



## Alameda Labor Council, AFL-CIO

### Local Election Questionnaire 2007/2008

Thank you for responding to this Candidate Questionnaire from the Central Labor Council of Alameda County and Alameda Building & Construction Trades Council.

In Alameda County, more than 100,000 working men and women have a voice on the job through 135 unions. Each election year, union members meet in Central Labor and Building Trades Councils to interview candidates and determine which candidates support working families' issues and merit labor's endorsement.

Your responses to the questions here will be used to make endorsement decisions at the local level, and will be used to demonstrate the difference between candidates in communications to union members. Please be candid, complete and forthright in your responses, and prompt in returning the completed questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires should be signed and **returned by the date specified in your invitation letter** to:

Margaret Hanlon-Gradie, Political Director, at [poldir@alamedalabor.org](mailto:poldir@alamedalabor.org).

Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO,  
100 Hegenberger Rd., #150  
Oakland CA 94621  
Fax (510) 632-3993

**You may request an electronic version from and (email your responses to) [poldir@alamedalabor.org](mailto:poldir@alamedalabor.org)**, but please bring a signed original to your interview.

**Thank you.**

Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO  
100 Hegenberger Rd #150, Oakland CA 94621  
(510) 632-4242 [info@alamedalabor.org](mailto:info@alamedalabor.org)

Opeiu29/afl-cio

# Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: <b>Kriss Worthington</b>	Office Sought: <b>14<sup>th</sup> Assembly District</b>
Home Address: <b>2808 Hillegass Ave #1</b>	Home city & zip: <b>Berkeley, Ca. 94705</b>
Home Phone: <b>(510) 548-8796</b>	Cell phone:
Occupation: <b>City Councilmember</b>	Employer: <b>The people of Berkeley (City of Berkeley)</b>
Work Address: <b>2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Ca. 94704</b>	Work Phone: <b>510 981-7170</b>
Campaign address: <b>2808 Hillegass Ave #1 Berkeley, Ca. 94705</b>	Campaign Phone: <b>(510) 548-8796</b>
Campaign ID Number (FPPC): <b>1301557</b>	Political Party: <b>Democrat</b>
Consultant and/or Campaign manager: <b>Doug Linney, The Next Generation 510-444-4710</b> Fundraising: <b>Leslie Katz (ex SF Supervisor)</b> Campaign Manager: <b>Mike Sheen 510-604-2776</b> Events Coordinator: <b>Barbara Taylor</b>	Committee Name: <b>Friends of Kriss Worthington</b>

## Background

- Have you failed to vote in any national, state, local or special elections?  
**I have voted in every election I was allowed to do so. And I have actively participated in elections since before I was old enough to vote. I was inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. and the peace movement to start volunteering for Democratic presidential campaigns at age fourteen.**
- Which public offices have you held? (Include dates of service)
  - **Berkeley City Councilmember, 1996 – present**
  - **Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (CMA) 1998-2008– Plans and Programs Committee, Administration and Legislation Committee, Planning Area Committee,**
  - **AC Transit: Berkeley-Oakland-San Leandro Major Investment Study Policy Committee**
  - **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) – City of Berkeley Alternate**
  - **League of California Cities – City of Berkeley Delegate**

