

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 *

campaign@electkateharrison.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Kate Harrison

2. Preferred Pronouns

She/her

3. Position Running For

Mayor of Berkeley

4. Email Address

campaign@electkateharrison.com

5. Phone number

(510) 593-9591

6. Campaign website

<https://electkateharrison.com/>

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

I have received contributions from over 620 individuals, over 78% of them Berkeley residents. Due to Berkeley's public financing program, these donations are capped at \$60 each, with donations from Berkeley residents matched 6-to-1 by the City.

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).

As a candidate participating in Berkeley's public financing program, I can only accept contributions from individuals.

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

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club UNITE HERE Local 2 East Bay Communities for Action Cecilia Lunaparra, Berkeley City Councilmember Gordon Wozniak, Former Berkeley City Councilmember Max Anderson, Former Berkeley City Councilmember Jovanka Beckles, AC Transit Director, Former Richmond Councilmember Jean Walsh, AC Transit Director Ana Vasudeo, President, Berkeley School Board Devin Murphy, Mayor, Pinole Jean Quan, Former Mayor, Oakland George Syrop, Hayward City Councilmember Claudia Jimenez, Vice Mayor, Richmond Soheila Bana, Councilmember, Richmond Gayle McLaughlin, Councilmember, Richmond Melvin Willis, Councilmember, Richmond Kalimah Priforce, Emeryville Councilmember Marisol Rubio, San Ramon Councilmember See more at <https://electkateharrison.com/endorsements>

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

N/A

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

I am a corporate-free candidate, but in particular, I will decline support from the prison industry, police associations, the fossil fuel industry, corporate landlords, the real estate industry, fast food manufacturers, and gun manufacturers, though I doubt any of these industries would be interested in supporting me given they know where I stand.

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 wrote and passed legislation banning the use of tear gas and other militarized equipment in Berkeley in 2020. I also passed legislation regulating use of force by our police, leading to deescalation of force (2018).

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

Yes. Their use allows us to pretend we are not responsible for a carceral system that is cruel and disproportionately affects people of color.

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

Yes. Cash bail discriminates against low-income and POC.

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

Yes as to the use of drugs, but no to sales of more dangerous narcotics. I have worked to create and support treatment alternatives to people with substance abuse or mental health issues, those experiencing homelessness and veterans.

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

Yes. I've been a member of the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project to abolish the death penalty since 1976.

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

Yes. While serving as Wellstone Club's local and state politics coordinator, I worked on state legislation to insure that parolees and those on community supervision have the right to vote.

IV. Immigration

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

Immigrants are human beings, workers, and community members. With or without documentation, immigrants belong in our country and in Berkeley, and their right to be here must be protected and strengthened. I support protecting DACA and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The Biden administration's recent move to make it easier for spouses of Americans to earn green cards and for DACA recipients to gain work permits were steps in the right direction, despite the many problems with the administration's immigration policy. We should provide attorneys to all people seeking help in immigration court, as I did in Santa Clara County. I also wrote secured funding in Berkeley to allow the Social Justice Collaborative to hire social workers to work with attorneys to help refugees.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I am a strong proponent of single-payer healthcare in California. It is unacceptable that we do not guarantee healthcare to all, and our costs of care skyrocket because of it. I have participated in campaigns to move us towards universal health care both in CA and nationally, by working in coalitions, passing local legislation in support of single payer, speaking and writing in favor of single payer and other activities requested of me by advocates such as Single Payer Now.

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

Yes. I cosponsored legislation for Berkeley to join the East Bay Public Bank.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Yes. As a Councilmember, I authored an item to pilot free bus transportation for rides in Berkeley.

VI. Labor

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

We should increase the minimum wage to \$25 an hour. But a living wage is not just about the hourly wage or salary but also total compensation, including benefits. For example, we must ensure workers have enough hours to receive healthcare, which the Fair Workweek Ordinance, which I authored, helps with.

