

Due Sep 4th

Berkeley Neighbors for Housing & Climate Action 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Cheryl Davila

District / Office being sought: Berkeley City Councilmember District 2

1. Please describe how you would approach addressing the **housing crisis** if elected (or reelected). How would you achieve Berkeley's RHNA targets for extremely low income, very low income, low income, moderate income, and above moderate income homes? Where should these homes go? How should this be achieved?

A 100% affordable housing development of about 60 units at Blake and San Pablo is slated to be built. Originally, the developer's plan had 12 units for intellectually developmentally disabled tenants, but no other affordable units. Once the developer received council approval to build the six-storey structure, he sold it to Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA). Under SAHA, all the units will be 100% affordable and will include 12 units for the IDD. I helped the original developer meet with the community to do outreach and repeatedly requested that affordable units be included.

I brought a No Displacement and Gentrification initiative to the city council, which directed the Planning Commission and Housing Advisory Commission to research and recommend policies to prevent gentrification and displacement of Berkeley residents of color. All council members ranked this issue the #1 priority in Berkeley.

There are lots of market-rate units in Berkeley that are currently empty. Let's explore with the property owners to convert some now empty units to affordable units for all income levels.

2. What actions have you taken, beyond this current campaign, in line with the approach you described above?

I continue to advocate for 100% affordable units at the two Berkeley BART stations (Ashby and North Berkeley). I am on the 4x4 Rent Stabilization Board in Berkeley, which advocates for tenants. Currently, in conversation about container converted units that present a home ownership opportunity that is extremely affordable for Berkeley.

3. Please describe how you would approach addressing the **climate crisis** if elected (or reelected). How would you achieve the goals set forth in 2006 Measure G? What does the city need to do to reach carbon neutrality by 2045? How can Berkeley become a Fossil Fuel Free City?

Measure G: Over 80% of the voters agreed with this measure. The COB must do more to stay on track to meet this goal.

I'm an advocate for innovative environmental and ecological practices to protect our water, air, and lives, and have done the following in line with this commitment:

- Authored the Fossil Free Resolution with a target of 2030.
- Authored the 3rd Climate Emergency Declaration which started an international movement, now over 1747 governments have followed our lead.
- Chaired the Ad-hoc Sub-Committee on Climate Emergency, which held a Town Hall to talk about climate emergency.
- Chair and Founder of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force (CEMTF) & RV/Tiny Home Solutions to Homelessness Task Force which:
 - Raised awareness through a concert series
 - Holds monthly meetings with the RV/Tiny Home Solutions to Homelessness Task Force, various CBO's, NGO's, elected officials, city staff and community members to take climate action. The 2 task forces use to meet independently but decided to join forces recognizing the intersection, solidarity and unifying benefits.
 - Currently, the CEMTF is holding the Virtual Summit Series: webinars in July through November 2020. **September 25th 9A-Noon** CEMTF Virtual Summit Series: Green infrastructure--All-electric Buildings, Transportation, 100% Renewable Energy (join us, spread the word). The **July 24th 9A-Noon** CEMTF Virtual Summit Series: Fossil Free Bay Area

The CEMTF Summit Series will end in an event November that will summarize, categorize and identify ways the region and beyond can come together, pass legislations, implement policies and various ways to address the aftermath of COVID, decommission the refineries and more with an equitable and just transition.

The COB can become a Fossil Free City by banning the sale of new fossil fuel cars, electrifying the fleets and buildings, providing incentives and alternative backup for residents, converting everyone to 100% renewable energy, creating pathways for all mobilities, encourage Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to implement rules to restrict installation of wood burning fireplaces and prohibit sale of gas powered appliances.

I am also an advocate for Solar energy and environmentally sustainable practices for clean, healthy neighborhoods, as reflected in the following:

- Aquatic Park recently received capital improvements, trees trimmed, 75 trees planted, repaving of paths, etc., overall cleaning up of the pathways, vegetation maintenance throughout the park, the tide tubes are in the process of repair, the water remains to be tested on a semi regular basis.

- When the E. coli and other contaminants levels were found in the water to be higher than usual prompting signage for the community. The signage to warn the public were not adequate in locations, quantity and size. Honoring my requests larger signs were distributed by the City to warn people of the water situation.
- Cleaning up the encampments. We have:
 - Coordinated cleanups
 - Helped clean up encampments, including volunteers from a District 2 elementary students to assist
 - Coordinated with the City, CalTrans, and other agencies to pick up trash and bridged the gap to include the encampment residents in the conversations
 - Arranged for a dumpster on University Ave. near Sea Breeze
 - Beautician without displacement or gentrification.

The work is ongoing to collaborate to ensure solar energy & environmentally sustainable practices for clean, prepared, healthy, happy, united and in solidarity community throughout neighborhoods.

4. What actions have you taken, beyond this current campaign, in line with the approach you described above?

Our office has put numerous items before the council to prepare the community by training commissioners, council staff and city staff in first aid & CPR, as well as three of CERT, Community Emergency Response Team courses to ensure over one hundred in each district were trained, prepared and ready for the next emergency.

