

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 *

Adena@AdenaIshii.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Adena Ishii

2. Preferred Pronouns

She/her

3. Position Running For

Mayor of Berkeley

4. Email Address

Adena@AdenaIshii.com

5. Phone number

(510) 629-9088

6. Campaign website

<https://www.adenaishii.com/>

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

Friends, family, neighbors, Berkeley residents, and individuals I have met on the campaign trail

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 am participating in Berkeley's campaign public financing program. We do not accept contributions from PACs, corporations, businesses, or unions.

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

Xavier Johnson- Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board; Alfred Twu- Berkeley Planning & Landmarks Commissioner; Ka'Dijah Brown- Berkeley Unified School Board Vice President; Laura Babitt- Berkeley Unified School Board Director; Ben Gerhardstein- Walk Bike Berkeley (for identification purposes only); Kevin Jenkins- Oakland City Councilmember; Aaron Tiedemann- Albany City Councilmember; Preston Jordan- Albany City Councilmember; Robin Lopez- Vice Mayor of Albany

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

None that I am aware of.

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

I won't be accepting any donations from PACS, corporations, businesses, or unions. I will also decline any endorsements from corporate PACS and large corporations, the oil and gas industry, military-industrial complex entities, pharmaceutical companies, charter schools, law enforcement groups against reform, and generally organizations that have stances that are racist, sexist, homophobic, or discriminatory. I will also decline endorsements and donations from individuals who lead these groups.

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?

Force should be used by police only when necessary in defense of human life. Even with this limitation, strict training and accountability measures must be in place. Deescalation tactics should be taught to all police officers. On non-violent calls where mental health crises are the main concern, trained mental health professionals should be used in place of police officers. The killing of unarmed civilians by police is unacceptable.

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

Yes. Incarceration should be a last resort and never be used as source of profit or financial gain. Private prisons have led to the creation of whole cities and industries all relying on the incarceration of individuals. This creates an incentive to keep people incarcerated, which further fuels an unjust system.

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

Yes. No one should be incarcerated because of a lack of financial resources. This is another way in which our system targets low-income communities.

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

I support decriminalizing drug usage and support the ongoing effort to legalize marijuana. Our current criminal justice system seeks to criminalize people with addictions, those who are experiencing homelessness, people who are low-income, and people of color. Drug charges have been used to target these communities, even though we know that people across our society use drugs. This has led to mass incarceration, the separation of families, and the destruction of communities.

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

Yes. The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment, and our justice system is incapable of ensuring death penalty verdicts free from bias or corruption.

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

Yes. Taking away a person's right to vote is undemocratic – and given the bias inherent in our criminal justice system, is also a form of racial discrimination. As a long-time leader with the League of Women Voters, I have strongly advocated to return the right to vote to all those who are currently and were previously incarcerated.

IV. Immigration

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

As an Asian American, I am a perpetual foreigner. Despite being a fourth-generation American, my identity will always tie me to the cause of immigrant rights. My passion for justice is rooted in the injustices of my Japanese American family's incarceration in concentration camps during WWII. These same prisons now hold immigrants who cross our Southern border. I support comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship and the removal of all laws and policies that discriminate against immigrants.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I support universal health care with a single-payer health care system. Health care should be a right, not a privilege. My father had early-onset dementia, and this illness put a huge financial strain on our family. I understand on a personal level the importance of having an equitable system.

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

Yes. Public banks can offer lower-cost debt to city and state governments, fund public infrastructure projects, and encourage entrepreneurship by providing loans to small businesses, at lower interest rates and with lower fees.

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 at least provide adequate coverage for basic necessities such as food, shelter, child services, and healthcare. The cost of living varies widely across the country and is certainly higher in Berkeley than in most places. I support Berkeley continuing to reevaluate its minimum wage to keep up with rising costs. As someone who has had to work multiple jobs to support myself, I strongly believe that workers should be paid fairly.

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

I support laws requiring safe working conditions, family-sustaining wages, and universal health care.

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

I support requiring gig workers to be treated by their employers as employees rather than contract labor, including AB 5 which recently was upheld in court. I opposed Prop. 22 and continue to support efforts to have it declared unconstitutional.

VII. Housing

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

Unfair restrictions on building new housing have driven much of this crisis. Berkeley, sadly, is the birthplace of exclusionary zoning. I have called for building more housing and more affordable housing in all Berkeley neighborhoods and for the revision of exclusionary rules around land use, including density and height limitations that prevent additional residents from moving into neighborhoods.

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 strengthen tenant protections to stabilize existing housing for tenants, preserve affordable housing, and prevent displacement. Actions include supporting Just Cause protections and Rent Stabilization protections. Costa Hawkins needs to be repealed.

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. We need to repeal all laws that criminalize or punish people experiencing homelessness. I support building more affordable housing in all Berkeley neighborhoods. I will also work to make shelters a safe and welcoming alternative to the street. Berkeley shelters should ensure families stay together, provide personal safety and secure storage, and offer culturally appropriate services and resources for mental health and rapid rehousing. Berkeley should also have shelters that are specifically for families and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. We must also expand mental health services and make them more access

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

I strongly support the 9-county Bay Area Housing for All bond in November. One of the biggest obstacles to building affordable housing is the ability to pay for it. We need to thoughtfully and appropriately revise exclusionary rules around land use, including density and height limitations that prevent additional residents from moving into the neighborhood. We also need to remove obstacles to, and incentivize the construction of, missing middle housing (e.g., duplexes, fourplexes, ADUs) to help increase housing, prevent displacement, maintain our supply of family-friendly housing, and add smaller units (which promotes diversity across neighborhoods).

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

Yes, I support social housing and am particularly interested in models that would support intergenerational living. Setting aside funding, creating more inclusionary zoning, and working to embed services within social housing would all support this effort.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I am a strong supporter of public education, as someone who attended public schools from K-12, in community college, and at university. I am not supportive of charter schools, and I believe charter schools that currently exist should be held to the same standards as public schools.

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

I support it. Education is the foundation of opportunity, which should be available to all. I've worked hard on issues of education inequity as a community college advocate. I now serve on a board that provides low-income, first-generation students of color with advising, professional development, mentorship, and scholarships to support them during college.

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

Yes.

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

There are several ways to accomplish this, but reforming Prop 13 would be an important first step.

34. Do you support "strengthening" Title IX?

Yes. I support all laws that work to remove discrimination, including ensuring that Title IX covers trans people.

IX. Environmental

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

A Green New Deal should work to speed up the transition to clean, renewable energy, and provide robust job training and placement services to ensure that displaced workers can thrive in the new green economy.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes.

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes. I am participating in Berkeley's public financing program for campaigns.

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

Yes. As a former president of our local League of Women voters, I have worked to educate voters about RCV and ensure its smooth implementation.

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. The United States should not be providing the weapons that have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians. We should be supporting an effort to create an immediate ceasefire.

XII. Anything else?

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

N/A

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