

# 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 \*

laurapatch4wc@gmail.com

## I. Campaign information

1. Name

Laura Patch

2. Preferred Pronouns

she/her

3. Position Running For

Walnut Creek City Council

4. Email Address

laurapatch4wc@gmail.com

5. Phone number

(925) 464-1594

## 6. Campaign website

www.laurapatch4wc.org

## II. Campaign finances and support

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

Mostly family and friends so far. No organizational donations.

### 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'm hoping to received donations from Contra Costa Labor Council, LGBTQ+ Victory Fund, Jane Fonda Climate PAC, Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council, Teamsters 856, and 350 Contra Costa Action

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

Rebecca Barrett - Board Member, Contra Costa Community College; Devin Murphy - Council Member, Pinole; Jamin Pursell - President, West County Democratic Club; Board Member, West County Sierra Club; Rebecca Auerbach - Community Member; Steven Kwok - Walnut Creek Planning Commission; Ogie Strogatz - Community Member; Jan Warren - Community Member; Falguni Dave - Community Director, HerbNJoy; Diddo Clark - Community Member; Contra Costa Labor Council; Diablo Valley Dems; Bob Joe - Founder, Sustainable Walnut Creek; Marsha Cheung Golangco - Community Member

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

None so far

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

Fossil fuels, bank, anti-inclusive or diversity organizations

## 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?

Police need to be trained better to resort to force as a last resort, especially lethal force. In Fall 2023, the WCPD began engaging in Georgetown's Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement Project, which helps train officers how to intervene when they see fellow officers misconduct. We need more trainings like this.

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

I do. I am glad that California closed all of its private prisons. Because their business models depend on locking up more people, they inherently encourage mass incarceration.

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

I understand the desire to abolish cash bail as it is often racially and socioeconomically discriminatory. I am not sure that we have enough data, yet, to support a widespread abolishment. Los Angeles County and Cook County, Illinois, for example, found eliminating cash bails did not increase repeat arrests or court no-shows, which is good news. But those are only two counties reporting it and data from Los Angeles was only for four months. I would support a test of it in Contra Costa County. It might make more sense for bails to be set by a percentage scale instead of individual discretion of judges. In the meantime, I'd like Contra Costa County to begin returning the entire bail amount, not taking out fees as it currently does.

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

Yes, but only if treatment services are already implemented. Decriminalization failed in Oregon in part because the state's health authority didn't rollout treatment services until 18 months later. Portugal provides a better example; they already had an expansive health network when they decriminalized drugs. I believe that's why it is also failing in San Francisco - the money allotted to help has gotten tied up in bureaucracy instead of providing services.

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

Yes; government should not kill prisoners.

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

Yes, if they have completed their sentence or are on parole. Additionally, those incarcerated for drug-related crimes should be granted the right to vote even while serving their sentence.

#### 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 create more opportunities for people to legally immigrate. We also need to increase the number of immigration judges and staff to move through applications more quickly.

## V. Infrastructure issues

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

I support a publicly-funded single-payer system. It needs to cover holistic practices, alternative medicine like acupuncture, and reproductive health care.

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

Yes, I support them along with community banks, municipal banks, and credit unions.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Ideally, yes. But because it is underfunded now, I don't believe it is feasible. I support a standard cost as NCY and cities in Europe do instead of a distance based fee. We need transit to run more frequently so that people use it, and therefore it cannot currently be free. It is underfunded.

## VI. Labor

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

Minimum wage should be tied to the living wage calculation. Living wage is the bare minimum someone needs to financially meet basic needs.

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

I would work with city staff to pass any worker protection laws needed and fill any gaps in the city. The City Council should also set job quality standards for any contractors it uses.

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

I actually think we need to lower the tax rate for independent contractors. I know from experience it is high and harms the worker.

## VII. Housing

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

Lack of building additional housing caused costs to go up and inequitable salaries put most housing out of reach for folks.

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?

Costa-Hawkins needs to be re-evaluated or repealed to allow better local control on rent stabilization options.

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. No one wants to be without a home and our society should not make being unhoused illegal.

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

I support high-density housing built in infill areas that offer a certain percentage of affordable units. New construction should also include sustainable efforts like low-flow toilets and electrification. I loved the Kaiser/Habitat for Humanity collaboration that happened in unincorporated Walnut Creek recently. We need more of those options.

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

I would need to learn more about this to have informed opinion.

## VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I support public schools. I do not think charter schools work well.

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

I want to fully fund pre-k through 12 before we provide no-cost college and university. But I'm not opposed to it.

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

Yes, especially if students have already made 10 years of payment.

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

I'm glad CA has a plan in the works. I think funding should come from state levels, not local taxes because as we've seen with k-12 local funding creates unevenly funded education.

34. Do you support "strengthening" Title IX?

Only if it's to allow trans and nonbinary individuals better access to programs.

## IX. Environmental

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

This doesn't affect my local race, but I am an environmentalist so I support federal action to fight climate change.

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?

support a cease fire. I struggle with BDS because historically country boycotts and sanctions impact the most vulnerable residential populations and are slow to affect change at the country's governmental level. I think divestment and sanctions have more impact.

## XII. Anything else?

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

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