

OREB Endorsement 2023-1

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. 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 *

sasha4oakland@gmail.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez

2. Preferred Pronouns

She/They

3. Position Running For

Oakland School Board Director

4. Email Address

sasha4oakland@gmail.com

5. Phone number

5108788990

6. Campaign website

sasha4oakland.com

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

Friends, Family and Supporters (Individual Contributions)

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).

Latino Task Force & OEA

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

Latino Taskforce East Bay Democratic Socialists of America Oakland Education Association (OEA) Dyana Delfin Polk Kevin Jenkins Kitty Kelly Epstein Nirali Jani Valarie L. Bachelor Jennifer Brouhard VanCedric Williams Kampala Taiz-Rancifer Kim Davis Shaniah Ritzie-Hernandez Javier E. Alvarado Citlali Espinoza Denise Curtis Nelson Tam Flor Melara Javier Armas Chela Delgado Ana Vasudeo Wilson Riles Denilson Garibo Ty'Jeare Hunter Soli Alpert

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

OEA IE

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

By choice, our campaign is NOT accepting funding from: For-profit corporate entities Political committees formed by for-profit entities Real estate developers and realtors For-profit corporate lobbyists Professional landlords Law enforcement or prison unions

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?

I support the George Floyd resolution for police-free schools and believe in exploring alternative safety and discipline methods, such as restorative justice and community-sourced hall monitors, to create an environment that is conducive to learning, understanding, and fostering positive relationships.

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

Yes, I unequivocally support banning private prisons. Private prisons can lead to profit-driven motives that compromise the well-being and rights of incarcerated individuals. This practice undermines the objective of rehabilitation and fair justice. Public safety and rehabilitation should be the foremost priorities, not financial gain. Banning private prisons aligns with principles of equality, justice, and ethical treatment within the criminal justice system.

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

Yes, I support abolishing cash bail. Cash bail disproportionately affects low-income individuals, leading to pretrial detention for those unable to afford bail. This undermines the presumption of innocence and perpetuates systemic inequalities. Replacing cash bail with fair risk assessments ensures that pretrial release is based on public safety and flight risk, not financial resources. This approach promotes justice, reduces inequality, and upholds the principle of innocent until proven guilty.

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

Yes, I support decriminalizing all drugs. Prioritizing prevention, particularly among young individuals, is crucial. This approach shifts the focus from punitive measures to public health and harm reduction. By treating drug abuse as a health issue, we can provide support, treatment, and education, reducing stigma and addressing the root causes of addiction. This policy shift promotes rehabilitation, minimizes criminalization, and ultimately contributes to safer communities.

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

I oppose the use of capital punishment. It disproportionately impacts people of color and raises concerns about wrongful convictions. Even if applied equitably, I remain against it due to the irreversible nature and moral complexities. While heinous crimes warrant severe consequences, I advocate for alternatives such as life imprisonment without parole. This approach ensures justice while avoiding the risk of executing innocent individuals and upholding our shared values.

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

Yes, I believe previously convicted felons should be granted the right to vote after they have served their time. Denying the right to vote perpetuates disenfranchisement and hinders reintegration into society. Restoring voting rights promotes rehabilitation, reinforces civic engagement, and acknowledges the importance of second chances. It's a step towards inclusive democracy and recognizes that individuals can contribute positively to their communities even after serving their sentences.

IV. Immigration

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

As an immigrant from Mexico, I strongly advocate for fair and humane immigration policies. I support comprehensive immigration reform that includes pathways to citizenship for undocumented individuals, such as the DREAM Act. My personal journey highlights the challenges immigrants face, including high costs and lengthy processes. We need legislation that streamlines the path to permanent residency and citizenship, reducing financial burdens and administrative barriers. Additionally, laws should be reformed to address family separation, protect refugees, and prioritize unity. Removing obstacles and implementing compassionate policies reflects our nation's values of inclusivity, diversity, and equality.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I support a single-payer healthcare insurance system. It ensures equitable access to quality healthcare for all, removing financial barriers and promoting preventive care. This system streamlines administration, reducing overhead costs and paperwork. By pooling resources, it negotiates better drug prices and medical services, controlling healthcare expenses. It shifts focus from profit to patient care, prioritizing health outcomes over financial gain. Single payer aligns with the goal of providing comprehensive healthcare to every citizen, creating a healthier society and reducing disparities.

