

Questionnaire for Candidates for Berkeley City Council

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot:
Eric Panzer
2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number)
Berkeley City Council District 4
3. What is your current occupation or elected office?
Environmental analyst
4. Are you the incumbent? Yes No
5. How long have you resided in this district and city?
I have lived in Berkeley for seven years and in District 4 for five years

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:	Eric Panzer for Berkeley City Council District 4 2010
Address:	2110 Haste St. #413
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OUR ISSUES (18-35 year olds)

Please answer the first four questions in 250 words or less

1. Public transit is very important to students and our members. Recently, the City of Berkeley has faced numerous debates over expanding BRT. Did you support Measure KK in 2008, and did you support AC Transit's efforts to expand BRT to Berkeley? If you support BRT, what would you do to ensure BRT moves forward in Berkeley in the future? If you don't support BRT, please explain why not.

I vehemently opposed measure KK and actively campaigned against it. I strongly supported AC Transit's efforts to bring BRT to Berkeley and spoke before the Berkeley City Council in support of BRT. To ensure BRT moves forward in the future, I would vote in support of full-build options along Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. Though Berkeley has, unfortunately, likely lost out on its chance to have BRT in the foreseeable future, I would nonetheless pursue every legal and funding option to make BRT once again possible in Berkeley. If necessary, I would pursue the greatest possible transit improvements in lieu of BRT, including: signal priority, PoP systems, bus stop bulb-outs, queue jump lanes, and rear-door boarding.

2. What is your position on the downtown plan (Measure R) on the November ballot?

I strongly favor Measure R. Measure R will help bring needed jobs and homes to Downtown Berkeley. These new workers and residents will meet their daily needs on foot, and will generate revenue for our local stores and tax dollars for our city. Measure R will provide new housing that will be especially appealing to students, young professionals, and new families. Measure R encourages the green growth we want and need, deals creatively with recent judicial decisions, and responds flexibly to present economic circumstances. For projects that help Berkeley achieve its environmental and affordability goals, Measure R's Green Pathway will expedite Berkeley's Kafkaesque approval process. If we are going to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we must have more people living closer to transit and where they work, and Measure R will help make this possible.

3. What are your positions cannabis tax (Measure S) and cannabis collectives (Measure T) on the November ballot?

I favor both Measure S and Measure T. These propositions are common-sense regulation and taxation of a commodity with legal medical uses, and potentially legal recreational uses.

4. What are your top three priorities if you are elected to the City Council?

My top three priorities are to: strongly encourage economic and housing development in the downtown and Berkeley at large; help Berkeley meet its environmental and climate goals through transit improvements, green building, and waste reduction; and enhance our public spaces by improving safety, comfort, and cleanliness.

5. Young adults and students are facing a terrible job market. What would you do as a city councilmember to fight for sustainable and well-paying jobs for all of Berkeley's residents, but especially young people?

To create sustainable and well-paying jobs in Berkeley, I would work to streamline the permitting process for small business, create new opportunities for R&D and green industry in West Berkeley, and encourage the provision of Class A office space in the downtown. Every year, Berkeley loses valuable talent to cities like San Francisco, Emeryville, and San Jose. I believe that artists, craftspeople, research, and green industry all have roles to play in the future of Berkeley. In the age of the computer, we shouldn't be holding out for a typewriter factory; Berkeley must do more to attract employers at the forefront of research and industry.

6. Have you collaborated with young adults in your community work in the past (list specific examples)? How are young adults involved in your campaign? How will you continue to involve young activists in your work after you are elected? Please be specific.

Being a young adult myself, nearly all of the community work I have done has been with fellow young people. I was an active member of Cal Dems and greatly enjoyed my time in the positions of publicity director and Smart Ass graphics editor. My work on the Dean, Kerry, Obama, and No On 8 campaigns was alongside my peers. I want to represent the true progressive values of our generation and I eagerly anticipate young adults taking a star role in my campaign. After I am elected, I will involve young people in the functions of my office and by appointing them to commissions. As a council member I will be a young, progressive advocate for the housing, jobs, and transit improvements we want here in Berkeley.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Please describe in detail at least three of your accomplishments that have improved the lives of young adults. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities that apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

Having not previously held public office, I feel that my greatest direct contributions to the lives of young people came from my involvement in the Cal Queer community. I acted as a facilitator for a group that provided a safe and friendly space for queer students to ingenuously converse and socialize. I feel that my involvement in other campus groups such as CalDems and the Student Coalition for Marriage Equality had a subtle, though nonetheless positive impact on my peers. In office I would seek to expand well beyond this to directly improve the livelihoods of young people in Berkeley by working for: more and better local job opportunities; less expensive and higher quality housing; safer, cleaner streets and public spaces; and a transit system that affords the environmentally conscious mobility our generation desires.