Recently submitted an item, Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis: a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, to enable conversational town halls to occur to begin the discussions on the isms that keep us apart to enable unity and solidarity to assist each other in the next emergency. The CEMTF was the impetus for the electrification ordinance in new buildings legislation passed in the COB. In 2018

5. a) For incumbents seeking reelection: please share a vote you are most (or least) proud of in the last four years on a **housing issue**. What was the issue? The Council approved a building on San Pablo and Blake that would include 12 units for the Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled community. Why did you vote the way you did? Although, it was a tough decision since a tall 6 story building, with 12 units for the IDD community, moved me to support. On numerous occasions I spoke with the developer on numerous occasions, requesting to include affordable units, with no avail. However, the developer sold the property to Satellite Affordable Housing, now the 64 units will all be affordable housing. A win...influential and effective outcome. How do you feel about it now, and why? A win for the community to provide much needed affordable housing. Otherwise, units were market rate which we have plenty of.

housing issue 2:

My abstention, as well as 2 of my colleagues on the vote for a 18 story building with money going into the housing trust funds, instead of inclusionary units. While I support Peace and PLA agreements, we need affordable housing, we need a community benefit that the community can enjoy in the 18 story building, no community room, and most importantly not one affordable unit. Berkeleyans complained about the blocking of the Campanile view and many in the community did not support. Therefore, could not support no affordable units, no community benefits from a developer who stated they did not want the public in the building.

b) For candidates not yet elected to the office they are seeking: in your opinion, what was the most important **housing issue** that Council voted on in the past four years, or expects to vote on before November? What was the issue? Do you believe Council's decision was the best one? If you had been on Council, what would you have done?

6. a) For incumbents seeking reelection: please share a vote you are most (or least) proud of in the last four years on a **climate or environmental issue**. What was the issue? Why did you vote the way you did? How do you feel about it now, and why?

Declare a Climate Emergency, Fossil Free Resolution, Welcome to the City of Berkeley Ohlone Territory, Banning Flavored Tobacco, Banning Tear Gas, Releasing the CPE (Center for Police Equity) report, Anti Doxing, Declare As Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issues are just a few proud moments over the first term. Many passed unanimously.

Climate can be defined in many ways, the weather climate, the emotional climate or the temperature climate. Therefore, answered the question with additional legislation to include the different meanings of climate.

I was recognized by the United Nations Association East Bay by receiving the “Global Citizen Award” in 2019 in recognition of my climate leadership. The COB was the third City to declare a climate emergency, the catalyst that influenced 1747 governments around the world to follow suit.

Founder of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force which currently hosting the CEMTF Virtual Summit Series, five events with various topics including breakout groups, panelists, land acknowledgement, speakers, plenary and more. To date over 800 attendees joined the series. I am proud of my leadership, building bridges, uniting people and organizations

while listening to the community.

b) For candidates not yet elected to the office they are seeking: in your opinion, what was the most important **climate or environmental issue** that Council voted on in the past four years, or expects to vote on before November? What was the issue? Do you believe Council’s decision was the best one? If you had been on Council, what would you have done?

7. Berkeley must continue adding more homes in order to achieve its RHNA goals, especially for extremely low income, low income, and moderate income households. These new households will need ways to get around Berkeley. At the same time, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation comprise roughly 60% of total emissions in Berkeley.

How would you ensure Berkeley continues to add new homes while reducing GHGs?
100% affordable housing at all levels of income with the most units for the lowest of incomes at the Ashby and North Berkeley Bart. Preferably, home ownership possibilities, too.

Remediating COB owned properties where tiny homes, container units and alternative housing structures can be built that fits into the neighborhood that would be welcomed by the community and provide much needed affordable housing. I have conceptual designs now, waiting to become a reality.

8. Berkeley has a long history of segregation, racial zoning, restrictive covenants, and redlining, which continue to impact our community to this day. Much of this history was, and remains, reflected in Berkeley's zoning restrictions, with resulting implications for greenhouse gas emissions.

How would you address Berkeley's history and impacts of segregation through housing policy?

We submitted an item as stated above to Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley. Racism must be addressed to move away from the disparate treatment that Black, Brown and POC face on a daily basis. One must understand the microaggressions, implicit bias, racist acts that are stated without incident or consequence. We must call it out, ERACISM, dismantle the daily trauma, address the ramifications and help all to navigate a world without racism. Start now in the COB. Erasing fear, discrimination and biases will lead to affordable housing, restoration of the climate and a future that is just and equitable.

Covenants and redlining have not been eliminated in the City of Berkeley, so I have recently been told. When you look at the demographics, it appears to be correct with the lack of diversity in some areas of Berkeley. Including the displacement and gentrification which has been occurring within our City.

Districts need to be treated equitably in all areas, green space, affordable housing, gardens, ADA and access for all ages, ethnicities and mobilities.

Unity through CommUNITY!

Thank you for the opportunity to seek your endorsement, I would be honored to receive it.

Stay healthy and be safe.