

# Questionnaire for Candidates for Oakland Mayor

## BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot: [Jean Quan](#)
2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number)  
[Mayor of Oakland](#)
3. What is your current occupation or elected office?  
[Two –term City Council Member representing District 4 \(Allendale, Crestmont, Dimond, Laurel, Maxwell Park, Melrose, Montclair, Oakmore neighborhoods\)](#)
4. Are you the incumbent?                      Yes                      No  (not for Mayor)
5. How long have you resided in this district and city? [30 plus years](#)

## CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:	<a href="#">Jean Quan for Oakland Mayor 2010</a>
Address:	<a href="#">3237 Grand Avenue</a>
City, State, Zip:	<a href="#">Oakland, CA 94610</a>
Name of staff contact:	<a href="#">Sue Piper</a>
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FPPC#	<a href="#">#1320283</a>

## OUR ISSUES (18-35 year olds)

Please answer the first six questions in 250 words or less

1. 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 Mayor, and what other measures do you think the city can and should take to deal with the massive budget deficit?

Oakland is required to submit a balanced budget; the budget passed cut roughly 15% of the budget. After 3 years of recession and deep cuts, this is the first time the police were asked to make cuts commensurate with other services. We would have avoided layoffs if the police union paid their employee's share (9%). Police are now 48% of the general fund budget; together with fire safety employees now take up 74%. The current police pension where officers can retire at age 50 with \$100K pensions is not sustainable. Even if we cut all other services – libraries, parks, senior programs, public works, after school programs, etc – we cannot balance the budget without reigning in police costs/pensions. While some Mayoral candidates say they would not cut police, they have not provided a real alternative budget.

How to handle the budget?

- Pass 3 of the 4 budget measures on the fall ballot. The Cannabis Tax will provide a new revenue stream, the Measure BB fix will reduce the need to layoff additional police and will continue successful crime reduction measures, and Measure W is a temporary telephone tax that will allow us to save services during the recession.
  - Work on long term structural deficits: police pensions, Raiders Deal
  - Increase revenues by focusing on retail leakage to increase sales taxes lost to other cities; aggressive business attraction
  - Reorganize to reduce administrative costs, explore shared facilities with other agencies
2. What are your positions on the parcel tax (Measure X) and the police staffing requirements (Measure Y) on the November ballot?

**Measure X**—I reluctantly supported putting Measure X on the ballot at request of the Oakland Police Officers Association because I thought the voters should have a chance to voice their position. I said at the time that I did not believe it would pass and that the OPOA must pay its share of their pension. As Chair of the City's Finance Committee, I started working on addressing unfunded liabilities of the police pensions several years ago.

**Measure BB (Measure Y fix)**—As co-author of the original Measure Y, I support Measure BB. It will bring back the 63 neighborhood problem solving officers that are critical to a strong community policing program, and will sustain the important violence prevention programs that are already making a difference among our most at risk youth and families.

3. What are your top three priorities if you are elected Mayor?

- Sustaining and strengthening Community Policing
  - Education, job training and youth opportunities
  - Economic Development: workforce housing, supporting Oakland as a leader in green jobs
4. Oakland's unemployment rate is 17.7 percent, almost double the national rate. Young adults and students face an especially hard time finding work in this economy. What will you do as Mayor to create sustainable and well-paying jobs for all Oaklanders, but especially for young adults? The San Francisco Chronicle recently reported on problems with the city's Workforce Investment Board and the Private Industry Council. What would you do to address these issues and ensure the city is appropriately securing and spending workforce development funds?

As a national School Board leader I helped institute many successful School to Career Academy and Internship Programs, job development is an area that I will personally become involved in:

- Lead the development of new green jobs in Oakland. Build on the Apollo Alliance, Cyprus Mandela, and other efforts in the new energy economy.
- Set and enforce strong local hire, first source, job training and apprenticeship goals on government and redevelopment projects and monitor them closely. There may be billions spent on economic and housing infrastructure in Oakland over the next decade, and this is a unique opportunity to ensure good jobs for young people in this city. This is particularly critical for the formerly incarcerated.
- Use city powers to invest in industries that provide family-sustaining wages and fair labor practices.
- Actively market our strengths as city -- the center of the Bay Area, our cheaper office space, thriving gourmet boom and strongest economic clusters with expansion opportunities in the fields of health care, commercial services, retail, food, high-tech, air transportation, food processing, entertainment and tourism -- for local investment.
- Help our schools and coordinate job training. Even with "local hire" set asides, our kids won't get these jobs if they don't meet the minimum standards:
  - We must organize government, business and community resources to raise school standards, attendance and graduation rates; re-establish an Education Cabinet.
  - We must expand our career academies and pathways in high school and community college including increasing internships in local businesses.
  - Grow our own" police, fire, and City staff. One third of City employees are boomers near retirement, and we can work with OUSD and Peralta Colleges to recruit, train and link student internships to future jobs. In particular, recruit Oaklanders to join our police and fire departments; about 80% of our public safety staff do not live in Oakland.
- Support our small businesses. 60-80% of jobs are created by small local

businesses. Support and expand Business Improvement Districts throughout the city. Continue façade improvement grants, and restore business district walking officers. Monitor and improve our One-Stop business services by streamlining our planning and building procedures for business owners.

