

# Oakland City Council candidate questionnaire

*Thank you for taking the time to complete The Oaklandside's 2020 election questionnaire. We understand we're asking a lot of you and your time, but we feel that Oakland voters deserve to know as much as possible about each candidate's views on major issues like housing affordability, homelessness, public safety, and more. We will be posting your answers to these questions on our website for our readers to see, and noting whether candidates chose not to respond. We are not endorsing anyone for office.*

*We'd like to receive your answers by August 28. Please briefly answer each question below using no more than 200 words. Please be as specific as possible when discussing policy ideas or positions you've taken, or would take, on different issues. Our reporters will also follow up with you for a phone or Zoom interview at some point.*

**Your name:** Marcie Hodge

**City Council district seat you are running for:** D7

**We want to know more about you and the reasons you're running for council:**

1. Please list your age, education, any professional licenses or other relevant credentials, your current occupation, and your neighborhood of residence. 45 | Doctorate Organization Development | Nonprofit Executive Director , Grass Valley, Oakland area East Oakland.
2. Before running for City Council, how were you involved in local government? Have you served on any local boards or commissions? Peralta Community College Trustee from 2004-2012, Served on the Oakland Budget Finance Committee, Board Equal Opportunity Committee are a few to note.
3. What's your favorite restaurant or small business in your district—or somewhere you spend a lot of time? What's your favorite local park? Chai Thai Restaurant and Cupcakin are two local businesses I enjoy supporting. Lake Merritt is my favorite park.
4. Where can voters get more information about your campaign?  
www.hodge4oakland2020.com | <https://www.instagram.com/hodge4oakland/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Hodge4Oakland2020> | <https://twitter.com/MarcieHodge13>

**Homelessness and housing affordability are issues that many Oaklanders rank high on their list of concerns, regardless of what district they live in.**

5. Tell us what you think the root causes of Oakland's homelessness crisis are.  
Displacement due to cost of rent | shortage of affordable housing | unemployment |  
|mental illness and lack of impactful services| poverty | substance abuse and shortage of  
impactful services.
6. What specific policies will you advance to address the homelessness crisis? Oakland  
must develop more affordable housing, due to the mental illness component mental  
health leaders, doctors, psychologists etc must lobby the state for intervention services,  
and new laws that support individuals who need to be medication compliant enabling  
them to receive services that help them to access housing, health and job training that  
ultimately allow individuals to be stable in society.
7. When you think of the city's existing homelessness policies, what's working and what  
isn't? Community outreach, interim housing programss, shelter beds increased  
throughout Oakland, partnering with Dept of Human Services, transitional housing and  
partnership with Alameda County programs and partnerships are working for a  
percentage of the homeless . We need to dig deep and look at the underlining  
challenges that exacerbate homelessness, many homeless issues are a result of mental  
illness, Oakland is also facing neighboring residents who are displaced who feel  
Oakland allows individuals to choose an area and start an encampment. Oakland must  
change the perception that it doesn't care where people create encampments and work  
to aggressively to end homelessness.
8.  
What are the root causes of Oakland's housing affordability crisis? Rising home prices,  
renters have experienced increases that are unaffordable and creates cost burdens and  
home prices are also out pacing wage growth. There are many factors including the Bay  
Area beng land locked to a large degree and Oakland has very few areas that will allow  
for development.
9. What specific policies would you advance to address the affordable housing crisis?  
Increasing development, re-zoning areas that are appropriate, increasing the percentage  
of set asides for affordable housing units.

**If elected, you'll likely have to balance the city's next budget, which has been negatively impacted by the pandemic.**

10. What will you cut? Where will you find savings in the next budget? At this time I would  
begin by supporting a push to cut overtime, the money saved can to use for essential  
service and infrastructure.

Hodge

11. How might you find new sources of revenue to help the city make it through tough times and grow in the future? Cutting overtime hour and increasing sales tax no more than a one to two quarters of percent.
12. What will your budget priorities be? What services or projects will you ensure receive a growing share of the city budget? Maintaining a balanced budget. At this time all services are needed but a growing share of the cities budget will need to be stalled in light of Covid-19 in the coming budget year.