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

Yes, I support public banking. Public banking can provide numerous benefits for communities, such as supporting local economic development, affordable housing, and small business growth. It offers an alternative to traditional commercial banks, allowing communities to reinvest funds back into local projects and services. Public banks can prioritize socially responsible investments and address the needs of underserved populations. By keeping financial resources within the community, public banking contributes to economic resilience and empowers communities to shape their own financial landscape.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Yes, I believe that public transit should be free. Providing free public transit offers several advantages, including increased accessibility for all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status. It promotes environmentally-friendly transportation choices, reduces traffic congestion, and improves air quality. Free public transit also lessens the financial burden on low-income individuals and families, enhancing their mobility and access to opportunities. Additionally, it can stimulate local economies, encourage public transportation usage, and contribute to a more equitable and sustainable urban environment.

VI. Labor

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

The minimum wage should reflect the cost of living, ensuring individuals and families have sufficient disposable income. In California, where living costs are higher, I support a minimum wage that aligns with the state's high expenses. Nationwide, the federal minimum wage should also be adjusted regionally, acknowledging varying costs. A "living wage" means earning enough to cover basic needs such as housing, healthcare, education, and groceries, with some extra for savings and recreation. It's about fostering financial security, reducing inequality, and enabling individuals to fully participate in their communities while achieving a decent quality of life.

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

To protect workers not covered by the NLRA, I advocate for robust state-level labor protections. I support the establishment of comprehensive state labor laws that extend rights and protections to workers in sectors not covered by the NLRA, such as domestic workers, agricultural laborers, and independent contractors. These laws should guarantee the right to organize, collectively bargain, and engage in peaceful protests. Additionally, I would work to establish a strong state labor agency dedicated to enforcing these protections and addressing worker complaints. Collaborating with labor unions, advocacy groups, and workers themselves, I aim to create a framework that safeguards the rights and dignity of all workers, regardless of their sector or employment status.

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

Yes, I propose implementing a tax system that holds companies accountable for relying heavily on contract workers. This could involve introducing a progressive tax structure where companies pay a higher tax rate based on the proportion of contract workers they employ compared to full-time employees. Additionally, I would advocate for stricter classification standards that clearly differentiate between independent contractors and employees. Companies misclassifying workers to avoid providing benefits would face substantial fines and penalties. By incentivizing fair employment practices and discouraging excessive use of contract labor, we can foster a more equitable job market and ensure that workers receive the protections and benefits they deserve.

VII. Housing

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

The housing crisis in California, particularly the Bay Area, is multifaceted, with corporate greed being a significant cause. Corporations often prioritize profit over affordable housing, driving up real estate prices and limiting housing availability. Additionally, restrictive zoning regulations and limited housing supply exacerbate the crisis. Skyrocketing rents and property values outpace wage growth, making homeownership and rentals unattainable for many. Lack of investment in affordable housing and inadequate tenant protections contribute to instability. To address this crisis, we need comprehensive measures that regulate corporate practices, promote affordable housing development, reform zoning laws, and implement rent control to ensure housing remains accessible to all residents.

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 propose strengthening renter protections through comprehensive legislation. I support amending Costa Hawkins to expand rent control, allowing cities to enact stricter limits on rent increases. Repealing provisions that restrict rent control for newer buildings would ensure broader affordability. Implementing "just cause" eviction laws prevents arbitrary evictions and promotes tenant stability. Introducing mandatory relocation assistance for displaced tenants, especially in rapidly gentrifying areas, helps mitigate the impact of displacement. Establishing renter's rights education programs and creating rental registries increase transparency and accountability. I also advocate for legal representation for tenants facing eviction.

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 support repealing laws that criminalize homeless individuals. Criminalization perpetuates a cycle of poverty and instability. I advocate for policies that prioritize compassionate solutions. I propose increasing funding for shelters, affordable housing, and supportive services. Collaborating with nonprofit organizations, I aim to expand outreach programs, providing access to healthcare, mental health services, and job training. I support creating safe parking areas for those living in vehicles and exploring tiny home and transitional housing initiatives. By treating homelessness as a societal issue, we can offer practical assistance and dignified solutions to uplift unhoused communities.

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

To address the housing crisis, we must adopt a multifaceted approach. Encourage mixed-income developments through zoning reforms, allowing for a range of housing options. Streamline permitting processes to expedite construction of affordable units. Allocate funds for affordable housing projects and incentivize private developers to include affordable units. Utilize surplus public land for affordable housing initiatives. Implement inclusionary zoning, mandating a percentage of new developments be affordable. Partner with nonprofit organizations for innovative housing solutions. Through strategic policies and collaborations, we can expand affordable and low-cost housing options, making housing accessible to all.

