

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 *

christy@christy4pinole.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Truc "Christy" Lam-Julian

2. Preferred Pronouns

She/Her

3. Position Running For

Pinole City Council

4. Email Address

christy@christy4pinole.com

5. Phone number

408-221-9932

6. Campaign website

www.christy4pinole.com

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

Friends and Family

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 seeking support from Unite Here, UTR, Older Adult Education, Labor Council, IBEW, SEIU, AFSCME, CTWI

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

Elected: Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i - Jefferseon School Board Trustee Tiffany Grimsley - Hercules City Councilor Thuy Dao-Jensen - Brentwood School Board President Jamela Smith- Folds - West Contra Costa School Board President Community Leaders: Anna Smith- Community Advocate Scottie Smith - Council of Elders Organization: Run for Something Pinole Progressive Alliance

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

Emily's List Moms Demand Action New American Leaders Action Lift Up Contra Costa United Teachers Union Fund Her APEN Pivot Progressive Change Campaign Committee Aspire

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

I will decline donations from corporations, fossil fuel industry, and realtor association. My campaign is a true grassroots movement, for the people and by the people. We value safety, equity, and community. Corporate lobbyist have no place in politics.

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?

There is currently no universally accepted definition of the use of force. Law enforcement officers receive guidance from their respective agencies; however, there are no standard rules that dictate when and how much force should be employed. Consequently, the decisions made can be influenced by individual biases rather than being based purely on objective criteria aimed at maintaining peace. The continuum of force utilized by law enforcement officers includes verbal communication, physical restraint, less-lethal options, and lethal force. According to the Democratic Oversight of the Police study, the increased incorporation of mental health counselors, crisis intervention specialists, and human rights training will reduce the necessity for the use of force.

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

I support banning private prisons. Harmful crime policies targeting low-income individuals and immigrants since the 1980s have significantly contributed to the rapid increase in the nation's prison population. This surge created a demand for for-profit prisons. Currently, there are 158 for-profit facilities in 27 states within the United States, accommodating approximately 8% of the total incarcerated population, and are operated by around three corporations. Since 2000, there has been an 11% decrease in the demand from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order aimed at phasing out contracts with for-profit prisons.

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

I support abolishing cash bail. The impact of incarceration and cash bail disproportionately affects low-income and marginalized communities compared to others. This system differentiates treatment for individuals awaiting trial primarily based on their financial resources, rather than their likelihood of appearing in court or the potential risk they may pose to public safety. Time spent in jail can have detrimental effects on an individual's career, housing stability, relationships, and, most importantly, their health and safety. Research indicates that reliance on secured money bail may contribute to increased crime rates compared to a scenario in which these financial bail requirements are not enforced. This flawed system presents an unfair advantage for those with disposable income.

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

I support decriminalizing all drugs. John Ehrlichman, who served as President Nixon's domestic policy chief, acknowledged that the "War on Drugs" of 1971 was motivated by political factors rather than public safety concerns. Data from the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 indicates that individuals of color were disproportionately targeted and arrested on suspicion of drug use compared to their white counterparts. Furthermore, according to the Pew Research Center, between 2009 and 2013, nearly 40 states reduced penalties and shortened mandatory minimum sentences.

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

I oppose the use of capital punishment. Capital punishment incurs an annual cost of \$137 million to California taxpayers and has exceeded \$4 billion since 1978. The Police Chiefs Association has identified the death penalty as the least efficient allocation of taxpayer funds. Additionally, the financial resources associated with the death penalty detract from effective crime control initiatives, thereby limiting funds available for crime prevention, domestic violence prosecutions, and emergency services.

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

I believe convicted felons and prison inmates should be granted the right to vote. Individuals from low-income backgrounds, people of color, and immigrants have historically faced marginalization in relation to public policy, programs, and services. Inequities in crime policy and subjective sentencing practices exacerbate these challenges. Research indicates that 85% of American voters believe the criminal justice system should prioritize the rehabilitation of individuals to help them reintegrate as law-abiding citizens. Disenfranchisement is not an effective strategy for fostering responsible citizenship; rather, it undermines an individual's rights and agency. Furthermore, studies have demonstrated a correlation between re-enfranchisement and a lower likelihood of recidivism.

IV. Immigration

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

As the daughter of refugees, immigration is a deeply personal issue for me. The New Way Forward Act and H.R. 1511 aim to reform the immigration system by limiting the criminal legal system's role in deportation processes, restoring due process protections and judicial discretion, implementing a five-year statute of limitations for removal, creating a community-based support program distinct from ICE, and removing the re-entry cut-off date while establishing open eligibility for individuals who have resided in the United States for a minimum of seven years. It is essential that we remove the Immigration Law of 1996, as well as U.S. Code 1325 and 1326, in order to eliminate the practice of double prosecution for entry and re-entry, and to uphold the principles of due process.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I advocate for CalCare, a single-payer insurance system, as I believe that access to healthcare is a fundamental human right. CalCare would offer comprehensive coverage, including medical, dental, hearing, vision, mental health, reproductive, and long-term care for all residents of California. This system would streamline healthcare delivery by removing the distinctions between in-network and out-of-network providers, eliminating private insurance companies, ensuring free healthcare for all Californians, and reducing bureaucratic complexities.

