



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Libby Schaaf

Age: 52

Family: I have a wonderful husband, Sal, and two kids attending Oakland public schools.

Hometown: Oakland, CA!

Lived in Oakland since: I was born.

Education: Rollins College (BA), Loyola Law School (JD)

Occupation: Mayor of Oakland

Employer: City of Oakland

Political experience: Mayor of Oakland, Oakland City Council

Notable affiliations: Member, Leadership Councils of Kiva and California Competes; Member, Advisory Board of Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland; Metropolitan Transportation Commissioner.

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

Oakland is facing a housing affordability crisis. We've already seen too many Bay Area communities become unaffordable for middle and low-income residents, and our most vulnerable residents suffer in unsafe and overcrowded conditions as well as in growing homeless encampments. That's why we came together in 2016 to pass city and county measures that protect Oaklanders from being forced to move out of affordable housing as well as building more housing for our most vulnerable – including more transitional and permanent housing for the homeless.

As your Mayor, I have fought tirelessly to both increase the supply of new and affordable housing and protect Oaklanders from getting evicted or displaced from

their homes. That's why I launched the 17K/17K plan, which is on track to provide 17,000 new units of housing and protect 17,000 residents from displacement by 2024.

We'll pull in regional partnerships to bring an end to homelessness. This includes preventing homelessness in the first place with emergency rental assistance, as well as building more permanent supportive and affordable housing for our lowest income residents. It also includes an effective and compassionate approach to street-level homelessness, including mobile outreach and sanitation services, opening a new Rapid Rehousing Center, as well as innovations like our Tuff Shed Cabin Communities.

I'm excited about the regional policy work we're doing on Casa: The Committee to House the Bay Area. Long term, Oakland can't solve its housing crisis alone. We need state and regional policies and affordable housing funding sources to ensure a Bay Area for everyone.

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

The biggest opportunity for Oakland over the next four years is to continue to build educational equity. Educational equity is truly getting at the root cause of well-being, public safety and economic stability, as education is one of the strongest social determinants of health and drivers of economic mobility. Historically, only 10% of OUSD 9th graders were earning college degrees by age 23. This was clearly unacceptable, and in coalition with our partners in OUSD and the community, we launched the Oakland Promise to address this issue.

As your Mayor, I have worked to employ all proven best practices to ensure more children in Oakland get the expectations, resources, and skills they need to ensure success in college, community and career. We've raised millions of dollars to send thousands of Oakland kids to college and community college with scholarships and mentors. We've eased the stress for our most struggling parents by giving them college savings accounts, immediate financial assistance and financial coaching and, if Measure AA passes this November, free quality pre-school. And it's working -- with double digit increases in college enrollment for our African American and Latino students.

I helped write the Oakland Children's Initiative that will ensure our early educators better work protections and wages, as well as dramatically increase access to and quality of preschool for Oakland's most struggling families. This measure will be a key step to build on our considerable progress so far.

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

Prior to being elected Mayor, I represented District 4 on the Oakland City Council in 2010. Bringing a lifetime of volunteerism and over fifteen years of executive and legislative experience in Oakland city government, I have focused her entire life and career on making Oakland better.

I began my career as an attorney at the largest law firm in Oakland, but left my legal career to build and run a first centralized volunteer program for Oakland public schools.

I have also served as Chief of Staff to the Oakland City Council President, as a top aide to Mayor Jerry Brown, and as Public Affairs Director for the Port of Oakland.

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 unprecedented growth of Silicon Valley has presented a variety of unique opportunities and challenges for Oakland. Oakland is experiencing a historic economic boom with thousands of new jobs for longtime residents and transplants alike. Technology has affected everything from how we connect with our neighbors to how we look for jobs. Electric scooters and ride hailing apps are changing how people get around in ways that would have been unimaginable a few years ago. These changes to everyday life are likely to only accelerate.

With the new investment coming to our city, it is absolutely critical that long-time Oaklanders can benefit and not be displaced from the city. Oakland is facing a housing affordability crisis. As your Mayor, I have fought to both increase the supply of new and affordable housing and protect Oaklanders from getting evicted or displaced from their homes. Although the scale of the challenge may be daunting, we are making steady progress on affordable housing, expanded prevention and assistance services for the homeless, and taking a regional approach to a regional problem.

I will also continue to fight to protect our small Oakland-grown businesses, artists and non-profit organizations from displacement. We've been doing this by giving small Oakland-grown businesses access to zero-interest loans through our Kiva Oakland partnership. We've also been practicing Techquity, the idea that new tech companies in Oakland should make commitments to ensure a positive impact on Oakland through such measures as contracting with socially-responsible locally owned small businesses and investments in training

Oakland youth to be part of the diverse next generation of tech workers. As an Oakland native, I'm passionate about protecting what makes Oakland, Oakland.