

Questionnaire for Candidates for Oakland City Council

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot: Jason Gillen
2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): Oakland City Council District 4
3. What is your current occupation or elected office? Financial Consultant
4. Are you the incumbent? Yes **No X**
5. How long have you resided in this district and city? 3 Years

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:	Jason Gillen for Council 2010
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OUR ISSUES (18-35 year olds)

Please answer the first six questions in 250 words or less

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

My top three priorities include Reviewing and changing Oakland's budget and the process of implementation, Increasing public safety and Creating job and economic development in our district and Oakland as a whole.

2. Oakland is facing a tremendous budget crisis. This July the City Council voted to lay off some police officers to address the budget crisis. What was or would have been your position on this issue as a city council member, and what other measures do you think the city can and should take to deal with the massive budget deficit?

I am against the laying off the police officers as an answer to the financial crisis in Oakland, as I believe there needs to be a substantial review and revision of the way funds are spent by this city. The pension process and funding will bankrupt this city at the current rate that it is going. If contract negotiations and solutions are not agreed upon, the city will continue to have the same issues with finances resulting in more police layoffs. The city should look at non-essential services and labor expenses as this is a crucial time for Oakland. Each city council person should review and revise all of the budget related items to better serve their constituents.

3. What are your positions on the parcel tax (Measure X) and the police staffing requirements (Measure Y) on the November ballot?

I am against the parcel tax (Measure X), as I believe that the government cannot keep taxing the residents and property owners to fund their miscalculations and misrepresentations.

I am for changing the police staffing requirements (Measure Y), as I believe that the taxes go to fund many positive programs for Oakland.

4. 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 Oakland's residents, but especially young people?

As I have also had to deal with the unstable employment market right now, I would make sure that the city is using every appropriated dollar to fund jobs for Oaklanders, especially the youth of our city. I believe that employing young people and teaching them life lessons about responsibility and accountability are vital to the growth of our city.

5. Violence has plagued the city of Oakland for too long. Too often the victims and perpetrators of crime are young people, and the crime prevention efforts do not address the root causes of violence in our community. What steps would you take to increase public safety throughout Oakland?

It is very important to support and assist the positive and diverse crime prevention and youth programs in Oakland. This includes non-profits and our parks and recreation programs. We must also work closely with the Oakland Unified School District to analyze and create programs that will keep our young people engaged in these programs.

6. Oakland has a Transit First policy. What would you do implement this policy and encourage transit, bicycling, and walking for city residents? What would you do to decrease car usage and increase alternative transit use by city employees?

I think that taking non-essential city vehicles off the road would be the first way to promote a Transit First policy. I believe that providing assistance or incentives for public employees to use public transit would also be a move in the right direction. I would also support the installation of bike and pedestrian friendly upgrades in Oakland.

7. 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.

I have worked and volunteered for various organizations working with youth for some time now. I completed an internship with a professional hockey team working with their community development department to promote youth sports in the community. I volunteered to mentor young adults in regards to religious education for high school aged young adults. Lastly, I worked with at risk adolescents and teens in an alternative education and sports program.

I believe that it is important to keep our young adults active in politics and issues that involve them directly. I would work with the various youth groups and design programs to help them cope with any issues that concern them.

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.

1. I worked for a professional hockey team to help them improve the community and blighted areas, by setting up recreational sites to compete in various sporting events and competitions. I believe that sports at every level can improve young peoples' self-esteem and can provide positive reinforcement in their lives.
2. Working with high school aged young adults to better understand how religion can play a role in their lives, and provide a positive place for them to share their thoughts and feelings was very important to me. They were encouraged by their parents to take part in their religion, but I tried to also make it a fun, positive experience at the same time.
3. I worked with at risk youth in an alternative program to help them better their lives and make better choices. These were all young men from very unstable situations that I was able to help improve their decision making process and helping them to understand the consequences of bad choices in their lives. I believe that we should give young adults another chance if they have made some bad decisions, but it is also important for them to understand the consequences of choosing to do illegal or dangerous things.

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.

I come from a family that moved around a lot when I was younger, but now I have been married for 5 years and have an energetic 2 ½ year old son. My family is very important to me and I believe that it is important for the District 4 residents to have a City Council representative that understands how to balance work, family and everything else in life.

I have live in Oakland for 3 years and I have live various places prior to this city. I believe that looking from outside the situation can give you a better perspective on issues and how to deal with them.

I have been involved with several neighborhood crime prevention councils and believe that these councils are important to Oakland right now. As we move towards a community based crime prevention time in this city, neighbors need to know and support each other. It is important for the city to keep these types of organizations informed and prepared for their safety.

I have worked in the finance industry for 11 years now. I have experience in budgeting, accounting, collections and loan consulting. I have worked on various campaigns and volunteered for several elected officials throughout the bay area as well. I also have a BS in Sports Management from Georgia Southern University.