

OREB Endorsement 2024-6

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 *

benaventeforconcord@gmail.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Pablo Benavente

2. Preferred Pronouns

He/him

3. Position Running For

Concord City Council, District 4

4. Email Address

benaventeforconcord@gmail.com

5. Phone number

925-338-1473

6. Campaign website

pablobenavente.com

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

People who are friends, family, candidates, Concord residents.

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).

NUHM, CNA, SEIU

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

· Attorney General Rob Bonta · Supervisor Ken Carlson · AnaMarie Avila-Faria, Contra Costa County Board of Education · Cherise Khaund, Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board Member · Full list of endrosemments at Pablobenavente.com

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

AnaMaria Farias for Assembly gave money to my cmapign

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

All tobacco, oil, gas and all corporations

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?

Officers need thorough training in de-escalation, non-lethal options, and cultural competency to handle situations effectively. Excessive or unnecessary force undermines public trust and is unacceptable. Clear policies should define excessive force and establish strong accountability mechanisms. Implementing community oversight, transparent procedures, and body cameras can ensure force is monitored and evaluated fairly. Promoting a culture of respect and community partnership within police departments is crucial for public safety and maintaining public trust.

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

Yes, I support banning private prisons. The privatization of incarceration prioritizes profit over the welfare and rehabilitation of inmates, which can lead to compromised conditions and impede true justice reform.

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

Yes, I support abolishing cash bail as it disproportionately affects low-income individuals who may not be able to afford bail, leading to unnecessary jail time for those not yet convicted of a crime.

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

I support decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of drugs as a move towards treating drug use as a public health issue rather than a criminal one.

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

Yes, I oppose the use of capital punishment. I believe it is an irreversible and inhumane practice that has not proven to be an effective deterrent to crime.

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

Yes, I believe that convicted felons and prison inmates should be granted the right to vote. Disenfranchisement serves as a barrier to full reintegration into society and perpetuates inequality.

IV. Immigration

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

I view immigration as a vital component of our nation's strength, bringing diversity, talent, and innovation. New legislation should focus on creating a clearer, more humane path to citizenship for immigrants, improving the efficiency and fairness of the asylum process, and expanding visa programs to meet economic needs. We should also prioritize family reunification efforts. Laws that criminalize humanitarian aid to undocumented immigrants should be removed, as they discourage essential support for vulnerable populations. Additionally, policies that lead to unnecessary detention, especially of children and families, should be reformed to align with principles of dignity and justice. Our approach to immigration should reflect our values of compassion and respect for human rights.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I support a single-payer healthcare system because it ensures that all citizens have access to necessary healthcare services without financial hardship. This model simplifies healthcare delivery by having one public or quasi-public agency handle health insurance, which can lead to significant cost savings through reduced administrative expenses and increased negotiating power.

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

Yes, I support the concept of public banking. Public banks can provide significant benefits by prioritizing community needs over profit margins.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Yes, I support the idea of making public transit free. Free public transit can significantly increase accessibility, reduce traffic congestion, and lower pollution by encouraging more people to choose environmentally friendly transport options over driving personal vehicles. The problem will be funding for it.

VI. Labor

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

In California, I support a minimum wage of \$18 to \$20 per hour due to the high cost of living, particularly in urban areas. Nationwide, the minimum wage should be raised to at least \$15 per hour to reflect a baseline for a decent living standard across various regions. A "living wage" means that individuals and families can afford basic needs like housing, food, healthcare, and transportation without financial distress. It enables not just survival but a dignified life with the ability to save and participate fully in society, promoting stability and well-being for all workers.

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

I would advocate for state and local laws that extend collective bargaining rights and job protections to all workers, including independent contractors.

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

Yes but the city council does not have that jurisdiction.

VII. Housing

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

The housing crisis in California and the Bay Area is primarily due to a significant imbalance between supply and demand, exacerbated by restrictive zoning laws that limit high-density development. High construction costs, driven by expensive land prices, stringent regulations, and lengthy approval processes, further impede the development of affordable housing. Additionally, economic disparities, particularly stagnant wages versus rising living costs, have widened the affordability gap, especially in tech-centric areas like the Bay Area.

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?

Concord already passed policy to protect workers. We are doing great on rent control

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

I support repealing laws that criminalize homelessness, as these laws do not address the underlying issues and only worsen the plight of unhoused individuals. To protect and assist our unhoused communities, I advocate for a housing-first approach, providing stable housing coupled with essential services like healthcare and job training to support long-term stability and reintegration into society.

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

To develop more affordable and low-cost housing, we must reform zoning laws to allow higher density building, provide incentives to developers for including affordable units, and increase government funding and subsidies for public housing projects.

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

Yes, I support social housing as a critical solution to address housing affordability and availability. To create social housing, I propose leveraging public-private partnerships to finance and develop mixed-use, mixed-income developments, utilizing government-owned land where possible, and increasing dedicated funding through housing bonds and targeted taxes to ensure sustainable investment in these vital projects.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

Not too much diversity and hurt people of color.

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

School should be free for everyone.

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

Yes

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

Pass a ballot measure

34. Do you support "strengthening" Title IX?

Yes, I support strengthening Title IX to ensure it more effectively protects students from discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

IX. Environmental

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

A "Green New Deal" should focus on accelerating the transition to renewable energy and improving infrastructure for energy efficiency, while simultaneously creating sustainable, well-paying jobs across the economy. It must prioritize environmental justice, ensuring that the benefits and opportunities of the green economy extend to all communities, especially those historically marginalized or disproportionately affected by environmental degradation.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes we only get one earth

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

yes

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?

its not a city jurisdiction. but yes

XII. Anything else?

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

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