- San Pablo Avenue Policy Steering Committee – Member (1998-2008)
  - Alameda County Transportation Authority/Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTA/ACTIA) – Alameda County Alternate 2004-present
  - Alameda County Waste Management Authority (StopWaste) – Member 2006-2008
  - City of Berkeley – Vice Mayor, Telegraph Committee (Chair), Downtown Committee (Vice-Chair), Undergrounding Utilities committee, Parks Committee, Eco-Pass Committee (Chair), Rules Committee (Chair), Joint City/Library Board Selection Committee (Chair) 2007, Housing Authority 1996-2007, Redevelopment Agency 1996-2008, Civic Improvement Corporation 1996-2007, and Holocaust Remembrance Day Planning Committee (Chair) 2004-2008
- Please describe your work with union members in previous positions.  
I actively work to do whatever the unions ask me to do, and offer to help on any labor issue I hear or read about. I also volunteer to gather signatures (for free) on every pro-labor petition or ballot measure I have ever heard of.
  - Briefly describe your work background.  
Served as a day care teacher, home health care worker, and as manager or Executive Director of non-profit groups including home for mentally retarded adults, shelter for homeless women, a youth hostel, housing co-ops, a food co-op, a neighborhood development association, and a UC student housing co-op.
  - Briefly describe your educational background.  
While I was in high school, I took courses at Bucks County Community College and the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation from high school, I attended Wilmington College. I also later took courses at Harvard Extension. While I have attended four colleges, the vast majority of my education has come from ON-THE-JOB TRAINING from jobs and volunteer activities.
  - Are you a union member? **No** To which unions have you belonged?  
I tried to organize a union at a factory I worked at, with the help of the UAW, but the factory was set on fire and we were fired.
  - What was your level of participation (steward, officer, member of bargaining team, etc.)?  
I was one of the two main people attempting to organize. We held our employee meetings in my house.
  - To what fraternal, professional, civic or social organizations do you belong? What is your level of participation?  
AARP, ACLU, Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County, BCA, BWOPA, California Democratic Party Disabilities Caucus, CalPirg, Center for Reproductive Rights, Common Cause, Contemporary Jewish Museum, Democrats with Disabilities, East Bay for Democracy, East Bay LGBT Dems, El Cerrito Democratic Club, Environment California, Equality California, Gray Panthers, HRC, John George Democratic Club, Lamorinda Democratic Club, Latino Democratic Club, League of Conservation Voters, Magnes Museum, MGO, NAACP, NARAL, NOW, NWPC, Planned Parenthood, Progressive Democrats of the East Bay, Save the Bay, Sierra Club, Wellstone Democratic Club, WILPF. These are the groups that come first to mind. I try to

be an activist member and attend meetings, and support action campaigns, but my participation varies depending on who says they most need my attention at any particular time.

- Please attach a *complete* endorser list.
- Will you seek higher office?  
I have never thought about running for higher office than Assembly.
- How much money does your campaign expect to raise? How much do you currently have on hand?  
I expect to raise \$475,000. I have raised so far over \$ 88,000 (on-hand over \$60,000)
- How will you win?  
We already are the first campaign to be endorsed by a labor union, a state organization, a newspaper AND a local democratic group:  
(International Association of Machinists Local 1546, Equality California, the Berkeley Daily Planet, and the Progressive Democrats of the East Bay).  
We also have hundreds of people who have already endorsed, pledged to contribute and/or volunteer. Our central strategy is to be a strong grassroots campaign with lots of volunteers. Supplementing our hundreds of volunteers, we have begun to put together a strong campaign team including but not limited to: Consultant Doug Linney, (who won Don Perata and Jared Huffman's state legislative races), Fundraiser Leslie Katz, Events Coordinator Barbara Taylor and Campaign Manager Mike Sheen. In the short time since we hired Leslie Katz we have already lined up major fundraising events in multiple cities.

## Leadership & Priorities

1. What are your goals and priorities in elective office? What issues will this election help to shape?  
**I will be a Democrat with a backbone, and advocate for the most progressive state budgets and policy possible. One of my goals would be to get a 100% rating on the AFL/CIO state labor legislative scorecard. I am passionately committed to working on Education, Environment, Health care, Labor, and Diversity, but I have also demonstrated that I can take on hundreds of projects and keep track of and follow through on them. My advocacy against implementation of the already-approved drastic prison expansion may help win us some delay in the horrible budget consequences that will come from operating the extra prison beds built to incarcerate many more minority youth for drug and minor offenses. My passion for education funding starts at preschool, includes strong commitment to vocational and career technical education, and goes all the way through to the Community College, CSU and UC systems. Another goal is to use the bully pulpit of the position to support social movements, disenfranchised people and to oppose racism, sexism, anti-semitism, anti-immigrant and any and all forms of hate crimes, prejudice and discrimination. I will continue to speak out and stand up against I.C.E. raids and DEA raids. While I will be willing when it is necessary to be the "Barbara Lee speaks for me" solo principled progressive vote, I will primarily seek to build coalitions to win. While I will actively give encouragement and support to progressive causes, my legislation itself will mostly focus on positive incremental improvements.**
  
2. How will you achieve these objectives? Please describe how you have worked with unions in the past to meet goals.  
**I have combined hard work, hiring talented staff, and building coalitions with other Assembly members and community groups. By being involved in hundreds of issues every year, I have been able to build coalitions that contribute to some of our successes. I have worked with every union that has asked me to help, and I have volunteered to help others as well. I worked closely with IBEW when they had battles with the City Manager, and with the Firefighters when they were dealing with rotating closures, as well as virtually every union during budget negotiations.**
  
3. What distinguishes your goals and priorities from other candidates'?'  
**I am the most progressive and activist candidate in this race, and I have the ability to work with others to get progressive things done, and to be actively supporting dozens of important causes simultaneously. One study shows I had a 98% success rate with introducing progressive policy and getting it approved. I have also hired and appointed the most racially diverse team of people, including a good percentage of traditionally underrepresented groups in Berkeley, such as Asians and Pacific Islanders, Latinos and young people.**

## Right to organize

5. The Employee Free Choice Act is the Labor Movement's priority legislation. What did or will you do to support the Employee Free Choice Act?

The Employee Free Choice Act is more than just priority legislation. It is the number one most important tool for the reversal of the decline in union membership. The current NLRB process has become more and more favorable to employers as different administrations keep making it harder to organize workers. This one giant leap for workers would mean that a worker's card check vote for a union would be counted. I have lobbied in favor of this important bill, and I have educated staff, volunteers, interns and a class about it. As an Assemblymember, I will continue to educate and fight for the Employee Free Choice Act on the national level, but I will also passionately fight to ensure that card check neutrality becomes an option for workers in this state when possible. One of the reasons I strongly opposed Propositions 94-97 last week was due to the denial of card check neutrality to workers at casinos that stand to benefit in the billions of dollars.

6. Please describe the actions you have taken to support workers' right to organize locally.
- **Actively supported Head Start workers organizing campaign by SEIU 616.**
  - **Actively supported organizing campaign for the spa workers, as well as contract negotiations for the hotel workers at the Claremont Hotel.**
  - **Woke up at 4:30 or 6:30 in the morning to support workers organizing at the Radisson, and lobbied management, and showed up at other times of the day too.**
  - **Participated in numerous picket lines, including one civil disobedience at the Woodfin in support of the workers, and actively supported the boycotts of the Radisson, Claremont and Woodfin.**
  - **Sponsored resolutions and legislation in support of Machinists Local 1546 at Doten Honda, and striking workers at Sutter Health**
  - **Walked the lines and did lots of behind the scenes work to help workers at the Berkeley Bowl who wanted to join UFCW.**
  - **Actively supported Stand for Security with SEIU 24/7, and campaigned actively against Arnold Schwarzenegger's anti-union propositions during the 2005 Special Election**
  - **Attended numerous rallies with UPTA, CUE, AFSCME, and the UC Union Coalition, and supported their efforts on contracts and still working on creation of employer provided free public transit.**
  - **Lobbied aggressively for the Employee Free Choice Act and a national policy to ensure card check elections**
  - **Supported UFW's efforts and sponsored a resolution supporting a worker-led boycott of Gallo of Sonoma**
  - **Supported organizing airport security workers and sponsored a resolution to support their fundamental right to unionize and bargain collectively.**
- See attached labor flyer for other examples.
7. If elected, how will you help workers who desire to form a union?  
**I will continue to do anything the union thinks is valuable to assist in the organizing campaign, and will prioritize labor issues within schedule requests.**
8. Please check which actions you would be willing to undertake:
- ✓ **YES, I would sign a letter of support to workers and the public. I have done so in multiple organizing campaigns in multiple languages.**

- ✓ **YES, I would** personally speak to an employer about remaining neutral during an organizing drive. **I have done so a few times.**
- ✓ **YES, I would** speak at a public forum on the right to organize. **I have done so many times, most dramatically with economic development interns who have really benefited from these experiences.**
- ✓ **YES, I would** refuse to patronize an employer who conducts an antiunion campaign; **I still refuse to spend my money at Whole Foods and Trader Joes because of their horrid anti-union organizing tactics.**
- ✓ **YES, I would** pass an ordinance supporting worker rights and living wages. **I have already helped create multiple ordinances including a living wage ordinance and the equal benefits ordinance. I am still working to get a Sweatfree Ordinance and Right to Know ordinance**
- ✓ **YES, I would** support legislative action to prevent taxpayer funds from being used against workers during organizing campaigns.
- ✓ **YES, I would** assist workers in obtaining a first contract. **I have already assisted some workers in getting their first union contract. There ought to be a law requiring the company to negotiate seriously and not manipulate the NLRB process to use delays to stop workers from getting fair compensation.**

