

Candidate Questionnaire

Name and email address

Steve Kromer steve@kromerforberkeley.org

What Berkeley City Council District do you live in?

District 1

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

Informal advocate groups. Berkeley Partners for Parks, Friends of James Kenney Park

What local issues are most important to you?

Accountability, transparency, trust, safe community

Will you opt into public financing of your campaign?



Yes



No

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

I'd begin by daylighting the various plans that influence these topics and working from that starting point. We'll likely need to update many and clarify others. Generally, I prefer well-planned and aesthetically pleasing growth that fits into an overall plan. I've rented and owned. I was a poster child for means testing of rent control. I'm also the poster house for missing middle (literally)

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

I've lived in many parts of Berkeley over 37 years. I like some districts just the way they are and others could be enhanced by more density. I prefer local business but I also occasionally shop at Target. It's still confusing to me why so many retail spaces are empty.

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

This will be my main job. Berkeley is a city with many "communities". And each of those has "factions". That's the starting point. The goal is to daylight valid choices before making decisions.

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'll mainly defer to the experts. The police chief and existing accountability functions. I'm open to technologies with adequate guardrails. No easy answers.

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?

My preference will be to avoid issues outside of Berkeley.

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

I've enjoyed speaking with a wide range of people and learning more about D1 and the city. My campaign will be about listening to concerns that can be addressed by the council. I'll also hope to help citizens understand that governing in Berkeley means acknowledging a wide range of constraints that arise at the the county and state (and federal) level. I intend to use my time campaigning to learn as much as possible. That alone will be a long term benefit regardless of the results.

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

Informal. I can discuss.

How can we help you with your campaign?

Provide background facts to enhance any discussion.

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