

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* claudia@claudiajimenezforrichmond.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Claudia Jimenez

2. Preferred Pronouns

She/Her/Ella

3. Position Running For

Re-Elect to Richmond City Council District 6

4. Email Address

claudia@claudiajimenezforrichmond.com

5. Phone number

510-998-9027

6. Campaign website

claudiajimenezforrichmond.com

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

My campaign is funded by individual donors, labor union political action committees, and progressive organizations.

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 take no donations from corporations, businesses, business associations, realtor groups, or the police department. I expect to receive donations from the same labor unions and progressive organizations that supported me in 2020, including these:

AFSCME Local 3299

SEIU 1021

IFPTE Local 21

ACCE Action

ATU 1555

CBE Action

California Nurses Association

Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) Action

National Union of Healthcare Workers

Lead Locally

Lift Up Contra Costa County

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

IAFF Local 188, United Teachers of Richmond, SEIU Local 1021, SEIU CIR, SEIU UHW, Teamsters Local 315, IFPTE Local 21, League of Conservation Voters of the East Bay, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Richmond Progressive Alliance, Democratic Socialists of America, Lead Locally, Working Families Party.

Jovanka Beckles, AC Transit Board, John Gioia, CoCo County Supervisor, Demitrio Gonzalez-Hoy, West County Board of Education Member; Norman LaForce, former El Cerrito mayor; Eduardo Martinez, current Richmond Mayor; Gayle McLaughlin, former Richmond mayor; Melvin Willis, Richmond City Council member; Devin Murphy, Pinole City Council member; Doria Robinson, Richmond City Council member; Janet Johnson, Richmond Shoreline Alliance Co-Chair

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

None yet. I was previously supported by the East Bay Working Families PAC.

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

I have pledged to not take any donations from corporations, businesses, charter schools, real estate developers, business associations, or law enforcement so I can be accountable to the people of Richmond, not wealthy corporations and fossil fuel companies.

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?

In my time on the council, I have worked to expand the reach of our Community Police Review Commission, and hire independent investigators to ensure all cases of police misconduct are taken seriously and officers are accountable to the community. Officers should use force only as a last resort, and should do everything in their capacity to de-escalate situations before use of force.

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

I do not believe that corporations should profit from mass incarceration, which has overwhelmingly jailed Black and Brown people. Prior to my term on the City Council, I worked to organize communities in Contra Costa to oppose the expansion of jails in the county.

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

Yes. The cash bail system tends to exacerbate existing racial and economic disparities within the criminal justice system. People of color are more likely to face higher bail amounts and less likely to afford them.

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

As a Colombian woman, I have experienced first-hand the impact of the US War on Drugs. I support the decriminalization of all drugs with proper controls for more dangerous drugs. Black and Brown communities in the US and abroad have experienced tremendous amounts of violence as a result of the drug trade. By legalizing drugs, governments will have more control, less corruption, and less violence.

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

I oppose the use of capital punishment. Racism is still today deeply embedded in our criminal justice systems, and efforts like the Innocence Project have shown us that the

system can often ruin the lives of people who were not actually guilty of the crimes charged.

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

I do not believe that convicted felons and inmates should be disenfranchised. People who have served their time should be welcomed back as full members of society, not marginalized permanently for their errors. Also, because mass incarceration disproportionately affects Black and Brown communities, not letting the currently and formerly incarcerated vote is a form of disenfranchisement of non-white people.

IV. Immigration

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

During my term, I worked to make Richmond a sanctuary city, and pushed to allow undocumented immigrants who live and work in Richmond to vote in municipal elections. I believe that the federal government should work to create pathways to citizenship for DREAMers, their parents, and millions of immigrants who have lived here for decades and established deep roots in their communities.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I believe that healthcare is a human right, and we have a responsibility to ensure access to quality medical services, regardless of economic or social status. I support a publicly funded single-payer system.

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

I support the shift from privatized banks to publicly owned banks that prioritize local needs. I have supported efforts locally to establish the Public Bank of the East Bay.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Public transportation is a public good, and we should work to tackle every barrier in the way of full access to public transit for everyone. Public transit should ultimately be free, and I support efforts by AC Transit and BART to create subsidies for low income, young, and disabled community members.

VI. Labor

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

I believe that all workers deserve to be paid a living wage, particularly those employed by massive multi-national corporations. Workers should not be struggling to afford the cost of living in California while executives hoard billions of dollars in profit. The federal minimum wage needs to be adjusted to account for today’s cost of living, and the government should be doing more to ensure the equitable distribution of profits between workers and executives. \$20 per hour is an easy place to start.

