



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Loren Taylor

Age: 41

Family: Wife- Erica, Daughter – Camryn (9y/o), Son – Manny (5 y/o)

Hometown: Oakland, CA

Lived in Oakland since: Birth

Education:

- Product of Oakland Schools
- BS Biomedical Engineering, Case Western University (Cleveland, OH)
- MS biomedical Engineering, University of Connecticut
- MBA, Business Administration, UC Berkeley

Occupation: Business Consultant, Nonprofits and Small Businesses

Employer: Custom Tailored Solutions, LLC (Founder/ Owner) – A management consulting firm focused on social impact and nonprofit consulting. Prior consulting projects include:

- *Convening and facilitating a consortium of healthcare organizations in developing a shared investment model for reducing the high diabetes rate in the Black Community (Philadelphia)*
- *Supporting a nonprofit organization (BizWomen Ghana) in preparing for and establishing operations in Ghana to help low-income women create businesses.*

Political experience: N/A

Notable affiliations:

- 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, Board Member
- Joaquin Miller Elementary School PTA, Immediate Past President
- Boy Scout Troop 100, Co-Founder and Former Scoutmaster
- Center for Youth Wellness, Leadership Advisory Council Member
- East Oakland Collective, Member
- Shiloh Church, Member
- Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce, Member
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Member
- UC Berkeley Haas Alumni Association, Member

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

The biggest challenge to providing livable, affordable, and safe communities in District 6 is the lack of economic opportunities for many Oaklanders. When residents cannot access living wage jobs that allow them to take care of themselves and their families, it hinders economic development, and keeps neighborhoods unsafe. It is unacceptable that during the same period when jobs grew by 6% in other Oakland council districts, they declined by 7% in District 6.

We must strengthen our city by empowering residents to financially support themselves and begin reinvesting in the community with their time, talents, and resources.

I look forward to leveraging my past experiences to guide development activities in a way that prioritizes (i) local job creation, (ii) community-driven planning of the services and amenities that will be developed, and (iii) a stronger Oakland economy. I will also leverage my past experiences in partnership with the community to support incubation of new businesses and strengthen workforce development programs and increasing their long-term success rate.

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

The biggest opportunity for District 6 is also our biggest threat. The tremendous tax advantages available to investors via Economic Opportunity Zones (covering ~3/4 of District 6) has the potential to increase the rate of gentrification and displacement if our community is not in the driver's seat. For too long we have been reactive to proposals that developers bring to us, instead of proactively recruiting developers and businesses who want to help us realize our vision.

I have helped nonprofit and for-profit organizations across the country develop their shared visions and aggressively implement them. I look forward to similarly helping our city do the same so that we grow and revitalize our community in a way that looks out for everyone in the process.

As D6 City Councilmember, I will ensure that the savings and profit that is promised by economic Opportunity Zones is shared with the community, resulting in improved services, infrastructure, and greater community benefits.

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

I have demonstrated my commitment to Oakland and District 6 through my active leadership and involvement with community-based and social justice organizations that address the health, economic, and educational disparities that plague our low income

and minority communities. My track record of leading on issues of social, racial, and economic justice includes the following leadership roles I have served in:

- Co-chair of capital campaign for At The Crossroads a nonprofit that serves homeless youth ensuring they don't grow up or grow old on the streets – *Raising more than \$4M through the campaign.*
- PTA President at Joaquin Miller Elementary School – *Establishing a VP of Equity role on PTA, Advocating for and securing more equitable distribution of resources to minority and special needs students.*
- Founding Board member of 100 Black Men Community School – *Working for over 6 years on designing and implementing a school for Black Boys to address the Black male achievement gap head-on.*
- Co-Founder of Boy Scout Troop 100 in partnership with Beebe Memorial Church and the 100 Black Men to support Black Boys in developing valuable life skills – *Serving as Scoutmaster for 2 years*
- Leadership Advisory Council Member for Center for Youth Wellness, a Federally Qualified Health Center in San Francisco's Bay View that addresses the impact of childhood trauma and adversity – *Advising the Leadership team on how to more quickly advance the movement increasing National Awareness*
- Board Member for the West Oakland Health Council – *Advising Executive Director on health center operations, and helping to train other board members on being more effective.*

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?

As an engineer and business consultant, I have always been focused on the application of novel technologies to improving lives of those in my community. I have helped:

- Develop new medical devices to improve quality of life
- Increase access to life saving technology
- Increase adoption of energy efficiency solutions and renewable energy
- Incorporate learning technology into schools to improve the quality of our education system

Technology is at the core of our future, with respect to (a) the jobs we will have and how we will get to commute to those jobs, (b) the buildings we will live and work in, and most importantly (c) how we interact with each other - how we define/build community.

I look forward to using advancements in building technology to allow for faster and more affordable housing development that reduces displacement of longtime residents. Also with innovative building design and a push for greater density, we will increase our sense of community with more community gathering and cooperative spaces that bring longtime residents and transplants together. I am also excited about the adoption of technology that makes the nuts and bolts of city operations more reliable, efficient, and equitable, so that longtime residents, and transplants alike benefit from the services and infrastructure that we deserve.