

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 *

jennyforberkeley@gmail.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Jenny Guarino

2. Preferred Pronouns

she/her

3. Position Running For

Berkeley City Council D2

4. Email Address

jennyforberkeley@gmail.com

5. Phone number

(408) 821-6062

6. Campaign website

Jenny.vote

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

I entered the race late and have only just begun fundraising. I will be participating in Berkeley's public financing program and aim to raise the maximum amount of ~\$60,000.

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).

Under public financing, I cannot accept donations from anything other than human persons (no PACs, corporations, etc.). I would not accept corporate contributions regardless.

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

Berkeley Tenants Union Leah Simon-Weisberg, Chair, Rent Board John "Chip" Moore, Chair, Police Accountability Board Soli Alpert, Vice-Chair, Rent Board boona cheema, Former Chair, Mental Health Commission John Selawsky, Former School Board President George Lippman, Vice-Chair, Peace and Justice Commission Dominique Walker, Rent Board Commissioner Nathan Mizell, Rent Board Commissioner Vanessa Danielle Marrero, Rent Board Commissioner Ida Martinac, Rent Board Commissioner Pamela Webster, Former Rent Board Commissioner Avery Arbaugh, Labor Commissioner Misha Kesselman, Environment and Climate Commissioner Alfred Twu, Planning Commissioner Paola Laverde, Alameda County Democratic Party Central Committee Member

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

I am not being supported by any PACs or IEs at this time, and would reject and disavow the support of any corporate PAC.

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

I will not seek or accept endorsements from law enforcement unions or corporate pacs. I will not accept contributions from developers with business before the Council.

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 am proud of the progress that Berkeley has made on police oversight and the use of force, and believe there is more to be done. I support and would make permanent the current COVID era restrictions on the use of tear gas and pepper spray. I want to work with the PAB to strengthen our use of force policies and give the PAB a stronger official oversight role with real power and accountability.

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

Yes. There should not be a profit motive to jailing people.

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

Yes. Cash bail disproportionately impacts low-income individuals, leading to prolonged pretrial detention. Abolishing cash bail would help ensure that wealth is not a determinant of pretrial freedom.

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

I support the decriminalization of personal possession and use as well as decarceration for people with drug-related charges. I support full regulated legalization for some, depending on the specifics.

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

I support abolishing the death penalty.

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

Yes. The right to vote should be granted to all permanent residents, without exception.

IV. Immigration

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

America is a nation of immigrants. I support a path to citizenship for all immigrants in the country. Barriers to immigration should be reduced, and refugee programs should be expanded.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I support Medicare for All.

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

Yes. We need an alternative to Wall Street institutions that put profit before people. Public banking will allow us to keep public dollars in our community and use them to fund public investments, not corporate profits.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Yes.

VI. Labor

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

A living wage should allow an individual to afford a pleasant place to live, plenty of food, and leisure time. It's difficult to imagine anything below \$19/hour affording this lifestyle in Berkeley, CA.

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

I would champion legislation on higher minimum wages, overtime regulations, paid sick leave, fair scheduling laws, and other workplace protections. I would also support unions, worker centers, and community-based organizations to push for better working conditions through campaigns, protests, and negotiations with employers.

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

I support SB 5 and believe we need to overturn the disastrous corporate ballot measure that gave companies like Uber and GrubHub the authority to abuse contractor status to underpay employees. Companies that use contractors to avoid our labor laws should be taxed to make up the difference and allow the state to provide those contractors with benefits.

VII. Housing

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

We can ultimately trace the housing crisis to federal disinvestment in affordable and public housing. When the government leaves the housing market to private capital interests, it will be used to maximize profit, not social need.

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?

I support the repeal of Costa Hawkins and the Ellis Act. I have been the point person from UAW for the Berkeley Tenant Protection and Right to Organize Ballot Measure. I support eliminating Golden Duplexes. I support expanding rent control, eviction control, and building tenant unions to expand tenant power.

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 oppose the recent Supreme Court decision that criminalizes homelessness. Being homeless is a symptom of poverty, not a crime. I will work to amend Berkeley's laws that criminalize homelessness, such as the Sidewalk Ordinance. I support the resolution authored by Councilmember Lunaparra that would reject the authority granted by the recent Supreme Court decision.

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

I support greater funding for the Housing Trust Fund and small sites program. We should consider taxes on land speculation, like a property flipper tax. I support a new local affordable housing bond to pay for more affordable housing construction. I was disappointed that the regional affordable housing bond was pulled from the ballot, and support a regional bond in 2026.

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

Yes. I support TOPA as a strategy to convert existing corporate housing to cooperative and social housing. I want to work with BART to maximize the amount of affordable housing that is built at the Ashby Bart Station, and believe we need to identify new sources to fund that work.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I oppose charter schools. I support investing in and supporting our public school system so that it can serve all kids. Charter schools defund our public school system without the oversight and accountability that public schools allow.

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

All public colleges and university should be tuition free.

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

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

Alameda County has done great work in expanding public childcare in partnership with labor unions. I support the City, BUSD, and County partnering to make sure that all Berkeley families have access to free Pre-K.
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34. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX?

There is concerning worldwide anti-trans rhetoric that is gaining momentum. Title IX should be amended to protect trans people.
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IX. Environmental

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

In Berkeley, a Green New Deal looks like using public investments to reduce our emission, improve our climate resiliency, and fund good union jobs. I support efforts like the Natural Gas Tax sponsored by SEIU 1021 that would tax gas emission to fund climate retrofits for low income residents, using union labor.
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36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes.
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X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes, and I am proud to be participating in public financing.
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38. Do you support ranked choice voting for your office, and in general?

Yes for Berkeley City Council, and I believe more offices should use RCV.
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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 support BDS. I support an immediate ceasefire and an arms embargo to the state of Israel. As a leader with UAW, I turned out tens of my coworkers for a rally in support of the Palestinian Genocide US Court Case in Oakland. This was a deeply moving action in which hundreds of union siblings formed a Palestinian flag with our bodies in colored shirts and held a banner with thousands of martyrs' names between us. The lawsuit was dismissed, though the court stated: "There are rare cases in which the preferred outcome is inaccessible to the court. This is one of those cases." This experience taught me that we cannot rely on those in power to do what's right. We, the working class majority, must effect the change we desire by joining together, organizing, and fighting.

XII. Anything else?

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

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