



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Nikki Fortunato Bas

Age: 50

Family: Husband, 14 year old daughter

Hometown: Oakland

Lived in Oakland since: 1997

Education: B.A. Economics, University of Virginia

Occupation: Nonprofit Executive Director

Employer: Partnership for Working Families (until August 2018)

Political experience: Former Advisory Board Member of Oakland Rising Action PAC

Notable affiliations: Former Executive Director of East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy

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

Oakland faces an unprecedented housing crisis; long-term residents have been pushed out of their homes, with far too many landing on the streets. In the midst of riches, our resources are mismanaged. We under-invest in our youth, small businesses, and quality jobs. This public crisis is creating real tension between old residents and new, dividing residents across racial lines. Because City Hall has failed to take action, Oakland may lose its heart and soul forever.

Oakland deserves better. District 2 deserves better. We need independent, progressive leadership that will stand up for our working families; our young people and seniors; our communities of color; our immigrants and refugees; our LGBTQ community; and our small business owners, artists, and performers.

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

Addressing Oakland's Housing and Homelessness Crisis

Oakland's housing crisis is out of control and we need experienced, compassionate leadership that recognizes housing is a human right. We must improve and increase affordable housing - production, preservation and renter protections, and provide options for the growing homeless population. This requires a champion who can bring residents, developers, and housing advocates together—and collaborate with the county and state—for win-win solutions.

Building a Thriving Economy

Oakland and District 2 are experiencing explosive growth. We must take a balanced approach to accommodate new businesses and new opportunities while protecting long-standing businesses and residents who should benefit from this growth and the jobs it brings.

Ensuring Safe Neighborhoods

Oakland needs neighborhoods and commercial districts where everyone feels safe and enjoys a sense of belonging. This can only be achieved when we take a holistic approach to safety. First, we must increase resources to support education, employment, and public health services to address the root causes of crime. Second, we must shift the culture of policing so all residents feel that officers are working with the community, not against it. District 2 problems such as illegal dumping, theft, car break-ins, sex trafficking, and other crimes need a better approach than business as usual. The Oakland Police Department (OPD) must serve with the highest community standards, end the targeting of people of color, and "bad cops" must be appropriately disciplined or removed.

Equitable Neighborhood Services

District 2 residents deserve equitable and effective City services that address the needs of all neighbors and improve our quality of life. For too long the City has failed to deliver essential City services to address illegal dumping, hazards on streets and sidewalks, and unsafe conditions with unmaintained City trees. The needs of District 2 are as diverse as the neighbors residing here, and the solutions should be equally creative and diverse. No more can the City hide behind poorly crafted budgets and poorly designed programs.

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

I've lived in District 2 for over 20 years. I'm a lifelong community organizer and got my start in Chinatown, organizing immigrant garment workers to win fair wages and respect. I'm a working mother who will do whatever it takes to keep our kids safe and make sure their future is bright.

For two decades, I've been an advocate for working people, leading the passage of policies in Oakland to create the building blocks for regional, state, and national change:

- Mobilizing voters to raising Oakland’s minimum wage with paid sick leave by passing Measure FF which won with 82% voter support.
- Bringing City government and developers to the table with community groups to secure a ground-breaking good jobs policy for the Oakland Army Base redevelopment, which is putting Oaklanders to work and exceeding its 50% local hire goal.
- Advocating that the Port of Oakland work with neighborhood and environmental groups to pass a Clean Trucks Program to reduce diesel emissions and create healthier neighborhoods.

I will bring bold, innovative and proactive leadership to make Oakland work for all of us. I will tackle the critical issues facing our city and District 2 and bring accountability to City Hall. I will listen and bring people together, and I will have the courage to stand up and fight for real solutions — just as I have as a community organizer.

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?

Technological advancement can improve all of our lives, however that depends on how we use technology and who has access to it. Our goal should be to shape technology to benefit both longtime residents and new transplants, creating more equity and inclusion in our economy and our communities. We must ensure that our education and workforce development systems are supporting longtime residents and young people to fully participate in the tech economy and benefit from the growing number of jobs it provides. We must also ensure that all the jobs in the tech economy provide workers with the wages and benefits that allow them to support their families in dignity --- from “gig” workers to subcontracted service workers. In addition, we must create new rules for the new tech economy to meet our goals of equity and inclusion. This includes making sure that short term rental (STR) and transportation network/ride sharing companies (TNC) pay their fair share for using our city’s infrastructure and provide information to ensure transparency and equity. This also means driving housing solutions to stem displacement. We must view tech companies as partners in building Oakland and our region as a place where we all feel we belong and our communities can thrive.