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

California state law currently goes further than federal law in covering employees exempt from the NLRA. We have to ensure these laws are favorable for workers and unions. I will advocate for strong protections, and in my capacity as an elected official, I will work with public sector unions to ensure they are well-represented.

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

I would tax these companies at a rate equivalent to their half of social security tax if their workers are not employees. We should also work to reclassify contract workers as employees as much as possible. I would apply the strictest test possible to ensure that contract workers are treated as employees when appropriate, including workers for Uber and Lyft, and I have requested that contracted-out City work be brought in-house every contract cycle.

VII. Housing

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

The rise in living expenses in the Bay Area has contributed to the mass displacement of disproportionately lower income people of color. We can and should tackle gentrification through imposing regulations on developers and strengthening rent control and just cause eviction. The process of gentrification can be interrupted by actively building according to the needs of residents, rather than only at the behest of property developers, through strict tenant protections (including against dilapidation and demolition of rent controlled buildings) and by overturning Costa Hawkins.

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?

Costa-Hawkins must be repealed. I'm in favor of the proposed Berkeley Demolition Ordinance that will protect tenants from displacement and ensure that demolished rent controlled units are replaced at the same income level. I support repealing the Ellis Act, which allows landlords to unconditionally evict tenants to "go out of business". We also need to ensure that units declared "not available to rent" are not being used for short-term rentals or being rented under the table; this is a primary function of the vacancy tax I put forward. I also support the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA), so that tenants in buildings not occupied by owners are not evicted from their homes unnecessarily and have the option to purchase their homes.

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. Laws that criminalize individuals for their housing status have no place in our society. I coauthored legislation to reimagine public safety by creating teams of social and health workers to address homelessness and mental health issues and fought legislation to criminalize people living in their cars.

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

We must provide municipal resources for affordable housing options, rather than relying solely on market-based solutions such as developer fees. Development and high property values have driven people onto our streets. We need to provide transitional housing, identify places for city-sanctioned encampments, allow construction of non-traditional housing forms (e.g., tiny homes), and stop relying on the police as the first contact with those on the streets by enhancing outreach by service providers and mental health workers.

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

If we want affordable housing, we are going to have to build it ourselves. Before becoming a Councilmember, I helped pass Measure U1, which charges a tax to landlords that own more than four units in Berkeley and raises \$6 million/year for our Housing Trust Fund. We passed Measure O, a property tax to fund affordable housing, and Measure M, the vacancy tax which I proposed. Revenues from these sources can be applied to build social housing or work with nonprofits on affordable housing, with examples such as Jordan Court and the Hope Center, both in the district I represented.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I oppose the expansion of charter schools.

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

I support tuition-free community college and fully funding all public schools, universities, and pre-schools through progressive property taxes and Proposition 13 reform.

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

I support the cancellation of all student debt for low and middle income individuals.

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

All children should have access to free, public pre-K, no matter their socio economic status.

34. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX?

Yes. I support, for example, expanding Title IX to protect trans people.

IX. Environmental

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

I have proposed a local Green New Deal that would bring together workers paid a living wage with low-income residents to electrify their homes, reducing GhGs significantly and making their homes more energy-efficient, healthier and more comfortable.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes.
.....

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes, and I am proud to be participating in Berkeley's public financing program. We must also work for increased transparency about who is funding and influencing legislation. I wrote Berkeley's Lobbyist Registration Act.
.....

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

Yes. We need to institutionalize ranked-choice voting, giving insurgent candidates a more viable path. Gerrymandering further marginalizes poor communities and communities of color by lessening their voting power; all voices must be heard.
.....

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?

The US should use economic incentives to penalize behavior by the Israeli government, including occupation, settlements, and the genocide in Gaza, and should cease military funding supporting these. I would also support removing city funds from investments which support human rights violations anywhere, including Israel/Palestine. The City must put its money where its mouth is. I am strongly in support of a ceasefire and would support a ceasefire resolution.
.....

XII. Anything else?

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

.....

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms