

# 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:** Treva Reid

**City Council district seat you are running for:** District 7

**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.

I am 48, a graduate of Hampton University (BS) and Shiloh Bible College (Masters of Theology and Historical Studies, with an emphasis in Leadership), currently work as a Sr. Public Affairs Representative for PG&E in the East Bay and live in East Oakland, District 7.

2. Before running for City Council, how were you involved in local government? Have you served on any local boards or commissions?

I served as Senior Field Representative for then Assemblymember (now State Senator) Nancy Skinner. I am an Associate for Assembly District 18 on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, a member of the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club and Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club.

I also serve as board member of East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC), Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA), Community Education Partnerships (CEP), Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) Oakland/Berkeley Chapter and BWOPA State Policy Advisor, The Crucible's Advisory Committee, Oakland League of Women Voters Alameda County Probation Capacity Building Grant Steering

Reid

Committee, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an Emerge California Alumna, on several business association boards and committees. I previously served on the board of The College Preparatory High School and was appointed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to serve two terms on the Alameda County Recycling Board (Stopwaste.org), one of two non-elected official board members.

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?

I have several favorites and especially those places that allow me to connect with and hear from community members. I spend significant time as a board member at East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC). I enjoy the time spent on strategic planning to advance our goals, supporting our youth programs and community discussions. I love watching our youth lead and thrive! I have also enjoyed taking my mother to the East Oakland Senior Center and East Oakland Sports Center, watching her engage in activities, connect with and help serve our seniors.

One of my favorite local parks is Knowland Park in District 7.

4. Where can voters get more information about your campaign?

Reidforoakland.com, @TrevaReidforOaklandCityCouncil on Facebook and @ReidforOakland on Instagram

**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.

Deeply systemic racism, poverty, widening wealth gaps and inequities with a lower-income workforce, exasperated financial pressures on families with children, teachers, artists, small businesses, seniors on fixed income, a wildly ignited economy, driven by tech and other industries increasing the job market and contributing to soaring rents and rising home prices, without the support of housing production (especially affordable) and effective planning to meet the rapidly increasing demands. These and other factors fuel the rapid displacement pressures, disproportionate cost burdens and housing disparities faced by Oaklanders. Many families were highly vulnerable to housing instability prior to the pandemic, which has caused even more significant impacts on mental health crisis, substance abuse and the ability of individuals/families to survive with the unprecedented housing, unemployment and living costs.

6. What specific policies will you advance to address the homelessness crisis?

Our housing and homeless crisis is deeply felt in District 7 which has many encampments throughout. I plan on ensuring that state and federal dollars for housing are used to provide more permanently affordable housing and that as a city we make sure we are moving affordable housing impact fee monies to non-profit developers to build housing. The Alameda County Point in Time Count Report also noted that homelessness has increased 47% from 2017-2019, and a report from Columbia University in May 2020 stated that the COVID crisis could exacerbate homelessness by 40% without local, state, and federal action. 70% of those unhoused and unsheltered in Oakland are Black residents and primarily Black men.

Below are some priorities for housing solutions to address homelessness:

- Reallocate funding from public safety towards our housing priorities
- Utilize the three hotels to full capacity leased in partnership between the County and State.
- Move unhoused and unsheltered residents into the 65+ FEMA trailers.
- Expedite building the approved 27 tiny homes for youth/young adults.
- Support the use of existing land for safe RV parking/shelter locations.
- Collaborate with regional partners and local organizations to increase housing solutions.
- Convert vacant buildings, underutilized hotels and approve more accessory dwelling units (ADU's)
- Support the process to uncover and fully invest Affordable Housing Impact Fees, to put the money to work where it's needed most.
- Expand rental assistance, mortgage subsidies and emergency response programs during COVID; and
- Ensure the allocation of Measure Q funding of \$50 million to fund homelessness prevention and services for unsheltered residents and supports existing shelters, transitional housing and expanded rapid-rehousing, beautification activities and sanitation/waste services through community based organizations.

7. When you think of the city's existing homelessness policies, what's working and what isn't?

Creating and enforcing tenants protections, approved Fair Chance Housing Ordinance, efforts to help keep homeowners from foreclosures, moratorium mandates on evictions and rent increases, the housing trust fund, approximately \$50 million approved in the budget for homelessness prevention and services, an additional \$10 million to secure permanent supportive extremely low-income housing, decriminalizing homelessness, working in partnership with the state and county on more creative approaches and funding secured to ensure housing availability at existing sites are some examples of what is working. The lack of available housing funding, more unified approach, approved strategies, limited conversion of more units to house families, a planning process to expedite housing development, updates and transparency on the unaccounted for Impact Fees are some examples of what's not working.

8. What are the root causes of Oakland's housing affordability crisis?

Deeply systemic racism, poverty, widening wealth gaps and inequities with a lower-income workforce, exasperated financial pressures on families with children, teachers, artists, small businesses, seniors on fixed income, a wildly ignited economy, driven by tech and other industries increasing the job market and contributing to soaring rents and rising home prices, without the support of housing production (especially affordable) and effective planning to meet the rapidly increasing demands. These and other factors fuel the rapid displacement pressures, disproportionate cost burdens and housing disparities faced by Oaklanders. Many families were highly vulnerable to housing instability prior to the pandemic, which has caused even more significant impacts on mental health crisis, substance abuse and the ability of individuals/families to survive with the unprecedented housing, unemployment and living costs.

9. What specific policies would you advance to address the affordable housing crisis?

Too many families in Oakland are being displaced as housing prices and rents soar. East Oakland is one of the most impacted areas in the City, with the greatest number of residents evicted and displaced. I will fight to ensure residents can afford to remain in the City we love. Those living unhoused have access to safe temporary and then permanent housing solutions. A solution to our homelessness crisis is permanent affordable housing and the preservation of equitable allocation of existing funding.

Below are some priorities to address the affordable housing crisis, along with those mentioned above for addressing homelessness:

- Work to pass and enforce existing tenant protections to keep East Oakland residents permanently housed. Protecting renters from illegal evictions and rent increases and homeowners from foreclosures.
- Collaborate with regional partners and local organizations to increase housing solutions; securing funds for safe shelter locations and wrap around services.
- Improve upon existing policies to build deeply affordable, low-income housing to ensure our most vulnerable residents remain housed.
- Support the process to uncover and fully invest Affordable Housing Impact Fees, to put the money to work where it's needed most.
- Expand rental assistance, mortgage subsidies and emergency response.
- Advocate for tax abatements, increased federal and state funding for permanent subsidized low-income housing and affordable home ownership programs.
- Build more transit oriented housing development, utilizing cap and trade funds and low-income tax credits.

I serve on the board of Satellite Affordable Housing Associates and Community Education Partnerships, both focused on addressing our housing crisis and advocating

Reid

for the need of prioritized funding, affordable, permanent housing to support local and regional housing goals, ensure housing stability for families suffering in this crisis and increased development without displacement.

**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?

I will face those critical budget impacts at that time--to wisely prioritize with more data, analysis and community input--on my position to make sound fiscal decisions as we approach the next budget cycle. Prioritizing community and public input to balance the budget without further impacts to city employees or reducing critical city services.

I support the Task Force to Reimagine Public Safety's goal to achieve 50% in reallocating funding from the Police Department (General Purpose Fund) to alternative public safety measures. I would also work to ensure accountability of non-municipal services that should be funded by the county, state, or federal government partners, are addressed by them.

There is further opportunity to consider the funding benefits of proposed November 3, 2020 state ballot measures (i.e Prop 15), legislation (i.e AB 2088) and Census 2020. Along with the recent appellate court decision upheld for the Golden State Warriors to pay the city its portion of nearly \$50 million in unpaid debt associated with the Oracle Arena.

11. How might you find new sources of revenue to help the city make it through tough times and grow in the future?

One of the biggest challenges facing Oakland is ensuring fully funded safety net services and the workforce to perform that work. Revenue is needed to stabilize our families in the most unprecedented of times during this pandemic.

I am committed to exploring progressive revenue options to off-set these costs as well as exploring our budgetary practices to ensure we are using our limited dollars efficiently. We must advocate at the county, state, and federal level to maximize the dollars the City receives and creative approaches to prioritize Oakland in the state's budget. I am also committed to addressing the wage and career opportunity gap which is rooted and manifests itself in economic, mental health, housing, education and racial inequity. District 7 has not equitably benefited from the increased investment, workforce opportunities, small business or entrepreneurial start-up funding. We must ensure our communities are heard, have their basic needs met, and the resources to thrive-whether that be access to quality education, living-wage, family sustaining jobs with pay equity or resilience funds to keep small businesses doors open and employees paid. We must

protect and preserve our families from greater disparities in and beyond the heightened and critical impacts of this pandemic, with targeted direct relief funding programs.

In partnership with the Black Cultural Zone, Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), and the Greenlining Institute, I collaborated on an analysis, along with outreach and a call to action on the disparately negative impact of COVID-19 on the Black community, to elected leaders. Our analysis was also published by several media outlets. Attached is the article on the blog link posted by BWOPA:  
[http://www.bwopatitleads.org/bwopa\\_oakland\\_berkeley\\_blog\\_issues](http://www.bwopatitleads.org/bwopa_oakland_berkeley_blog_issues)

12. What will your budget priorities be? What services or projects will you ensure receive a growing share of the city budget?

- Funding permanent affordable housing--keeping Oaklanders housed
- Public Safety violence prevention, intervention, healing and alternative approaches to policing, including mental health care support and trauma informed community policing.
- Job/career training and small business stability--ensuring economic vitality, with living wage, family sustaining jobs
- Maintaining proper staffing of city employees and services--for a safe, clean and vibrant city.
- Improving the city's emergency preparedness, wildfire safety and execution of Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) goals.

Prioritizing convening community discussions for input, while also using the 2018 Oakland Equity Indicators report to inform us, guide strategy and next steps on budget priorities for equitable outcomes. More insight on these priorities can be found at [ReidforOakland.com](http://ReidforOakland.com)

**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.  
I support the November 3, 2020 Ballot Measure to strengthen the independent oversight of the Oakland Police Commission, including the work to rewrite the Oakland Police Departments (OPD) Use of Force Policy. We must do more to transform the culture of OPD and uproot systemic racism with just, equitable policies, increased public safety measures, training, and eliminate harmful policies, practices with alternative community public safety plans. We must ensure accountability with police reports, misconduct records, transparency with review and public communications.
14. Allowing anyone 16 and older to vote for Oakland Unified School District directors. I support this ballot measure. Studies show that those engaged in the voting process early

Reid

maintain a committed voting pattern and greater engagement to influence policy and community driven processes for change. I'm excited to see our youth leaders involved and growing in their civic and political engagement. Their voice will be heard and actions will deliver lasting, transformative change in our community.

15. Removing the \$1,000 cap on fines for ordinance violations. I support the proposed ordinance to give authority for further evaluation to determine if the current fines are sufficient with deterring violations and if not, adjusting those fines to ensure greater enforcement and deterrence to violators.

**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.

I support defunding/divesting from the police budget to reinvest funds to support alternative community public safety plans. We must transform our police culture, come out of federal oversight and maintain our compliance. We've had instances of unlawful police misconduct, brutality and murder at the hands of law enforcement and must ensure our policies enforce constitutional policing.

I support the Task Force to Reimagine Public Safety's goal to achieve 50% in defunding the police to take real action to reducing the 40%+ budget allocated to alternative public safety measures to help protect lives and not cause unjust harm. We know that the \$14m cut is not enough. We must open all the books and make informed decisions on how to reallocate and reinvest millions in the challenging areas we face with new resourced strategies and approaches—trauma informed community policing and culturally competent training, with empowered police oversight.

We must ensure extensive community involvement. Listening to our community and engaging them more proactively in those discussions, with transparency in the process.

I support funding interpersonal violence interrupters trained to mediate the threat of crime. Investment in jobs, housing equitable education, drug treatment/substance abuse programs, mental health services and other considerations brought forth.

17. The council approved a moratorium on residential evictions until the end of the COVID-19 emergency.

Reid

Yes, I support the residential and commercial moratorium approved. The city should advocate with state and federal partners to forgive rent, assist with mortgage payments or restructure home loans and implement a payment plan that helps prevent evictions and displacement. We must prioritize efforts to keep Oaklanders housed.

18. The council strengthened rent control and Just Cause eviction protections and Oakland's Tenant Protection Ordinance.

Yes, I support strengthening rent control, Just Cause protections, and our Tenant Protection Ordinance. We have had a much needed focus on renters and affordable housing, due to the significant impacts faced on renters and low-income tenants to maintain housing. We must also work to expand affordable homeownership programs and the development of more deeply affordable housing. I understand we have only achieved approximately 14% of our regional affordable housing needs allocation goals since 2015 and 168% of our above moderate housing unit goals. We must work more intentionally to close this gap and work to keep all Oaklanders housed.