## Public Worker Issues

9. Should union members be involved in the budget process? What steps will you take to ensure their meaningful participation?
- YES! I have already worked with union leaders and union members to get them involved in our City budget process. I argued repeatedly with a prior City Manager to allow increased union and employee participation in budget preparation and adoption alike. Multiple union members have contributed valuable insights into the real world operations of the organization. Some of the budget savings I have advocated for came from employee suggestions. On several occasions, pools of available funds were identified as "salary savings" which were brought to my attention by employees who were doing double duty filling in for unfilled positions. I have worked directly with union officials who have strongly and effectively worked with me and with community groups to support tax and/or bond measures to increase needed revenue for public services. I have actively invited unions to participate in budget coalitions and we have successfully lobbied the City for good contracts as well as for saving the safety net of City services. Such coalition building can be very effective. I am currently advocating for SEIU 1021 participation in the selection process for the next City Manager and for major Department Heads as requested in a recent communication. I will continue to advocate for and bring workers to the table during negotiations and discussions about the budget at the state level.**
10. What role should the City Council play in labor issues under a City Manager form of government? Under other systems, how can the council support workers?
- The City Council should play the role of advocate for the employees and the unions to receive the best possible salaries and benefits in their contracts. Our treatment of public employees should be a shining example to the private sector of sensitive thoughtful management working in partnership with unions, and inviting shared governance to the extent that the union wants to participate in influencing management decisions. In a strong Mayor form of government, the Council should force the Mayor to treat the employees fairly and pay them well. I have also worked very hard to recruit and train a**

racially diverse team of candidates who actively support labor and progressive policies to run for local office, which was the only way we were able to get the City Manager to reinstate the No Layoff policy.

11. Which form of union security do you support for public employees: union? shop, open shop, agency shop, modified agency shop? Why?  
**100% UNION, because other models allow some people to benefit from the union's work without being a part of the effort, and because it is more fair and it makes the union more effective at advocating for all the workers.**
12. Do public employees have the right to strike? Would you vote for an injunction against a strike?  
**Public employees' rights are limited by federal law. No, I would not vote for an injunction.**
13. Many retirees can no longer afford to stay in the communities they served for many years. Please describe the steps you would take to ensure that long term employees have adequate pension benefits.  
**I oppose the take away proposals that threaten existing pension agreements. Employers who negotiated these benefits should follow through on their promises. We need to halt involuntary cash balance conversions and all other cutbacks in pension benefits, and we need to secure cost of living adjustments whenever possible. I have supported generous retirement benefits for police and fire employees because it was right for them, and also because I believe it establishes precedent to point to for other unions in future years. I have supported retirement benefits for part time workers, and opposed reductions to widow/spouse benefits. I have supported multiple efforts of the Pension Rights Center to promote fairer pension policies both on individual employers and on a broader legislative level. I strongly support the Restoring Pension Promises to Workers Act of 2007 to close the merger and acquisition loophole and I am the sponsor of the City of Berkeley's support. We need to protect promised pensions when plans are changed or terminated, to safeguard 401(k) savings, and to establish an office of pension participant advocacy. I will continue to support shareholder resolutions and organized efforts within individual companies by employees, unions and community supporters.**
14. As an elected official, the Brown Act allows you to be accessible to workers and their representatives on work-related issues, including the negotiation process. What steps will you take to be accessible to workers and their representatives, and if need be, to act as a facilitator when negotiations reach an impasse?  
**I have been an activist in budget negotiations to the maximum extent permissible by law, and I have carefully avoided disclosing anything I promised not to share. I have accepted all meetings requested by any negotiating local or individuals, initiated strategy conversations, and participated in union rallies to pressure the City to do the right thing.**
15. Do you support the use of electronic monitoring devices to record employees' actions? **NO.**
16. Will you consult with union representatives before contracting with a law firm or consultant to manage the jurisdiction's labor relations? **YES.**

Economic Development & Quality Services

17. Please describe your position on contracting out (“privatization”) of public services and actions you have taken to oppose it.

