

As a Mayor, I will continue to try and implement rent stabilization, just cause eviction and other tenant protections. I have openly called for a repeal of Costa Hawkins. I openly supported Proposition 21 (2020). As a local elected, I can only provide endorsement of State level laws.

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

Yes. I have a position paper on helping the homeless - <https://bacon4mayor.com/homelessness/>

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

I have a position paper on this as well - https://bacon4mayor.com/yimby_nimby/

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

'Social housing' isn't a well-defined term. I have heard some proposals that fit market rate development into this category. Do we need to throw public money at the problem? Yes, it's that bad. Should we continue to let market rate developers make the problem worse?
No.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I am against them.

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

I would be in favor of free college or at least reducing fees to public schools like the UC system.

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

Yes.

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

I don't have an answer to this. This is not something that would be done by a locally elected body.

34. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX?

Yes.

IX. Environmental

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

When I ran for Supervisor in 2020, I openly advocated for a Green New Deal in Alameda County. I also pushed for 'Green Jobs' back in 2008 after the NUMMI auto plant went under. As an environmentalist for decades, I fully understand the danger of climate change and believe we need to take it far more seriously than we have been. A 'Green New Deal' would create decent jobs to help combat climate change.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes.

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes, I have been calling out the pernicious nature of corporate donations in elections since I first started running in 2008.

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

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?

Yes, I have openly called for a ceasefire. We should not be funding the bombing campaign that Israel is undertaking.

XII. Anything else?

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

There were some questions related to Statewide legislation. As someone who has only served on the local City Council, I am not fully aware of the various laws, proposals, etc. that are happening in Sacramento.

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