

# 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 \*

love4Oakland2024@gmail.com

## I. Campaign information

1. Name

Tonya Love

2. Preferred Pronouns

She/Her

3. Position Running For

Oakland City Council, At Large

4. Email Address

love4Oakland2024@gmail.com

5. Phone number

510-697-7453

## 6. Campaign website

love4oakland2024@gmail.com

## II. Campaign finances and support

### 7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

I have received individual donations to my campaign so far.

### 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).

progressive, democratic, and local community based organizations and labor

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

CP Nikki Fortunato Bas, Oakland CM Carroll Fife, Oakland CM Victor Aguilar, San Leandro CM George Syrup, Hayward CM Angela Andrews CM Abel Pineda, El Cerrito Rev. Ken Chambers Jovanka Beckles, Richmond BOS Elisa Marquez, Hayward Fmr Councilmember Jim Oddie CDP Progressive Caucus Chair, Emeritus: Amar Shergill Selena Wilson, ED of EOYDC Steven Pitts, Emeritus Assoc. Chair of UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education Brian Hover, Chair of Oakland Privacy Commission and ED of Secure Justice Dr. Kitty Kelly Epstein Walter Riley Leah Simon-Weisburg Pamela Drake, Alameda County Central Committee Cat Brooks, APTP Allyssa Victory, Moina Shaiq

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

no pac donations so far

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

police unions, corporate landlords, fossil fuel companies, police unions, large corporations

## 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?

The effects of police use of force have been disproportionately used on Black and Brown communities which has caused a justified distrust of police for members of my community. If elected, I will continue to place emphasis on training officers to de-escalate potentially violent situations without resorting to force. Ensuring that mechanisms are in place for holding officers accountable for the use of excessive force, including internal reviews, civilian oversight boards, and body cameras. In addition, as a former member of the Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce, I will continue to implement policy suggestions advocating for changes in how police forces operate and restructuring OPD to focus more on community-based safety measures.

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

Yes. I was district level staff under Assemblymember Rob Bonta who introduced AB 32, ending the use of for-profit prisons in California, that Governor Newsom signed in 2019. Unfortunately, the bill was struck down by federal judges after a Trump Era lawsuit against the legislation was upheld by the Biden Administration to allow private prisons and ice detention centers to remain open. I believe in restorative justice not incarceration. Private prisons are known to be abusive to black and brown inmates, including using them as slave labor. If elected, I would support any future legislative efforts to ban private prisons.

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

Yes, I was also district level staff under Assemblymember Rob Bonta in 2017 when he introduced AB 42 alongside the Senate version SB 10 (Hertzog), which reformed California's money bail system so that no one is kept in jail while awaiting trial simply because they cannot afford to post bail. While SB 10 passed the legislative system and was signed into law, it was overturned by a ballot measure sponsored by the bail bond industry in 2020. I believe the cash money bail system is flawed and leaves many low-income individuals bankrupt even after minor offenses where defendants are found not-guilty. If elected, I would support any future legislative efforts to end the cash money bail system.

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

No, I believe some drugs are too dangerous and addictive for legalization. In the past I have supported in Oakland legalization of cannabis and hallucinogenic mushrooms for recreation and medical usage. I support progressive drug policies that have seen positive outcomes to reduce overdose deaths, decreased rates of HIV and hepatitis transmission, improve treatment of cancer and better social and economic integration for individuals previously criminalized for drug use.

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

Yes, I am opposed to the death penalty and I applaud Governor Newsom's moratorium on the death penalty in California. If elected I would support any legislative effort to end the death penalty in California, permanently.

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

In California, incarcerated individuals with felonies are not allowed to vote while serving their sentences, however they can vote upon completion or while on parole, probation or supervision. I believe that voting is a fundamental human right. Allowing inmates to vote can help in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. It encourages civic responsibility and a sense of belonging to the community. I believe allowing prisoners the right to vote may help to ensure they receive humane treatment and that their civil rights are not violated. If elected, I would support future efforts to allow incarcerated individuals the right to vote, as long as we can maintain safety and security.

#### IV. Immigration

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

In my previous role, I worked closely with Spanish-speaking families with young children to advocate for healthier eating and play environments, immigrant protections, access to education, tenant protections, and sanctuary laws. I actively participated in Immigrant Rights Advocacy Days in Sacramento, advocating for driver's licenses, sanctuary cities, and DACA funding. I will actively work to advocate for policies that support the path to American citizenship for immigrants, while also addressing systemic barriers that prevent them from fully participating in society. Additionally, I will continue to collaborate with community organizations and immigrant advocacy groups to amplify the voices of immigrant communities and address their unique needs and challenges.

#### V. Infrastructure issues

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

In the past, along with the California Democratic Party Progressive Caucus, I have supported single-payer health care legislation that was introduced in California by Assemblymember Kalra. I will continue to publicly support statewide and federal efforts towards single payer health care, by authoring/supporting resolutions, writing letters of support and participating in rallies or other efforts to mobilize voters.

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

Along with CM Fife, I have supported efforts to bring public banking to Oakland. Public banks can provide lower interest rates for public projects and small businesses. They can provide financial services to underserved communities that might be neglected by private banks. Profits generated by public banks can be reinvested into the community or used to fund public services, reducing the need for tax increases. If elected, I will continue to support efforts to bring Public Banking to Oakland.

## 21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Yes, as a public transit user, I would love to have free public transit! Eliminating transit fares can save money for individuals and families, particularly low-income households, increasing their disposable income. By encouraging more people to use public transit instead of driving, free public transit can reduce the number of vehicles on the road, leading to lower greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. With fewer cars on the road, there can be a reduction in traffic accidents and associated injuries. Finally, Less reliance on cars can free up land previously used for parking lots and road expansion, allowing it to be repurposed for green spaces, housing, or other community needs.