**I am strongly opposed to the privatization of public services. Too often this has become a short-cut to save a little money in the short term, but you risk long term negative effects on individuals and the social and economic fabric of our society. I am also opposed to the long-term use of part-time temporary workers by state and local agencies. Part time temporary workers seem to frequently get extended beyond the brief temporary time they were originally intended to be hired, and they do not have the benefits or job security they deserve. Furthermore, as a state and as local governments, we should be working to ensure that our workers are invested in the services they provide to the public. At the City Council level, I have successfully fought to secure fair wages and benefits for City employees when the City Manager said there was no money. In addition to strongly opposing the contracting out of janitorial and security jobs, I have taken the lead in proposing that we bring work in house that has previously been contracted out. I have built a little momentum in this direction- while prior votes were 8-1, in the last two years I have been joined by two other council members voting against outside contracts and expressing support for my proposals to contract in.**

18. *Prequalification and Responsible Contractor Requirements* protect taxpayers, communities and workers by ensuring the private corporations profiting from public resources act responsibly. *Prequalification* means that contractors are screened for performance record, prior violations, bonding and insurance, CalOSHA citations, financial health, participation in apprenticeship programs, mechanic's liens, etc., prior to bidding. *Responsible contractor requirements* mean that bidders demonstrate the capacity to complete the contract successfully and in compliance with applicable laws (including protection for worker rights.) Do you support prequalification and responsible contractor?

**YES! The state has a responsibility to protect all workers being paid by state funds. In situations where work is contracted out, wages and must be comparable to those of state workers. I will support prequalification and responsible contractor requirements, as the state must make sure working families are benefitting not only from the public improvements, but from equitable treatment as well.**

19. While the Council welcomes new development to the urban areas of Alameda County, many union members are concerned that working families will be shut out of benefits from new development and related public investment.

- How will you ensure affordable housing is built along with new market rate housing?  
**As a City Councilmember, I have fought vigorously to defend inclusionary zoning laws and voted to ensure that new developments provide adequate opportunities for low and very-low income housing. I sponsored the item for Berkeley to put one million dollars a year into affordable housing. I am a strong supporter of increasing the housing stock in the Bay Area and across the state, but I believe we can find creative ways on the state level to incentivize development that encourages housing growth for working families. In Berkeley, the requirement for affordability in condominium projects looks good on paper, but working families continue to find it difficult to afford the "affordable units." I worked on and supported the in-lieu development fee that allows developers to pay a fee toward real affordable housing.**
- How will you ensure an open and transparent approvals process that includes assessments of the social and economic impacts of development?

At the local and regional levels, I have advocated and appointed residents who support an open and inclusive approval process. Whether it is in housing or community development, I believe that projects must be sustainable economically, and environmentally. I have followed the development of the comprehensive strategy to create real jobs for residents through the "Putting Oakland to Work" initiative. I love the focus on job creation, which includes responsible contractor and living wage laws. Even more important is the focus on creating jobs with higher labor standards and local hiring. I have initiated discussion of local hire policy. I have actively encouraged seniors, students, and the disabled community to get active in advocating for affordable housing. I have also encouraged developers and neighborhood leaders to work together in the early stages of a land use project, and we have actually had cases where the neighborhood association supported projects because they contained mitigations that grew out of those discussions.

- Do you support *Community Impact Reports* that describe project impacts on communities, small businesses, and local jobs?

I think *Community Impact Reports* are a great idea! Too many times local land use decisions are battles between no-growth advocates and profit-seeking promoters mostly concerned with making money. It is long overdue that we create structures within our decision-making processes that allow us to assess community impacts as well as private benefits or detriments. This should become part of our General Plan and Zoning Ordinances in many cities. At some point it could become standard in state law like environmental impact reports.

20. When government approves franchises or awards contracts to private corporations, what rights should be protected for workers and what benefits should be returned to the public? In the example of cable tv franchises should the franchisee be required to recognize workers' right to organize through card check? **YES!** The example of cable TV companies is especially important because it is one where a private corporation is granted an almost-exclusive monopoly on a particular service. When the state grants *any* contracts, it should ensure that the workers affected under that contract are receiving the benefits of state employees, including fair wages, benefits, and the ability to organize without intimidation. I worked with the CWA to get the City Council to support several measures to increase accountability of these utility companies. (This is one recent example of how well I have learned to persuade others to vote for things they don't necessarily like or understand, by addressing their questions one on one, introducing the elected official to effective advocates, and changing some Council members minds to get a unanimous pro-labor vote.)

21. *Project Stabilization Agreements, also known as PLAs*, assure labor peace, local employment, and better quality in public works projects. PLAs join contractors, subcontractors, builders and developers together with unions to negotiate an agreement for the life of the project.

- Wage rates, work rules and working conditions are specified under a PLA.
- Over the past 60 years, PLA's have brought projects like the Hoover Dam, the San Diego Water Authority and the San Francisco Airport in on time and on budget, while investing in a skilled, productive, locally-based workforce.
- The Port of Oakland Social Justice PLA is successfully bringing community residents into living wage construction jobs.

Would you work to ensure that PLAs are commonly used for public construction projects? Why or why not?

**YES! As I have seen in my experience on the City Council and as a member of dozens of Alameda County agencies, projects benefit most when all stakeholders are at the table. Project Labor Agreements are a powerful tool and should proliferate. I initiated discussion of a Project Labor Agreement for the 45 million dollar City Hall retrofit project but was unable to get the City Council to override the City Manager's absolute opposition.**

## **Tax Policy and Essential Services**

22. **Big-box retailers like Wal-Mart pay minimal wages and deny benefits to more than 60 percent of their employees. They are passing the costs of health care on to public health systems. At the same time, many cities offer tax/fee breaks to new stores to compete for sales tax revenue. Describe the actions you would take to promote good jobs with benefits.**

**I support legislation requiring companies which take tax breaks to create a sizeable number of secure, well-paying jobs and to provide substantial warning of relocation. I support sunset dates and required legislative review of all special tax preferences, with renewal tied to the entire budget process, which would ensure that Republican minorities can't force these through without a two-thirds majority.**

23. **Working people, students, seniors and low-income communities rely on public transportation for access to education, medical care and work opportunities. What are your transit priorities and how would you meet them?**

**I have been a leader in efforts to meet transit needs. I actively encouraged students to start the Class Pass against UC management's opposition. I wrote the proposal to start the Eco-Pass for city employees, against the management opposition. I worked with a coalition to get an employee pass for UC employees. In every successful establishment of the program, we have seen a remarkable shift in workers that take public transit and increased support from management. As a member of the San Pablo Policy Area Committee, I worked on the creation of the San Pablo Rapid Bus. I advocated for expanding the area covered to include Contra Costa County. As a member of the A.C. Transit Berkeley, Oakland, San Leandro Policy Area Committee, I helped create the Rapid Bus and am still trying to get an ecological and economical BRT system implemented. At the Plans and Programs Committee for several years, and at the Planning Area Committee, I have been a vigorous and successful advocate for increased transit funding.**

**At the state level, I already lobbied strenuously against the Governor's transit cuts, and testified at the Assembly Committee hearing against them. I will continue to fight for Transit-Oriented Development incentives that support transit with more riders. I will prioritize dedicated revenue streams for transit operational and maintenance funds.**

**I support pricing as a tool to fund and encourage transit use. I prefer not to call it a "disincentive to driving" but rather a way for vehicles to pay for some of the congestion and pollution they cause. I would change the name of the gas tax to a "Petroleum Pollution fee" or a "Greenhouse Gas fee". Convincing employers to fund Eco-passes for their own employees is one effective mechanism, which reduces parking needed, and increases worker job satisfaction.**

Creating transit alternatives is top priority but I will continue to work to ameliorate the commute delays as well. Insufficient transit, goods movement, and freeway congestion are interrelated problems and need to be addressed simultaneously. Finding ways to get more money to support the Port of Oakland has to be another priority as well, since goods mobility affects transit as well as many businesses and many cities' economies. SB 974 is a valuable tool to help get funds to address the safety of the truck drivers, the neighborhood, and the ports themselves. I will fight to prioritize transit on the state level just like I have on the local level. While I work very hard to get transit funding, I am also willing to speak up to transit board members to demand worker protections within their contracts, and within how they treat their own employees. I have strenuously opposed a transit board member blaming problems on the union, which staff and management both assured me were operational problems not caused by the union or employees.