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

Yes, I support social housing as a means to provide affordable housing options. Intercommunal living can be an effective approach within social housing initiatives. I propose establishing public-private partnerships to develop and manage social housing projects. Utilizing surplus public land and repurposing vacant properties for social housing can create cost-effective opportunities. Collaborating with community land trusts can contribute to the creation and management of social housing units. Implementing rent controls and income-based rent structures ensures affordability for residents. By fostering innovative housing models and partnerships, we can address housing needs and create inclusive, sustainable communities.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I advocate against charter schools and believe in full investment in public schools. Redirecting resources towards public education enhances equity and inclusivity. Charter schools can divert funding and resources, widening disparities. Prioritizing well-funded, high-quality public schools with proper infrastructure, teacher support, and comprehensive programs ensures that every student has an equal opportunity for an excellent education.

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

I firmly support the idea of no-cost public college and university education. Making higher education free removes financial barriers, providing equitable access to opportunities. The positive impact on society, including a more educated workforce, reduced income inequality, and greater social mobility, outweighs concerns about costs. Investing in education yields long-term benefits, fostering innovation, economic growth, and informed citizenship. By enabling all individuals to pursue higher education without financial constraints, we create a more just and prosperous society.

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

Yes, I support the cancellation of all student debt. The burden of student loans hinders financial stability, homeownership, and economic growth. Cancelling debt helps relieve individuals from financial hardship, stimulates the economy, and enables graduates to invest in their futures. It promotes access to education and reflects a commitment to equity. By alleviating the weight of student debt, we empower young professionals to contribute positively to society and pursue their aspirations without enduring long-term financial strain.

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

Allocate increased state and federal education budgets to expand pre-K programs. Redirect funds from non-essential sectors towards early childhood education. Partner with private sector and philanthropic organizations for additional resources. Implement a progressive tax structure, targeting higher-income individuals and corporations. Secure grants and subsidies from federal agencies dedicated to early childhood development. By strategically reallocating resources and collaborating across sectors, we can make universal public pre-K education accessible and free for all families, ensuring a strong foundation for our youngest learners.

34. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX?

Yes, I support strengthening Title IX. It's vital to ensure that Title IX provisions are robustly enforced, protecting individuals from gender-based discrimination and harassment. I advocate for comprehensive training for educational institutions on handling sexual misconduct cases, addressing the needs of survivors, and promoting a safe environment. Strengthening Title IX includes safeguarding due process while holding institutions accountable for preventing and addressing sexual misconduct. By reinforcing its provisions and focusing on prevention, support, and accountability, we can create a safer and more equitable educational environment for all.

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

A "Green New Deal" should encompass comprehensive measures to address climate change, economic inequality, and sustainable growth. It should include transitioning to clean and renewable energy sources, investing in green infrastructure, and creating millions of jobs in renewable energy sectors. Implementing regulations to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency is crucial. The plan should ensure a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries, with retraining and job opportunities in clean energy sectors. It should also prioritize environmental justice by addressing disproportionately affected communities. By combining environmental sustainability with economic equity, a "Green New Deal" can drive a transformative shift towards a more sustainable and just future.

36. Do you support banning fracking?

Yes, I support banning fracking. Fracking poses environmental risks, including water contamination, air pollution, and seismic activity. Transitioning away from fossil fuels is crucial to combat climate change. Investing in renewable energy sources creates jobs and promotes sustainable growth. A fracking ban aligns with protecting public health, safeguarding our environment, and advancing cleaner energy alternatives. By prioritizing long-term environmental and public health concerns, we can pave the way for a greener and more sustainable future.

X. Election

37. Do you support public financing of elections?

Yes, I support public financing of elections. It reduces the influence of big money in politics, ensures fairness, and promotes equitable access for all candidates. Public funding levels the playing field, allowing candidates to focus on policies rather than fundraising. It enhances democracy by enabling a diverse range of voices to be heard and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors. By establishing transparent and accountable systems, we can strengthen the democratic process, restore trust in government, and prioritize the interests of the public over special interests.

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

Yes, I support ranked choice voting for my office and in general. Ranked choice voting promotes more inclusive and representative elections. It allows voters to prioritize their preferences and ensures that candidates with broader appeal are elected. This system reduces the likelihood of strategic voting and encourages positive campaigning. It fosters a more diverse range of candidates and discourages divisive politics. Implementing ranked choice voting can enhance the democratic process, encourage voter engagement, and lead to more collaborative and effective governance.

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 strongly support the BDS campaign, I believe the US policy should be to pressure Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territories and respect their human rights. The US needs to make sure that its financial aid is not being used for Israeli military operations in Palestine or any other activities that would violate international law. Furthermore, it must ensure that all products imported from Israel are labeled so consumers can make informed decisions about whether they want to buy them or not.

XII. Anything else?

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

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