

# 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 \*

rafael.menis@gmail.com

## I. Campaign information

1. Name

Rafael Menis

2. Preferred Pronouns

He/Him

3. Position Running For

Pinole City Treasurer

4. Email Address

rafael.menis@gmail.com

5. Phone number

5104805608

## 6. Campaign website

menisfortreasurer.org

## II. Campaign finances and support

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

Me, my family, individuals in Pinole and friends

### 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).

Trades unions (IBEW, construction ect), IAFF (potential future donations, none current)

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

Devin Murphy, Anthony Tave, Jamela Smith-Folds, the Pinole Progressive Alliance, Vincent Salimi, Anthony Caro, Alex Walker-Griffin, Jovanka Beckles, Claudia Jiminez, Alfred Twu

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

None formally at this time.

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

Corporations, Developers, Police (donations), Donald fucking Trump

## 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 use of force by police should be as minimal as possible, and scaled to the \*actual\* threat they are encountering. The first priority should be de-escalation, then disarming, and only if neither of those are possible should there be escalation to things like non-lethal and lethal weapons. Body camera footage should be automatically recorded whenever a weapon is drawn to ensure accountability. For some examples- an inappropriate use of force would be shooting a child with a toy gun in their waistband. An appropriate use of force would be using a beanbag to create a distraction so another officer can disarm (not shoot, or tase- just gain control of and remove) a gun.

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

Of course. The profit motive should not be a part of policing.

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

Yes. Cash bail is used to harm working class people and is trivial for the wealthy to bypass.

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

I'm unsure about all drugs. Some have no medicinal benefit and are actively more harmful than other variants- if people are selling those, shouldn't there be consequences for that? That said, the differential standards for things like crack versus powder cocaine mean that having differentials for the same type of good might just be another route for discrimination, so I'm uncertain. I do think that simple possession and use of drugs should not be criminalized (even if many are harmful).

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

Yes. We don't have the ability to bring a wrongly executed person back to life.

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

Yes. We don't have the penalty of exile, and barring inmates from the vote effectively exiles them. Furthermore, as a matter of rehabilitation it helps integrate them into their communities by being engaged with the issues and people being voted on.

#### IV. Immigration

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

I think we need to adequately fund our existing immigration system- there's massive shortfalls, which means people get unfair treatment because the process is rushed. I think that immigrants and immigration are a boon to this country- my grandfathers were both immigrants. I think that we need to have a path to citizenship, and again adequate funding at the points of entry so people don't \*need\* to enter unlawfully. I think H1B visas should be reformed so as not to trap employees with their sponsor.

## V. Infrastructure issues

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

Universal Single-Payer health care. Because any other system breaks and is breaking, as you can see looking at the City of Pinole's budget forecasts in particular. That way you don't have welfare cliffs, inefficiencies caused by private profit-seeking, or the middle-man excess that fills our existing private system.

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

Yes, because there's no particular reason why public entities should need to pay money to a private bank to manage their funds. North Dakota's been doing it just fine.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Yes. Given the cost of tickets per-rider compared to the actual cost of operation, what charging for transit does is allow for criminalization of the poor and homeless, and discourages use of the system (do I have the clipper card, is there enough money on it, ect) for everyone.

## VI. Labor

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

I think it should be CPI-adjusted, and at least enough so a person working full time at minimum wage could afford rent in their community (where afford is used in the affordable housing sense of max 30% income). Paying people so little they literally can't afford to live there is absurd. A living wage goes beyond that, and would be enough to cover all expenses- food, transportation, healthcare as well as housing.

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

Sectoral bargaining.

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

I would support implementation of AB 5 so companies trying to call employees contractors actually have to pay taxes on those employees properly.

## VII. Housing

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

Supply- there haven't been enough units produced for decades. Lack of renter protections- homeowners have de-facto "rent control" in Proposition 13, but Costa-Hawkins leaves most renters in a precarious position allowing for constant rent spikes and evictions, destabilizing communities and contributing to the housing crisis regardless of supply.

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 think Costa-Hawkins should be repealed, so each jurisdiction would be able to decide on their own whether to have rent control or not. I think there should be statewide just cause regulations that municipalities would be allowed to expand upon if they wished.

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 disagree with the Supreme Court in Grants Pass- people don't have a choice about whether to sleep. I would try to make sure what supportive services we can provide are available to them.

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

Permitting reform- have more ADU's, have standardized ADU's, have objective design guidelines, have standardized/simple housing designs. Allow for smaller housing on smaller plots. Find dedicated funding sources where possible.

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

Yes, though I'm not sure where the funding source would come from for most communities. If it's state funded, can we rely on the state not pulling funding like they just did to the colleges?

## VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

They are parasites on the public school system- they're drawing public resources, but do not have accountability to the public and have the power to pick and choose only the students they want, leaving the public schools with the rest.

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

I think it would be a good idea. I'm not sure how we would fund that.

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

Yes. If we're able to cancel billions of dollars of PPP debt, why not cancel student debt which provided far more value to the community?

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

Do we even have the necessary staffing and facilities to implement universal public pre-K? It would require a substantial tax measure to raise the necessary funding.

34. Do you support "strengthening" Title IX?

I don't know what "strengthening" Title IX means here- is it an anti-Trans buzzword?

## IX. Environmental

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

Just Transition- making sure that people in GHG jobs have good work to go to rather than being dumped like many of our past transitions. A focus on renewable energy, storage, and overcoming the power of monopolies to limit those things. Green transit, whether private or public. Decarbonization. Removal of pollutants (PFAS, ect).

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes. We don't need \*more\* earthquakes in CA!

## X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes, ideally coupled with enforceable caps on election spending (though given current supreme court precedent, this is unlikely to be possible for some decades).

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

Yes. Ranked choice voting allows for a more thorough choice by the electorate across multiple individuals.

## 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 think there should have been a ceasefire in Gaza months ago. I think that goods produced in the settler encampments in the West Bank should be sanctioned, but I don't think \*all\* goods from Israel should be. I think the US should use its power to compel Israel to negotiate in good faith for a genuine 2-state solution. Needless to say, Netanyahu would not be willing to do this, so the US should not support his administration.

## XII. Anything else?

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

As far as I can tell, I answered all the questions. Bit tricky looking back through the form, though.

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