- Continue the changes in the WIB program that are underway and improve the accountability standards, too few graduates/clients are getting jobs.
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?
- I really do believe in the approach of “jobs not jails” – so the issues in #4 get to the root of many crimes.
  - Expand the Violence Prevention programs that Measure Y funds to address family violence, child abuse, and sexual exploitation are critical to breaking the cycles of violence as are the street workers that reach out to youth on the street.
  - Implement & strengthen community-based policing in every neighborhood to build stronger city-neighborhood partnerships and accountability on the ground. This means restoring beat/problem solving officers and expanding geographic accountability for policing at every level. Putting more officers on the street, including the Batts proposal to have every officer walk at least 30 minutes/day and have one neighborhood base “problem” to work on.
  - Work with all *Neighborhood Service Coordinators & Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils* to create strong communities that look out for each other block by block.
  - Focus on the most under-resourced neighborhoods to work with *youth organizations service providers & city residents* to support young people and re-entry populations to get the resources they need to access quality education and meaningful employment.
  - Increase *CORE disaster preparedness training*, funding for *seismic retrofitting*, city-wide *resources* and organizing to prepare for earthquakes, fires and emergencies
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?
- Oakland had done a reasonably good job in trying to pioneer “transit oriented” or “smart growth” development along transit corridors & BART transit villages. I helped expand the priority areas at ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) for funding. The Bike Plan is moving slowly but steadily and hopefully we can get stimulus funds to improve the pace. I have worked on streetscape and Safe Routes to School Grants to improve walkability. I will work to continue to make these a priority.
  - I will be supporting the effort to provide free AC Passes to Oakland students.

- We have nearly cut the City car fleet in half, increased the usage of carpools, and have one of highest numbers of alternative fuel vehicles. We also have experimented with having a CarShare account available to City Hall employees.
  - We haven't done as good of a job with our own employees. Ironically through the budget cuts we have eliminated most free employee parking in the transit rich downtown garages. We are trying to get AC Transit to give us a "group rate" for passes but their position is that we would have to provide them for all employees, not feasible at this time. I would like to continue to negotiate this issue
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 am a founder of Asian American studies at Berkeley. We invented "service learning"—involvement in the community and social organizing as part of our education. Many of the agencies in Oakland today grew out of those student projects.—OASES, Asian Health Services, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, Asian Mental Health, Oakland Asian Cultural Center, etc.
  - As a School Board member I specifically worked with Student Assemblies (Home room rep councils) and All City Council (citywide representatives from middle schools and high schools) on major policy issues. These issues included budget cut discussions, teen pregnancy programs, truancy, school violence and graduation standards.
  - I have always hosted interns in my office and specifically fought for and championed internships.
  - We ran our Youth Street Summer program to teach about 16 Oakland youth about grassroots political organizing as part of our campaign.

### **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.

**Jobs Through Jean-**In 2008, when 18 young men were hanging out on MacArthur Blvd in the Laurel and harassing seniors during the day, I assigned one staff person from my Council Office to work with them during his regular weekly office hours in that neighborhood. We took over "their corner" with a card table and recruiters from Laney College and UPS to help them find jobs. They laughed, but then accepted his invitation to meet at a local Internet café where he and neighborhood volunteers helped them apply for jobs on line. Along the way, we showed the direct relationship between completing high school, getting their juvenile police records expunged and landing a job. Over the course of 8 months, we helped 15 of the 18 go back to school or enroll in a job training program. And crime dropped in the neighborhood. I could have asked the beat officers to move them off the street, but they would have found another corner to hang out on. Instead, I

changed the priority of my staff to focus on this for little additional money but with very positive results.

**Internships**—I am a great believer in internships. As a School Board member I lobbied the City to fund the Career Academies and internships back in the 1990s. As a Council Member, I've ensured that funding for internships remains a part of the City's budget, and have tried to build internships into city initiatives. My Council office has sponsored one to two interns every summer up until this year's campaign season. During that time, the students—primarily high school sophomores or juniors—have been given real responsibilities, not just glorified clerical work. Typically, they organize our office coverage of more than 100 National Night Out events as well as complete a research project and gain experience in constituent services. One of our interns, Alice Tam, continues to volunteer with our office six years after her internship. She's now a senior at UC Berkeley.

**Co-Author of Measure Y**—I strongly believe that when we give our youth hope, crime will decrease. I built into Measure Y funding for support programs for our most at risk youth and families that have truly made a difference in young people's lives. Of the over 300 individual served by the Re-Entry employment programs in the first 9 months of FY 2009-10 program year 113 obtained employment and 94 retained employment for at least 30 days. During the same period, street outreach workers placed 41 individuals in Jobs. Nearly all eligible Oakland youth exiting Juvenile Hall were re-enrolled in an OUSD school or education program. The average re-enrollment time shrunk from over a week to just over one day.

## **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 have dedicated most of my life to improving and defending Public Education and our city's youth because as a daughter of a poor immigrant family I was able to go to great schools and a great university and today I am running for Mayor. I love this city and want to make sure it is a "City of Dreams" for our future generations.

**BIO ATTACHED**