24. Prop 13's cap on property taxes gives an advantage to commercial property owners over individual homeowners because commercial properties often turn over less frequently. Do you support a split roll for commercial property to alleviate the burden on individual taxpayers?

**YES, I have actively supported split roll on the state level. All of the owners of a company can change, and still a reassessment may not kick in, as long as they space out the change over time. This is unfair to homeowners who are paying a higher share of the burden. As more and more residential property changed hands during the housing boom, the inequity became bigger. I have also worked to convince the City to use its limited power to shift some of the burden when local rates are periodically renewed. At the Federal level FICA should be paid on dramatically higher levels of all income.**

25. In a difficult budget year, how would you prioritize raising taxes and cutting public services?

**I would certainly support raising taxes to fund public services. The giant federal tax cuts have created a situation where the wealthiest are paying far less of the tax burden. If California could close tax loopholes such as those identified by the California Budget Project and the Legislative Analyst Office, we would have a much more stable budget. The most fundamental budget reform needs to be to change the two-thirds requirement. Even with a Democratic Governor, the two-thirds is a giant barrier. We were successful at reducing the threshold on school ballot measures so we should actively work to lower it for the whole budget. Even if we only lowered it to 55% or 60%, it would be a dramatic improvement. Within the existing constraints, there are still ways to increase fees while making sure that they are tied to fund specific public services. Not only have I voted for tax and bond ballot measures at the city, regional and state levels, but I have often taken a lead role in the campaigns, including fundraising, campaign strategizing, and volunteer recruitment. My commitment to sufficient funding for public services will continue as a State Assemblymember.**

## Health Care

26. What are short and long-term solutions to the health care crisis? Did you support Prop 72 (2004 health care initiative) or any recent legislation? If you did, how did you support it?

**Californians deserve universal access to high quality reasonably priced health care. Single Payer is the best tool to accomplish that goal. While we increase educational efforts to move California and the nation in that direction, we need to make incremental**

improvements along the way. Health insurance should be employer-paid and provide full coverage. I participated in the educational programs with BOCA, and leafleted Sicko showings.

27. Will you consult with the union before contracting out workers compensation carriers?  
Yes, I would only support a company acceptable to the union.

## Principles

28. Have you ever crossed a picket line?  
I have never crossed a union picket line. And I could not conceive of ever doing so.
29. What steps would you take to support a boycott, when sanctioned by the Central Labor Council, California Labor Federation or AFL-CIO? Will your campaign refuse to use restaurants, hotels, or other public accommodations on the boycott list (available at [www.calaborfed.org](http://www.calaborfed.org))?  
Yes, I would continue to avoid giving any business to any business on the boycott list, including hotels and restaurants and that includes personally, professionally and of course it includes my campaign. In addition to my own support for boycotts I have actively worked to gain the official support of the City of Berkeley and of various elected officials and community leaders for multiple boycotts, most notably the Berkley Honda, Claremont, Radisson, Woodfin, and UFW boycotts. I have also publicized the boycott list to students, elected officials and the broader community.
30. If endorsed, will you carry the union endorsement on your mail and materials?  
YES, I would be honored and delighted to list this endorsement.
31. Will you consult prior to making appointments to boards and commissions and filling vacated seats?  
I think the Legislature's opportunity to consider the qualifications of appointments is a very important part of the balance of powers with the Governor as well as with legislative leaders. I would certainly eagerly welcome consultation with unions and other community organizations to gain advice and information on the track records of prospective appointments. And I would seek out union representatives to be appointed themselves so there is a voice at the table who really understands our issues.

### **SIGNATURE**

*I attest that these answers represent my actions and beliefs, are now part of my public record, and may be used by the Council to keep union members informed about important issues.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*If completed electronically, please provide us with a signed copy via fax or at your interview.*