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

We should encourage the formation of unions. One way to do that is to reverse laws that prevent certain sectors of employees from organizing. In the meantime, we can also use legislation to set certain minimum standards for wages, benefits, and worker safety protections. Non-profit organizations and labor advocacy groups can play a crucial role in offering legal assistance and advocacy to help excluded workers understand their rights and navigate disputes with employers.

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

It is essential to tax companies that heavily depend on contract workers to avoid unionization, suppress wages, evade safety regulations, and avoid providing benefits. These practices shift significant costs onto the government and taxpayers. To counter this, the government can implement a tax linked to the number of contractors a business employs, thereby reassigning the financial responsibility to the corporations. Companies often misclassify their workers as contractors and this tax would disincentivize that.

VII. Housing

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

There are a variety of drivers behind the housing crisis in the state, from corporate landlords to single-family zoning to limits on rent control. I believe that housing is a human right, and the commodification of housing has created a situation where too many people are having their rights violated. Every level of government has to step in with programs to help house people – we cannot leave it to the free market to solve.

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?

In my time on the council, I have worked to grow the capacity of the Richmond Rent Board to serve and protect tenants. I supported the successful campaign to pass rent control in Richmond to fight gentrification and support long time residents from displacement. I support repealing Costa Hawkins, so we can fully protect affordable housing and expand 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 disagree with the Supreme Court decision that expanded municipal authority to criminalize homelessness. I support the expansion of our social safety net, including stronger eviction protections and unemployment support, to prevent residents from becoming unhoused in the first place. I have worked to expand transitional housing programs for unhoused residents, and supported organizations like the Faith in Action that help them meet basic needs, work, and housing. As one of the creators of the Community Crisis Response Program, I am interested in having more trained mental health and social workers, and fewer armed police officers, responding to calls from or about our homeless neighbors.

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

I have supported efforts to streamline the use of publicly owned properties for affordable housing development. I believe we need to continue to incentivize transit-oriented, mixed-use development that can increase the city's housing stock while re-investing into business and recreation in the Downtown area.

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

Because the failures of the open market have left a significant portion of our community without stable housing, we must turn to alternatives. I stand for social housing – housing that is owned and managed by the government or nonprofit organizations, aimed at

providing affordable and secure accommodation for low-income individuals and families. To achieve this, it is imperative to establish a supportive policy and legal framework. This includes enacting laws and regulations that facilitate the creation and administration of social housing, such as zoning regulations, land use policies, and robust tenant protections. Equally crucial is securing ample funding and financial mechanisms. This entails government subsidies, grants, low-interest loans, tax incentives, and contributions from philanthropic entities or private investors to ensure the realization and sustainability of social housing initiatives.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

Public investments into charter schools have short changed our public school systems, diverting the resources needed to operate successful educational programs. I believe the public sector has a duty to invest more into our local schools so that we can provide students with the resources, opportunities, and development that charter schools advertise to parents.

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

I believe that public educational institutions should be free from T-K to university. Richmond highschool graduates have benefited immensely from the program that allows them to attend Contra Costa College in San Pablo at no cost.

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

I believe the federal government needs to fulfill their promise of forgiving student loans for those ensnared by predatory educational and lending institutions. People should not be stuck with a lifetime of debt because of the government's failure to subsidize quality college and university for our people.

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

Tax the rich, and spend it on schools. We should start by closing the Prop 13 loophole which lets corporations avoid paying tax on the property that they own.

34. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX?

Strengthening Title IX is necessary to address persistent issues of gender-based discrimination and ensure that educational institutions provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students. That means making sure schools are free from all forms of sex discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and transgender status. The federal government should do more to include prohibitions on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity under Title IX.

IX. Environmental

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

A Green New Deal, like Richmond’s Blue-Green New Deal Workforce Development Program, should work to transition our economies from industries and practices rooted in exploitation and extraction to economies rooted in sustainability and regeneration. A GND should work to secure investments in climate resilient and ecologically responsible infrastructure, while creating well-paying union jobs, and greatly democratizing decision-making in our communities.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

I support the managed decline of our reliance on the fossil fuel industry for energy production, and that includes a ban on fracking and other new oil & gas extraction permits.

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes, I believe public financing of elections can help reduce the influence of corporations over government at levels and reduce corruption. At the same time we need to revise the laws around independent expenditure campaigns, which currently define corporations as persons and their money as speech, allowing them to freely spend as much as they want to influence elections.

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

Yes, I led efforts to put forward a measure on the November's ballot that will allow Richmond voters to vote to establish ranked choice voting for municipal elections.

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?

I support the international BDS campaign working to end apartheid conditions in Palestine/Israel, and create a pathway to a permanent ceasefire that secures the agency and liberation of the people of Palestine. I voted in favor of a resolution divesting the City of Richmond from companies that profit off of war and weapons manufacturing, calling on the state of Israel to end the repression of Palestinian lives.

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

I answered them all.