



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Desley Brooks

Age: 57

Family:

Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana

Lived in Oakland since:

Education: B.A. Political Science University of Washington; J.D. Seattle University

Occupation: Incumbent

Employer: City of Oakland

Political experience: District 6 City Councilperson for 16 years; Chief of Staff to Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, Sessions Attorney for the Washington State Senate, Intern for Congressman Ron Dellums.

Notable affiliations: First AME Church; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Washington State Bar Association.

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

Affordable housing is one of the greatest challenges to providing residents a livable, affordable, and safe community. The lack of affordable housing is increasing poverty in the State of California. More and more of our residents are spending in excess of 30% of their income on housing. Eighty percent of our unsheltered residents were formerly housed. Rents are getting higher but wages have remained stagnant. Without good jobs and living wages we will continue to see long-time Oaklanders pushed out of the community

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

I think the biggest opportunity for the City is to grow the Department of Race and Equity that I got the Council to establish several years ago. We need to fully implement the equity tools so that all Oaklanders have the opportunity to grow and thrive.

The biggest opportunity for my District would be to stop the displacement of residents and address the lack of affordable housing.

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

I have served on Boards and Commissions in the City of Oakland since I first moved to Oakland in 1989. I volunteered in District 6 long before I ever decided to run for elected office. I am very accessible. I answer my own phone. For 16 years my office number will ring to my cell phone when I am out of the office so constituents can reach me when they need me not just during office hours. I have been a voice for marginalized communities and have advocated for the equitable distribution of resources. My accomplishments can be found at www.Desley4D6.com

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? Technology can have both positive and negative impacts on the Bay Area communities. Historically technology organizations have not hired large numbers of African Americans or Latinx workers. Effectively excluding these populations from the economic boom and exorbitant salaries paid to their workers. The resulting impact is growing income inequality, lack of affordable housing and displacement of long term residents. The Silicon Valley and Bay Area technology giants can play a greater role with local schools and municipalities to prepare the workforce for these jobs.