

Candidate Questionnaire

Name and email address

Daria Wrubel, dariaforberkeley@proton.me

What Berkeley City Council District do you live in?

D1

Do you have any background in Berkeley politics or community organizing? Please describe.

Yes. I was a garden teacher at Thousand Oaks Elementary, and when we lost all of our federal funding, and received layoff notices, I took a full-time job as Union Organizer for the Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (my union at the time) to help advocate for our jobs, and a better contract for all BCCE members. In that role, I increased union membership from 76% to 97%, and received an award from CFT for excellence in organizing. I also worked with the Berkeley Vs. Big Soda campaign to secure an alternative funding source, which was successful. More recently, I have been co-facilitating a Bay Resistance Pod, and coordinating ICE watch foot patrols for Berkeley High School.

What local issues are most important to you?

I entered the race to fight against mass surveillance, but I also care deeply about housing and homelessness, infrastructure and city services, and education and the arts.

Will you opt into public financing of your campaign?

☒ Yes

☐ No

What policies would you put forth/endorse regarding housing and rent control?

I think it is important to protect existing housing stock, and also have a plan for increasing available housing, particularly at low- and moderate-income levels. I think it's essential to preserve strong rent controls, and to prevent corporate ownership of residential properties. I support Small Sites, and projects like BUSD's Workforce Housing on San Pablo and Virginia. I would also love to see a second home tax in Berkeley that could fund affordable housing.

What are your views on upzoning and support of local businesses?

I think Mark Humbert's proposed compromise for the Elmwood, where only the 3 largest parcels would be upzoned, assuring that the remaining business can continue operating, without threat of displacement, and that the architectural character of the neighborhood is preserved, but essential new housing is still being built.

How do you plan to make yourself available to and interact with constituents, particularly those that disagree with you?

I believe strongly in democracy, and the right of all residents to be heard and represented. I intend to dedicate at least 3 days per week to council business, and to have a full-time constituent services staffer, in addition to my legislative aid. My door will always be open. I also intend to be available for town halls.

What are your views on police accountability? Please discuss both surveillance and crowd control measures (Flock cameras, tear gas) as well as fiscal accountability.

I am a strong opponent of warrantless searches, including mass surveillance, and of militarized weapons in the hands of local police. I also believe strongly in the role of the Police Accountability Board, and would propose legislation that any time representatives of the police are asked to appear before council, the PAB must also have a seat at the table.

How do you view the role of the City Council in Berkeley's long history of standing up for international human rights? How will you deal with outside foreign lobby groups, such as the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council), when evaluating such concerns?

When Berkeley has the opportunity to meaningfully impact international events, such as when Berkeley was the first municipality to divest from South Africa in protest of Apartheid, then we have an obligation to do so. The Council answers to our own conscience, and to our constituents, not to outside lobbying groups.

How do you plan to campaign? What are your strengths as a campaigner?

I have been knocking doors, holding meetings, seeking endorsements, and raising money. As a licensed therapist, I have excellent interpersonal skills, and as a lifelong Berkeley resident, I have many existing relationships in the city. And I'm highly motivated to win, because I know I'm the best candidate to help shape the Berkeley we can all thrive in.

Do you have any community, labor, etc. groups that you anticipate will endorse your candidacy?

I have already received a 2nd choice endorsement from the Sierra Club, and many other endorsements are in process, but I do not feel comfortable anticipating those results. The members of those groups deserve their democratic process!

How can we help you with your campaign?

Any campaign needs volunteers, and I would welcome that!

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