EXPERIENCE

Please list or describe your current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life. Please explain how your experience would make you an effective advocate for young adults as an office holder. You may attach a resume and/or a list of endorsers here.

The skills and knowledge that would make me an effective council member come from a very wide variety of sources. I feel that my education in environmental science and city planning at Cal has equipped me with both extensive policy knowledge and a pragmatic, empirical approach to problem solving. It was serving as a policy advisor to Jason Overman and academic research on the Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee that first got me involved with Berkeley civic issues.

Also at Cal, my positions as Cal Dems publicity director and graphics editor for the Smart Ass (2005, 2006) injected me into the political scene, and honed the organizational and communication abilities I will use on the council. My role as a facilitator in the Cal queer community (2006-2007) further refined my leadership and interpersonal skills.

I've held a wide variety of jobs that have taught me many different things, including:

- precision (biomedical research assistant, 2003)
- fortitude (kitchen worker, 2004)
- patience and friendly service (sales associate, 2005)
- diligence and attention to detail (underwriters' assistant, 2006)

I bring all of these qualities to the table and they will allow me to navigate the complex and fractious politics of Berkeley. Since graduating in 2007, I have been working as a GIS analyst at a Berkeley-based environmental consulting firm. My work with clients and colleagues has further taught me how to take and give direction, as well as effectively collaborate to solve problems, complete projects, and create high quality products. It is this productive approach and team-player mentality that I will bring to the council.

Regarding civic and political issues, I have involved myself with numerous campaigns and local efforts. I volunteered for the the Dean, Kerry, Obama, and No On 8 campaigns, among others. I participated in several Berkeley elections and local issues, such as: the 2008 District 4 race; the effort to stop measure KK; the push to approve the Berkeley Trader Joe's project; the downtown plan and the subsequent effort to resist its rescindment; and, most recently, the effort to bring BRT to Berkeley. All of these efforts have given me insight into both Berkeley and at-large politics and policy. I will build upon these experiences to advocate sound, progressive policies for young people in Berkeley.

I am proud and deeply honored to be endorsed by these individuals:

Name	Title
Tom Bates	Berkeley Mayor
Laurie Capitelli	Berkeley City Council Member District 5
Darryl Moore	Berkeley City Council Member
Susan Wengraf	Berkeley City Council Member
Gordon Wozniak	Berkeley City Council – District 8
Fred Collignon	Professor Emeritus, U.C. Berkeley Dept of City & Regional Planning
George Beier	President, Willard Neighborhood Assn, Co-President, Berkeley Democratic Club
Reuben Duarte	Waterfront Commissioner, Executive Board Member for East Bay Young Democrats
Charlie Trung Nguyen	Former Lead Facilitator Cal Queer & Asian; Former Publicity Manager UC Berkeley Queer Alliance and UC Berkeley Gender Equity Center
Ljuba Miljkovic	Former UC Berkeley International Queer Community Facilitator
Jed Duersch	No On 8 Campaign Trainer/Coordinator; UC Berkeley Physics/Math Graduate School Instructor/Researcher; Former Pacific Pride Foundation Youth Outreach Coordinator
Jesse Dill	UC Berkeley Biophysics Doctoral Candidate
Kyle Youngblom	Berkeley City College student and Berkeley resident
William Sabranski	District 4 Neighbor
Adam Grimaldi	District 4 Neighbor
Robert Lawson	Former Office Manager for UC Berkeley Queer Resource Center
Megan Keever	Botanist and Plant Ecologist
James Cook	Social Coordinator for UC Berkeley Computer Science Graduate Student Association; District 4 Neighbor, Milvia-Delaware Neighborhood