

Candidate Questionnaire

Name and email address

John Espinoza sombreroagent@gmail.com

What Berkeley City Council District do you live in?

District 7

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

I attend Planning Commission & City Council meetings

What local issues are most important to you?

Housing, Food insecurity

Will you opt into public financing of your campaign?

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

I would focus on rent stabilization and limited vacancy control. There must be ways to protect rent control for those who actually need it.

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

I support mitigated up-zoning to protect renters and small businesses

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

I plan to be very visible in my district in person, using the "Sombrero Agent" brand and tent.

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

Police must be held accountable. Lawsuits must be paid from police pensions rather than city funds. The police must be demilitarized.

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?

I have great respect for standing up for human rights. Foreign lobby groups should have little to no influence on local & national politics

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

I have immense strength with in-person/face to face campaigning. People dont want to be accosted by emails, phone calls, and texts, they want leaders whom they recognize

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

Many groups will be doing endorsements for this cycle after the June primaries and I do not wish to speak for them before they are ready.

How can we help you with your campaign?

I appreciate the opportunity to present my platform on a fair basis and would love to discuss further.. My experience with other groups is that they endorsed other candidates without listening to the ideas I have for the city.

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