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 pay more.

The Council did not reject the progressive business tax proposal, but instead created a Blue-Ribbon Commission to conduct additional thorough analysis and data study. To engage more deeply with small and people of color owned businesses, while planning towards the 2022 general ballot. Many small and people of color owned businesses expressed concern and did not support the business tax rate structure or find the process inclusive and transparent. They spoke out publicly on the grave impacts their businesses would endure under the proposed tax, during these more critical financial times, exasperated in this pandemic. I would advocate for the Commission to have the necessary resources to effectively lead their tasks, with a comprehensive study and open process to propose the direction for the Progressive Business Tax.

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 proposed MACRO Program, with the pilot up and running as soon as possible. I support identifying and allocating the additional resources needed to expand the program citywide, after a full and thoughtful examination of the pilot program.

**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 support the Oakland A's remaining at the Coliseum, with economic development that ensures a strong community and jobs benefit agreement, along with environmental justice priorities on approved development, without displacement of residents and local businesses. I do not believe the Oakland A's should relocate from the Coliseum in deep East Oakland to Howard Terminal near Jack London Square, due to a number of expressed environmental, workforce, transportation and displacement impacts. I do not believe the City should sell their stake of the Coliseum, consisting of approximately 100+ acres along I-880 and Hegenberger Road that does not meet the minimum qualifications:

- Convening meaningful, proactive community engagement
- Transparent and open RFP process
- A transparent and public assessment of the property value
- Community focused development plan
- Deeply Affordable Housing
- Community Work Space
- Economic Reinvestment
- Community and Jobs Benefit Agreement -- including workforce training/stipends
- Project Labor Agreement
- Business District
- Strong CEQA Review
- Public land prioritized for public good and economic vitality in East Oakland

While this discussion of what to do with the Coliseum City is in closed session at City Hall (currently in negotiations with the County) and all intimate knowledge on the details of any deal is speculation at best, I will not address non-facts. Again, my hope is that the Oakland A's will continue to call the Coliseum their home, but if development should be the direction at the site, I believe the City should not sell its largest parcels of public land without significant community discussion, community and city benefit. I support the idea of a long-term lease that would retain ownership of the public land, for public good with the city. The EIR has been completed, along with the Coliseum Specific Area plan, with priorities supported by community. What happens at the Coliseum property and corridor could be transformative for deep East Oakland. Any decision should be thoughtful and fully vetted with the community for the highest and best use of the land. The city should not rush to any deal that does not have community engagement and consensus and for overall economic vitality. I sat at the table with community organizations, the city and on behalf of my company, at that time, to address community needs, support the Oakland Army Base Community Benefits Agreement and lead the company's initial exclusive negotiating agreement. I hope to champion the community priorities, ensure equitable, investment and

outcomes on this development.

22. Should the city keep fighting the proposed coal terminal in West Oakland, or permit the developer to build it?

I do not support the transport of coal, yet recognize the judge ruled in favor of OBOT on the appeals made. I support further consideration of all legal recourse with our next steps to advance the city's 2020 Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) and environmental justice goals to protect our community and workers from the impacts of coal. We signed a contract with OBOT and the judge is holding us accountable to enforce that binding agreement made under the leadership of our city attorney and former Mayor Jean Quan. If there is no further legal recourse, then we must work within our legal ability to enforce, eliminate and mitigate all impacts to further reduce harmful health inequities. We must also advance the goals of the AB617 Steering Committee and its The Community Health Protection Program to protect the health of our residents and workers from all toxic air contaminants and reduce industrial hazard contributors.

