

OREB Endorsement 2024-7

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 *

ana4berkeleyschools@gmail.com

I. Campaign information

1. Name

Ana Vasudeo

2. Preferred Pronouns

she/her

3. Position Running For

Berkeley School Board

4. Email Address

ana4berkeleyschools@gmail.com

5. Phone number

(202) 315-8507

6. Campaign website

<https://vasudeo4berkeley.com/>

II. Campaign finances and support

7. Who has contributed to your campaign?

I am proud to be participating in Berkeley's public financing program. That means that I have and will only accept contributions from individuals, not corporations or PACs. I have received donations from over 60 individuals, the majority Berkeley residents. I am about a dozen contributions away from maxing out public financing.

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).

As mentioned, I am accepting public financing and not accepting donations other than from individuals.

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

Berkeley Federation of Teachers Berkeley Council of Classified Employees Latinos Unidos de Berkeley Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jenny Wong, Berkeley City Auditor Mike Chang, Berkeley School Board Director Jennifer Shanowski, Berkeley School Board Director Ty Alper, Former Berkeley School Board President Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Former Berkeley School Board President Judy Appel, Former Berkeley School Board President Pamela Doolan, Former Berkeley School Board President Matt Meyer, President of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers Barry Fike, Former President of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers Cecilia Lunaparra, Berkeley City Councilmember, See more at <https://vasudeo4berkeley.com/endorse>

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

I expect to be supported by independent expenditures from unions representing teachers, educators, and other school employees.

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

I will reject support from any and all corporate PACs. I will not seek or accept endorsements by law enforcement unions or organizations supporting or affiliated with charter schools.

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 work of the Berkeley Police Accountability Board, and support efforts and proposals to strengthen the PAB and give it more independence. I support the regulations put in place on police use of force by the Council after the murder of George Floyd.

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

Yes. There should not be a profit motive to put people in jail.

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

Yes. Our community is safest when decisions about pretrial detention are based on a judges assessment of a person's 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 use of drugs and the possession of drugs for personal use. I don't support decriminalization of the possession of drugs for sale. People who profit from marketing drugs to children, both illegal drugs and legal drugs like vapes, should be prosecuted.

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. All permanent residents should have the right to vote.

IV. Immigration

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

As a child of immigrants and an English language learner, I support the rights of immigrants as fundamental human rights. I support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

V. Infrastructure issues

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

I support Medicare for All.

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

Yes. We need banking that serves our community and the public good, not Wall St profits.

21. Do you think public transit should be free?

Yes, especially in cities where the majority of residents are low-income.

VI. Labor

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

I support Prop 32, to set the CA minimum wage to \$18 and tie it to inflation, as the minimum for our state. I would support the same at the national level. A living wage means that a person can afford all basic necessities working one full time job.

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

Maintaining good labor relations is critical for the health of our schools. I’m committed to collaborative work with our unions that prioritizes finding mutual solutions and compromise rather than needless acrimony. I also support unions and worker organizing outside our District, by going to picket lines and rallies when invited.

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

Yes. Contracted employees are workers, and should receive the benefits that workers get. I supported AB 5 and opposed the corporate ballot measure to overturn it. Taxing companies that use contractor status to avoid labor laws is a good way to address the issue.

VII. Housing

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

We need more housing, and more affordable housing, in our community. Redlining, restrictive zoning, disinvestment from public housing, and speculative investment in property for profit rather than as a home have all driven this crisis. I am proud to have worked at the District to address our housing crisis by supporting subsidized educator housing at the Berkeley Adult School, and look forward to partnering with the City to explore future public and subsidized housing projects for our educators, school workers, and families.

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 support the repeal of Costa Hawkins and the Ellis Act. I have endorsed Yes on BB, No on CC to strengthen tenant protections in Berkeley.

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

I oppose the criminalization of homelessness. We have many homeless and marginally housed families in our school system, and they are best served by services, not enforcement and criminalization. I support the resolution introduced by Councilmember Lunaparra to reject the authority given by the recent wrongly decided Supreme Court decision on homelessness.

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

I support a regional bond for affordable housing and am disappointed one was removed from the ballot this year. I support a new local affordable housing bond measure, and support TOPA as a policy that would make it easier to acquire land for affordable, social, and cooperative housing.

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

Yes. As mentioned, regional and local housing bonds and TOPA are two good strategies.

VIII. Education

30. What is your opinion about charter schools?

I oppose charter schools as a method to divert funds from the public school system, undermine unions, and avoid public accountability and oversight. Thankfully, we have no charter school in Berkeley, and support a moratorium on all new charter schools in the state.

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

Ideally, all public colleges and universities should be tuition free.

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

Yes.

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

Thankfully the Governor has expanded transitional Kindergarten to all as a public right, which gives children starting at 4 a universal public preschool education option. I support coordinating with the County to expand public free pre-k and day care options for younger children in the City and the County.

34. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX?

Yes. During my tenure at the Board, we have expanded staffing at the District Civil Rights & Compliance Office to enforce Title IX rules and complaints. I trust our staff, and will work to follow their recommendations and provide the support and resources that they need to protect all our learners and educators. I also support expanding Title IX to increase protections to trans youth.

IX. Environmental

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

A Green New Deal looks like public investment in climate resiliency, emissions reductions, and adaptation using union labor and benefiting low income and front line communities. I support Measure GG on the Berkeley ballot as part of this work.

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?

I’m glad Berkeley has ranked choice voting for Council, Mayor, and Auditor. I am open to learning more about how ranked choice voting would impact the School Board, but think our current method of election works well for us. I would support ranked choice voting for state offices like Governor and the Legislature.

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 that public dollars should never be invested in companies or entities that engage in or facilitate human rights abuses. I think the US should support peace and freedom for all people in Israel and Palestine, including through an immediate ceasefire.

XII. Anything else?

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

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