



## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Nayeli Maxson

Age: 34

Family: Husband Andrew Germond; Maxson, age 4; Lincoln, age almost 2

Hometown: San Francisco, CA

Lived in Oakland since: 2012

Education: BA, Psychology, USC; JD, UC Hastings College of the Law

Occupation: CEO and Executive Director, Alliance for Community Development

Employer: Alliance for Community Development

Political experience: Board Member, Community Development District Block Grant Board, City of Oakland, Central District

Notable affiliations: Vice President of Membership, East Bay Young Democrats; Board Member, Resilient Wellness; Advisory Board Member, Oakland Grown; Member, Wellstone Democratic Club

1. What do you see as the greatest challenges when it comes to providing residents with a livable, affordable and safe community?

The three greatest obstacles between here and a truly thriving Oakland are: (1) the housing crisis; (2) the need for sustainable, living-wage jobs on an equitable basis; and (3) a lack of trust in the city's ability to properly and adequately provide critical city services including public safety, fire safety, public works, and regulatory services.

2. What is the biggest opportunity for your district or city during the next four years?

I believe Oakland, and District 4 have a real opportunity over the next four years to break out of our historical cycle of under-resourcing, mutual mistrust, and disengagement. To do that, the city must be ready to listen, help, and act.

I will work towards a more collaborative, responsive, and solutions-oriented Council that can come together to attract broad-based participation from the community. We need an increased emphasis on problem-solving and collaboration. With an effective, collaborative culture, we can bring forward solutions including affordable housing for all, greater community access to and ownership in real property and businesses, and a shift away from car-dependent infrastructure, leading the way for the country as a whole.

3. Describe your commitment to your district or city leading up to your bid for office.

During the first dotcom boom, I saw economic and political forces quickly changing the San Francisco community I grew up in. This first-hand knowledge propels me to be a part of the solution to prevent displacement here in Oakland. I have brought my skills to bear on a variety of Oakland's challenges through my work with the city council, my volunteerism, and through to my current work with the Alliance for Community Development.

Working as a community liaison to the Montclair, Piedmont Pines, Dimond, and Redwood Heights neighborhoods, I fell in love with the District's green space and its dedication to volunteerism. As a former Laurel District renter, I am deeply committed to the small businesses in our business districts. Today, as a Fairfax/Melrose District homeowner, I have experienced both the beauty and challenges of living in an East Oakland neighborhood, and I am committed to keeping this community and ones like it vibrant and accessible.

In many cases as community liaison, I helped unstick local projects in ways that made it clear to me what needs change in our local government. In my current role as executive director of Alliance for Community Development, we bring investment opportunities to "triple-bottom-line" (profit, people, planet) companies run by social entrepreneurs. The new membership organization that I launched as director of the Oakland's Alliance is one based on entrepreneurship and business support. We require members to commit to equity, diversity, inclusion, access, local leadership, and sustainability, before joining. Since taking over as the executive director, our annual capital connections program, located in Oakland, has been a more diverse, accessible annual event, with an emphasis on increasing opportunity both on the stage and during breakout sessions for women, people of color, immigrants, and people with disabilities. This organization now has 147 member individuals and entities who are committed to these values in our area.

Currently, I see the need for joint community solutions so strongly that I am not waiting for the election: I have convened a series of Cross Neighborhood Meetings where across our very different neighborhoods of District 4 we establish our shared goals, get to know one another, and start to develop shared strategies to achieve those goals - breaking conversations out from the traditional “neighborhood association” mold.

4. Silicon Valley and the Bay Area are at the center of global, technological advancement. How do you see technology’s role in changing the lives of both longtime residents and transplants?

The tech sector has produced amazing innovations that have changed our lives in many ways, but it is not all one uniform story: in our community, private investment chases profits in a way that largely does not care whether it actually creates societal benefit or cannibalizes benefits that already exist (such as a race to the bottom with contracted worker wages). We are allowing these companies to make dramatic changes to our cities without enough of a commitment to public goods like housing, and many people on the margins suffer: my family was displaced from our apartment in San Francisco during the first tech boom twenty years ago, and this cycle has now intensified on both sides of the Bay.

In the Bay Area, most of us in the political/activist community acknowledge the tech boom is leading to displacement, but we do not necessarily see a clear path to channel the gains being made to benefit everyone rather than an elite few. We need to challenge the tech industry where it is being exploitative, certainly, and ensure rising GDP also leads to living wages, union membership, housing, and healthcare for all. We also need to preserve and make way for a larger role for small local businesses, including more community-driven models like cooperatives and collectives, to ensure that the knowledge, skills, and resilience in our community will directly benefit from our projected growth.