**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.

Like so many District 7 residents, I have personally been impacted by the trauma and cycles of senseless violence. The safety of our community requires a robust strategy to end gun violence and high rates of crime. We need to address the triggers and root causes of crime such as poverty, mental illness, joblessness, substance abuse and dismantle systemic racism. As your City Councilmember, I will work tirelessly to:

- Expand and reallocate funding from Oakland Police to provide culturally competent trauma recovery and mental health services to our community.
- Increase funding for violence prevention, intervention and healing programs. Including, funding violence interrupters trained to outreach and mediate potential conflict in our community, with equitable resource allocation to East Oakland. Increase funding to successfully proven community based organizations, programs and initiatives with these areas of focus.
- Support alternative methods of trauma informed community policing strategies and mental health responses to non-violent 911 calls.
- Evaluate OPD Cares and increased Ceasefire initiatives in East Oakland.
- Provide residential and business grants for increased security tools and technology to help better identify criminal activity and responsible individuals
- Work with city leaders, community members and Police Department to ensure diverse representation in our community, with transparency, accountability, equitable protocols, practices and constitutional policing enforced; and
- Advocate to redirect more funds from county and state agencies to partner with Oakland to fund workforce development and community service programs.

24. Too many of Oakland's streets are dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. What policies will you advance that will improve transportation safety?

Measure KK allocated funds to improve streets and for capital improvement projects for city facilities to repair senior centers, recreation areas, pools. More money is always needed, in every targeted area, for East Oakland. I will make sure the next round of Measure KK dollars are equitable and focused to increase energy efficient buildings, energy saving initiatives, greening and completion of the 3 year paving plan.

Work with the city's Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission to hear and review its policy ideas.

Ensure multilingual community education outreach, signage, awareness, engagement and necessary traffic planning measures prior to implementing road diets. Work to secure more funding to keep streets and walking paths safe, well lit and clean from illegal dumping. Also consider locations previously proposed for designation and funding as a bike and/or walking path, with increased traffic and pedestrian measures in East Oakland.

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

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?

I will advocate for a strong Department of Workplace and Employment Standards, which was created by voters, and ensure it is fully funded to enforce the employment and wage standards that are on the books. I will also work to build on policy areas identified in the Oakland Equity Indicators Report to advance our help and strategic next steps to best support our low-wage workers and businesses. I will convene community discussions to hear from city staff and those directly impacted to inform my policy direction.

I've supported prevailing wage ordinances and measures to increase the local minimum wage. The wages fought for are still insufficient for many Oaklanders to stay housed, live with housing stability, peace of mind, have food security, overcome the wealth gaps, income inequalities, provide their basic necessities and health care for their families.

I will work with our labor partners on projects to ensure greater equity and access into the labor force, opportunities for community partnerships and apprenticeship programs.

26. How will you help small and local businesses succeed, especially with the recession caused by the pandemic?

Small businesses are facing unprecedented financial impacts due to the pandemic

and have been shut out of federal funding programs. Black, Latinx and Asian owned small businesses have faced significant revenue loss, even prior to the pandemic. While the Small Business COVID Relief Funds have provided some assistance to small businesses and nonprofits, we must secure more funding at the state and local levels to help sustain them.

I support the redevelopment of the Oakland Coliseum area and Hegenberger Corridor with economic development and rezoning favorable to and ensuring local small businesses are not displaced and have the opportunity to grow successfully. Ensuring local hire goals and community beneficial industries are attracted, without further environmental and business hazards. Working to minimize additional impacts of the Bus Rapid Transit project on small business and ensuring displacement and vitality funds are accessible to keep businesses thriving along International Blvd.

Some additional ideals and initiatives stated below were developed in partnership with the Black Cultural Zone Collective, Greenlining and Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) Oakland Berkeley Chapter, as a contributing member of the working group. I support progressing these short and long-term actions developed, along with convening meetings to hear more from other impacted small business owners and groups, to best identify solutions for equitable outcomes: <https://capitolweekly.net/racial-inequality-and-covid-19/>

\$100 million community nonprofit grant fund that can be targeted to the Black community and other communities of color, with a common application for individuals, businesses, artists and entrepreneurs. It should provide technical assistance, including translation services, as needed. Such a fund could pre-pay existing state contracts and increase the speed and flexibility in budget reimbursements to small nonprofits to ensure they can focus on serving vulnerable families rather than just keeping the lights on. California could also create a tax credit, similar to what already exists in Massachusetts, to maximize philanthropy to small organizations.

Increased access to banking for our underbanked and unbanked businesses and community members, and a California job core program for our Black and Brown communities. In addition to targeted long-term commitments to minority-owned communities, businesses, and nonprofits, and expanded Community Development Financial Institutions lending for Black owned micro-businesses. Including supporting the establishment of an Oakland Black owned bank, to increase lending capacity for investments in affordable housing, small businesses, and non profit development for those financially underserved.