**There are three measures specific to Oakland on the ballot this year. Tell us briefly why you support or oppose each.**

13. Strengthening the Oakland Police Commission and making it more independent. Yes, we need to keep OPD on track to meeting its organizational goals and changing its culture.
14. Allowing anyone 16 and older to vote for Oakland Unified School District directors. No. I don't believe 16 year olds are mature enough to vote for OUSD directors. I believe children should have a voice but the nuances of being a board is complex that most 16 year olds may not fully be acutely aware of.
15. Removing the \$1,000 cap on fines for ordinance violations. Depends on the effectiveness of the fines and overall purpose.

**The City Council voted on some controversial and major policies over the past six months. Please tell us how you would have voted on the following, and what you think the next steps should be:**

16. The council adopted the goal of reducing the Police Department's share of the general fund budget by 50% in the 2021-2023 budget. No, I need to see an indpeth impact study on the cuts and services to Oaklanders.
17. The council approved a moratorium on residential evictions until the end of the COVID-19 emergency. Yes, I support stabilizing families and Oakland communities.
18. The council strengthened rent control and Just Cause eviction protections and Oakland's Tenant Protection Ordinance. Yes, I believe much of the controls support keeping families in stable homes and the cost burden of increase rents that create displacement for families.
19. The council rejected a plan to reform Oakland's business tax by changing it from flat tax rates to a progressive tax in which bigger companies with higher gross receipts would

Hodge

pay more. Yes, larger companies with a greater revenue of profit should pay a progressive tax that supports the cities they reside in.

20. The council voted to create a pilot program to send unarmed civilians to respond to nonviolent mental health crises, instead of the police. I support the effort to send out mental health crisis teams that start as a pilot program. These initiatives help to advance a more creative and holistic approach to community outreach and intervention.

**City Councilmembers reps will need to make big decisions on more hot-button issues in the coming year. How would you handle the following?**

21. Should the city permit the A's to build a new ballpark at Howard Terminal in D3 or keep the ballpark in D7 near the Coliseum? I do not support the A's moving from the Coliseum to Howard Terminal.
22. Should the city keep fighting the proposed coal terminal in West Oakland, or permit the developer to build it? I am not versed on this issue nor the nuances. It appears the city should stay in the fight.

**Tell us about how you'll improve public safety.**

23. What's your approach to reducing gun violence? What specific policies or tools will you advance that will save lives? More police? More non-police services? Please be specific. Bans on assault weapons, cash for guns has been effective in reducing gun possession in Oakland, background checks help to reduce gun sales; violence and enforcement of gun laws aid in the effort to reduce gun violence. Most important, illegal gun sales and guns illegally possessed must face stiff fines, all of these strategies assist in reducing gun violence. Reducing gun violence does not require an increase of police or reduction of police forces in my opinion.
24. Too many of Oakland's streets are dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. What policies will you advance that will improve transportation safety? Implementing increased fines, arming residents and by-standers to "see and report" can be armed in identifying key information to report reckless drivers and drivers speeding who are creating unsafe hazards for pedestrians. Many residents are equipped with cell phones are concerned about pedestrian safety. We must support and train residents in becoming activist to police their streets by taking video and photos that can be released to police. Images that clearly identify those who are creating unsafe conditions for residents must face aggressive fines.

**How will you help Oakland workers and businesses thrive?**

Hodge

25. What specific policies will you advance to help Oakland workers who struggle with low wages, exploitative employers, and the uncertainties of the gig economy? If elected I will push to attract more businesses to District 7, support creative tax structures that incentivize more business to relocate to Oakland and support existing businesses to remain invested in Oakland. We must attract more bio-tech, technology, healthcare and green job to the Oakland area.
  
26. How will you help small and local businesses succeed, especially with the recession caused by the pandemic? If elected I will support and champion efforts to lobby the state and federal govt for more funding. In addition, I support the city setting aside funding for local businesses to receive support to help businesses keep their doors open.