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

I advocate for Public Banks because traditional financial institutions often lack democratic accountability and do not adequately address the needs of diverse communities. The predatory practices and discriminatory policies of conventional banks exacerbate the wealth gap.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

I advocate for free public transit as it alleviates financial burdens on low-income individuals, enhances their quality of life by eliminating the need to limit travel, promotes more efficient trips, reduces carbon emissions, alleviates road congestion, and decreases noise pollution.

VI. Labor

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

California is recognized as the state with the highest cost of living. The minimum wage in California should be set at a minimum of \$27.32 and adjusted annually to address inflation. A livable wage should ensure that individuals can meet essential needs such as food, housing, transportation, communication, and healthcare.

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

The National Labor Relations Act does not encompass federal, state, local, gig, contract, or familial employees. I would collaborate with unions, the Fast Food Sector Council, labor law advocates, and legislators to seek an expansion of the NLRA and enhance worker protections.

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

The California Supreme Court's decision not to overturn Proposition 22, which provides protections for gig and contract workers, was disappointing. I would recommend considering the implementation of a tax on a per contracted worker basis, with the generated revenue allocated to non-profit health clinics.

VII. Housing

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

Lenders and real estate professionals extending loans to individuals with low credit scores and a higher risk of default, coupled with strong demand for housing amid limited supply, rising interest rates, the economic impact of the pandemic, inflation, and increasing living costs, have all contributed to the housing crisis in California and 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?

I believe that Costa Hawkins and Ellis Act should be repealed. Unfortunately, current pro-landlord policies leave renters with limited protections, allowing landlords to price out tenants and sell properties to large developers. To tackle this issue, local governments must review and amend existing rent control ordinances to expand their coverage, ensuring protections are extended to more buildings and renters. This includes capping annual rent increases, maintaining fixed percentage increases to prevent sudden, unaffordable rent hikes, and enforcing stricter regulations against unjust evictions. Additionally, supporting eviction moratoriums during economic downturns or pandemics can protect vulnerable tenants from displacement.

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 advocate for the repeal of laws that criminalize or penalize individuals experiencing homelessness. This issue holds personal significance for me. I propose to strengthen social service programs in Pinole and collaborate with non-profit outreach organizations to address these challenges effectively.

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

It is essential to promote the development of affordable housing units by providing tax credits and subsidies to developers who incorporate low-income and extremely low-income options in their projects. Additionally, integrating affordable housing requirements into the city's general plan and zoning regulations, akin to Pinole's certification of 600 housing units under the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), is important. To address the challenges posed by large developers who may seek to displace renters for profit, implementing policies that prioritize the needs of residents can contribute to the preservation of affordable housing stock.

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

I advocate for the development of social housing initiatives. I recommend that we optimize city-owned parcels designated for mixed-use purposes to establish affordable housing, complemented by community spaces such as small business incubators. Additionally, we could consider repurposing vacant strip malls and shopping centers into affordable residential units.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I do not advocate for charter schools as they should adhere to the same regulations and standards as traditional public schools. Charter schools often exhibit less transparency and may exploit less stringent regulations regarding accountability. Additionally, charter board members are not subject to certain provisions of the Education Code. Research indicates that over the last 15 years, approximately \$2.5 billion in taxpayer funds have been misallocated to charter school facilities that were either unnecessary or provided subpar educational outcomes.

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

The advantages of providing free college education encompass increased educational access for underserved students, a more robust economy, and a decrease in student loan debt.

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

Student debt represents a significant national challenge. Access to higher education should be viewed as a fundamental right rather than a luxury. While tuition costs continue to increase, wages and income levels remain stagnant, and state funding for education and financial aid has declined. The elimination of student debt would promote equity across gender and racial lines and stimulate economic growth.

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

I propose that we reform commercial property tax reassessments to reflect their current market value rather than their purchase value. I recommend that the resulting funds be allocated to community schools and the transitional kindergarten program.

34. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX?

I advocate for the enhancement of Title IX. As someone with personal experience, I emphasize the importance of strengthening its provisions. I believe that the scope of sexual misconduct that necessitates investigation, the definition of sexual harassment, and the protections afforded to survivors should be broadened.

IX. Environmental

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

The Green New Deal should be enhanced to include additional programs aimed at supporting middle-class residents, municipalities, and schools in transitioning to more efficient and solar-powered systems.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

I do not support fracking due to its negative impact on groundwater quality, potential contamination of surface water, contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, seismic activity, threats to wildlife, and degradation of natural landscapes. Additionally, it reinforces our reliance on fossil fuels.

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

I advocate for public financing of elections as a means to enhance democratic representation for all citizens. This approach encourages candidates to engage with a broader base of supporters rather than relying solely on a limited number of large donors. Additionally, small donor public financing creates opportunities for candidates from diverse backgrounds to participate in the electoral process, thereby elevating the voices of everyday individuals.

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

I support ranked choice voting because it ensures that the winner has the majority of votes, discourages negative campaigning, minimizes strategic voting, and can lead to cost savings in the primary 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 endorse the international campaign for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS). The United States has historically played a vital role in fostering peace and facilitating resolution during conflicts. It is imperative that we ensure individuals are informed about the global impact of conflicts and uphold a commitment to addressing unacceptable behavior.

XII. Anything else?

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

N/A

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms