

OREB Endorsement 2025-1

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. There are 13 sections, please scroll to advance to the next. If you have concerns, please contact Carol Coyote or Michael Cheng.

The respondent's email (**karaforoakland@gmail.com**) was recorded on submission of this form.

Email *

karaforoakland@gmail.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Kara Murray-Badal

2. Preferred Pronouns

she/hers

3. Position Running For

Oakland District 2 City Council

4. Email Address

karaforoakland@gmail.com

5. Phone number

6. Campaign website

<https://www.kmb4oakland.com/>

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

I have only received contributions from individual people. I have raised money from former classmates, colleagues, family, friends, and fellow progressive activists.

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 a corporate free candidate; I will refuse any contributions from corporations and reject the support of corporate PACs or IEs.

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

SEIU Local 1021 IFPTE Local 21 Oakland Rising Action Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club Alameda County Supervisor and Previous District 2 Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas Interim Oakland Mayor Kevin Jenkins Former Berkeley Councilmember Kate Harrison Berkeley Rent Board Chair Soli Alpert Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner Alfred Twu Pamela Drake

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

I do not know of any at this time.

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

I will not pursue or accept the endorsement of law enforcement associations. I reject the support of the fossil fuel industry, and corporate contributions overall.

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 only be a last resort to stop further harm. Armed officers are not the solution to homelessness, mental health, and poverty. I am committed to expanding non-carceral, unarmed, and nonviolent interventions in Oakland. I support expanding programs like Project Ceasefire, MACRO, and violence prevention programs shown to reduce crime and negative police interaction with vulnerable communities. It will take time and effort to build these systems and services to full functionality such that they can replace functions currently served by the police. I am committed to working with the community to invest in these areas, and reduce overtime and other wasteful spending in the police budget. I support strong and independent oversight and will defend the Community Police Review Agency.

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

Yes. No prison for profit.

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

Yes. People should only be held based on actual risk to the community, not their wealth.

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

I support the decriminalization of the personal consumption and possession of drugs. I support thoughtful legalization of entheogenic plants. I support the full federal legalization of marijuana.

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

Yes. I oppose the death penalty.

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

Yes. Convicted felons and inmates are still people in our country and should have a say in how it is governed like all others.

IV. Immigration

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

Immigrants are also our neighbors. I will stand up to the Trump administration's assault on our immigrant community. I am committed to continuing Oakland's Sanctuary City status and will not be bowed by federal attacks.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I support single payer Medicare for All. Everyone deserves healthcare, regardless of their wealth or income.

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

Yes. I am committed to continuing Oaklands support for the Public Bank of the East Bay.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

I believe the ultimate goal is public transit that is free at point of use, reliable, and comprehensive in its coverage. While I don't think immediate universal free public transit is feasible given financial limitations, I support the gradual expansion of income and age based fare reductions and free transit programs until we can make transit free for all.

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 the minimum wage should be at least \$15 nationally, at least \$18 in California, and at least \$20 in Oakland. A living wage is about affording lifes necessities.

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

I am committed to using my position on the Council to protect public employees at the City of Oakland. I will not permit anti-union practices by senior City management, and will oppose spurious and lengthy appeals to the Public Employees Relation Board.

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

Yes. The tech industry's exemption to labor law acquired through the ballot measure system, fueled through huge amounts of spending, cannot be allowed to stand. I oppose the misclassification of full-time gig workers as contractors and am supportive of taxes and penalties to raise funds to ensure those workers have adequate benefits and services.

VII. Housing

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

The groundwork for our current crisis of impossible-to-afford rents began with the disinvestment by the federal government in affordable and public housing. This is multiplied by local laws like redlining, single family home zoning, and single-room occupancy and apartment bans.

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 will support and defend Oakland's strong rent stabilization and eviction laws, and support adopting Right to Organize legislation like was recently passed in Berkeley. I don't support blanket stagnant legislation to ban rent control like Costa Hawkins.

27. Do you support the repeal of all laws that criminalize or punish homeless persons? What will you do to protect our unhoused communities?

No one should be criminalized for being poor. I strongly oppose the recent Supreme Court decision that allows the sweeping of homeless residents without the offer of shelter. I oppose sit/lie laws that criminalize existing in public. I would push for Oakland to reject any authority granted by the recent court ruling and continue under the original policy of requiring that an offer of shelter be made before removing encampments. I support investing in more permanent supportive housing for homeless residents, and providing more services like restrooms, sanitation, and trash removal for encampments in the meanwhile.

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

As a Housing Affordability Director, I spend every day working to expand housing affordability across the country. I believe in tackling the housing crisis from three angles: supply, stabilization, and subsidy. I believe the City should continue to find sources of revenue to directly invest in affordable and social housing throughout Oakland, in partnership with land trusts, non-profits, state and local governments. I support inclusionary zoning and upzoning, especially close to transit or job centers. We should do more to streamline the permitting process for affordable housing projects to reduce development time and costs. I support the use of public land for Affordable Housing projects and also support innovative capital stacks to make more affordable housing projects feasible.

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

I support partnerships with our regional Community Land Trusts to develop cooperative and social housing on vacant lots in Oakland, and I support TOPA policies to enable the conversion of existing housing into cooperative and social housing. I also think we need to take better care of our existing public housing in ways similar to HOPE SF.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I oppose the creation of new charter schools in their current state. These schools use public dollars without public oversight.

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

The goal is for public higher education to be tuition free. I think steps to make community colleges free are a great first step.

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

No

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

Alameda County has done a great job at expanding public preschool and daycare over time. I am committed to partnering with the County to ensure all Oakland families have access to low or no cost childcare and pre-K.

34. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX?

Yes. We must defend women and queer and trans people from the assault the federal administration is launching on our schools.

IX. Environmental

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

A Green New Deal should prioritize decarbonization, economic transformation, and environmental justice: Levers to transition to 100% renewable energy, expand and electrify transportation, and invest in green infrastructure. Jobs incentives should support workers shifting from fossil fuels, while public investment drives innovation in clean tech. To ensure equity, policies must protect frontline communities, secure clean water and air, and promote sustainable agriculture.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes

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

Yes

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?

No public dollars should go to support war crimes, genocide, or apartheid anywhere in the world. I support the efforts ongoing at the County that would divest the County from unethical investments, and am supportive of a similar policy for the City of Oakland. I am deeply proud of Oakland for passing a Ceasefire resolution, and I oppose the US sending weapons to Israel.

XII. Anything else?

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

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