## VI. Labor

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

Living wage is the minimum income necessary for someone to meet their basic needs, including housing, food, and healthcare. In California, the cost of living is high, and the living wage varies depending on the region due to differences in cost of living. So while a set minimum wage should be made in California or even for the country, a living wage should depend on the City or region. As of January 1, 2024, the minimum wage is \$16.50 per hour in Oakland. In California, the minimum wage is \$16.00 per hour for all employers, regardless of the size of the business. This is higher than the federal minimum wage which is still just \$7.25 since 2009! We are long overdue for an update.

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

I believe all workers should have the opportunity to advocate for livable wages and comprehensive health care benefits, a safe and welcoming workplace environment and for the resources they need to do their job well. Oakland has a Department of Workplace Enforcement Standards which sets guidelines for protection of workers within the City of Oakland. We need stronger enforcement of laws in local construction. I would love to work with DWES to intervene in working standards for our health care workers. I would also love for DWES to do more to ensure enforcement of laws for fast food and hotel workers. If elected to office, I would be happy to author and support any legislative initiatives to protect workers not covered under the NLRA.

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

Taxing companies that use a large number of contract workers can generate additional revenue. This tax could incentivize companies to hire workers as full-time employees rather than contractors, providing more job security, benefits, and labor protections. Funds raised through such a tax could be used to strengthen social safety nets, and funding our DWES department, which will be able to provide better support for contract workers who may not have access to traditional employee benefits. As the city of Oakland could use more revenue sources, I would consider legislation taxing large gig economy companies such as UBER, Lyft or AirBnb.

## VII. Housing

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

Not enough jobs that pay livable wages and we don't build enough deeply affordable housing and there are not enough protections for tenants. Most importantly, housing is a commodity instead of a human right.

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?

Oakland already has strong tenant protections in place with: Rent Adjustment Program Ordinance which implements the Rent Adjustment Program, includes Just Cause, regulatory rules around the Ellis Act, and the fees for participation. Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance which limits evictions unless for 10 just causes. Tenant Protection Ordinance, which protects tenants from harassment by landlords. Uniform Relocation Ordinance, which provides tenants displaced by code compliance activities, owner or relative move-ins, Ellis Act, and condominium conversions with relocation payments I am in support of Repealing Costa Hawkins, Ellis Act and limiting corporate speculation of rental units.

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 am disappointed in the recent Grants Pass verdict from the Supreme Court giving local jurisdictions the ability to criminalize residents for being homeless. We need to balance the rights of the unhoused, we do need to find safe spaces for them to be, while keeping our communities safe by preventing fires, sewage contamination and spreading of vectors. However, I do not feel the unhoused should be incarcerated for our systemic failures. While the City of Oakland has yet to officially weigh in on how it will respond to the Grant's Pass verdict and the Governor's Executive Order, if elected, I would ensure that we prevent unfair criminalization practices. We must lead with a housing and services first model.

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

The passage of the BAHFA Bond measure, which could bring \$765 million dollars dedicated towards deeply affordable housing, is our best source of future revenue. The City of Oakland has committed to using a majority of funds to build deeply affordable housing. I would go further to ensure we get additional funding to provide services at those housing sites. Our Downtown Specific Plan has developed Zone Incentive Program which would allow increased height or unit allotment with inclusion of affordable units, and community benefits, such as affordable non-profit ground floor space.. I would support such measures across the city in order to increase the development of additional affordable units.

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

Yes. I have supported Councilmember Carroll Fife's efforts to create social housing in Oakland via the 2022 Measure T. Which allows Oakland to build very low affordable housing units. However, we need additional funding in order to create social housing and we need a dedicated department to manage City of Oakland residential spaces. Our current residential spaces at Malonga Center are not adequately managed with our limited staffing. She plans to generate funding for social housing by adopting enhanced infrastructure financing districts, which directs from revenue generated by development. If elected, I would explore additional funding opportunities at the state and federal level.

## VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I believe that every parent should have the right to make the best educational choices for their family. However, I do not believe that funding should be taken away from public schools to fund charter schools which serve limited populations. I think public schools should be fully funded and have resources needed to provide for quality education for all students within the public school system.

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

I would love it! We need to change our economic system so allow for full funding for K-8 and our university systems.

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

Yes!

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

Tax the wealthy. Redirect military funding towards education. Restructure our capitalist system.

34. Do you support "strengthening" Title IX?

Yes. We need to increase protections against sexual and gender discrimination, improve enforcement mechanisms, and ensure equitable access to educational opportunities.

## IX. Environmental

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

A Green New Deal at the local city government level should address climate change, environmental sustainability, and social equity. Some ideas include: Ensuring that all communities, especially historically marginalized ones, have access to clean energy, affordable housing, and green spaces. Implementing energy efficiency standards for new buildings and renovations. Offering incentives for residents and businesses to upgrade to energy-efficient appliances and systems Promoting walkability through urban design and zoning that supports mixed-use neighborhoods Providing grants or low-interest loans for low-income households to make energy-efficient upgrades. Creating participatory planning processes to involve community members in decision-making.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes!

## X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes, but there needs to be a sustainable ongoing funding source.

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

Yes, it is the best way to ensure progressive, grassroots candidates have a chance to compete in 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?

Yes. I believe that we should not be spending tax dollars to support a genocide.

## XII. Anything else?

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

Not applicable.

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