

Questionnaire for Candidates for Berkeley City Council

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot: **Kriss Worthington**
2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number) **Berkeley City Council, District 7**
3. What is your current occupation or elected office? **Berkeley City Council member**
4. Are you the incumbent? **Yes**
5. How long have you resided in this district and city? **About 21 years**

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:	Kriss Worthington for City Council 2010
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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.

The Sierra Club supports BRT, and they support me too. Let's be real. For a District 7 candidate to support BRT, AS PROPOSED could be political suicide. I'm idealistic, not masochistic. Many residents, businesses, bus-riders and street vendors are opposed. My no vote reflected my constituents, AND my own longtime advocacy of considering alternatives, including a rush hour dedicated lane, a curbside BRT, and Rapid-Bus-Plus. I am committed to moving forward a free eco-pass for all employees of businesses (including UC) on the corridor; consideration of an eco-pass for area residents; greener buses, and multi-modal corridor connectivity such as linking the Telegraph Rapid Bus to the San Pablo Rapid Bus, the Amtrak station and possibly the new Ferry service at the marina. I opposed Measure KK, which might have killed my decades of advocacy and funding for a creek restoration/pedestrian promenade connecting campus and BART. No District 7 candidate has supported losing both two lanes of traffic and parking too. The Sierra Club is not schizophrenic in supporting both BRT and me. They are simply acknowledging that I am outstanding at getting funds for public transit and virtually all environmental issues. As an everyday bike-rider and bus-rider myself, I have served effectively on numerous regional transportation committees and fought very hard for public transit and bicycle and pedestrian improvements. I hope you can reach a similar decision that our policy differences are outweighed by my decades of passionate work repeatedly reaching out and successfully getting hundreds of young people involved.

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

Berkeley deserves a progressive Downtown Plan that includes real affordable housing for the poor, disabled and seniors, workforce housing for families and young adults, transit improvements, and stronger labor and environmental standards. Unfortunately there is no actual plan on this ballot. Measure R is a plan to have a plan, someday. It is one more needless delay after years of needless delay.

I am focused less on building heights and more on affordability. I have successfully fought for hundreds of beds of student housing, and am still fighting for more. I proposed and won millions of dollars for affordable housing. I opposed a project with 7 affordable units out of 97. When it returned with 97 affordable units I became its activist champion. These are the kinds of issues I focus on.

The proposed labor standard would apply to few, if any buildings. Lowest common denominator may be good enough in math but it is not good enough for Berkeley. AC Transit sent two letters requesting Downtown transit improvements. I have repeatedly supported making most of those kinds of changes. For decades I have sponsored items for a downtown creek restoration/pedestrian walkway.

I succeeded at getting many progressive amendments in the Climate Action plan and I am preparing to propose progressive amendments when we actually get to this plan. Given all the expenditures and delay of this measure, it would have been better to adopt a consensus plan and have 95% of the policy in place already.

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

I support Measure S, Measure T and state Proposition 19. Taxation and Regulation is the overarching theme that unites current City and State efforts to move forward on this issue. Shortly after state Prop 215 passed, I actively worked to get Berkeley to adopt some implementing policies. The criminalization and incarceration of so many young people, disproportionately poor or people of color, for minor marijuana cases is a horrendous waste of lives and money. I have actively supported medical cannabis collectives and opposed wasting UCPD and BPD resources on going after marijuana cases. This year, I initiated the City Council item to support prop 19. I wrote a Daily Cal op-ed advocating for measures S and T. After Measures S and T win, we still need to persuade the City Council to extend allowed areas to MM and parts of MULI.

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

My top priorities include:

Bringing a PROGRESSIVE perspective to every issue that comes up, and initiating important progressive ordinances, resolutions and policy positions, while ensuring that we consider the real world impact of proposals. The primary policy areas that I initiate include Environment, Labor, Racial diversity, Affordable Housing, Public Safety, Women's issues, Seniors, Disabled, Education, Health and Social Services, Consumer, and Transportation.

Addressing CONSTITUENT SERVICES issues to help individual people and neighborhood groups with their City problems. These include helping residents with permits, crime, parking, traffic, trees, termites, noise, etc. and helping small businesses with permit, parking and landlord problems.

Carrying through on the initiatives we started such as the Violence Prevention and Response Plan; expedited permits for small businesses; pedestrian lighting and new sidewalks for Telegraph; expanding Veterans space and services; expanding Eco-pass to more employers; creating a project labor agreement policy; a strong but reasonable Sunshine Ordinance, continuing efforts to diversify Council appointments of women, people of color, students and young adults; diversify who gets hired and who gets City contracts; Actively supporting our network of nonprofit service providers; supporting the small arts groups and individual artists; a Berkeley detox facility; addressing Health Department funding, management transition, long term capital and operational needs and issues; addressing the confusion and complexity of the zoning process; and multitudes of projects on our work plan.

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?

For many years I have been working hard for sustainable and well paying jobs. When I first proposed that the City of Berkeley hold Economic Development work sessions, one of the specific purposes was to get attention to unemployment in general as well as to specific patterns of unemployment and underemployment by race and age. We succeeded at getting these work sessions approved and had some of the first actual serious discussion about this from a policy perspective in many, many years.

I have supported creation of numerous green manufacturing jobs. These have given many young Berkeley residents their first step to regular living wage jobs. I sponsored Council

items for funding for apprenticeship programs, some of which were focused on young women and some focused on training youth for union jobs.

The University of California is one of the growth segments of new jobs, and I have worked actively to support AGSE and UAW to improve wages and working conditions for graduate student and teaching assistant employees. Recently I attended the Congressional hearing that helped persuade UC to agree to their first contract with employees newly represented by UAW.

I have actively supported the creation of a youth shelter and related job training programs and have watched closely and supportively to see some beautiful success stories.

I have helped individual young people who were mistreated, underpaid, and overworked, to mediate with their employers for better treatment.

I have helped connect many young folks to finding work as an attendant for a disabled person or a senior citizen.

It is not enough to just get people jobs. They need to be sustainable with decent pay and benefits. That is why I work so hard on labor issues. I have worked with every UC employee union and participated in numerous negotiations, lobbying, and picket lines. I also lobby in Sacramento and DC to work for more money for the University so they have the money to pay better, as well as for other grants and programs. While I work with unions a lot, I also understand there are many workers who are not in unions and may never have that opportunity, so I attempt to assist them too, in any ways possible.

I have worked with every union organizing drive that asked for help. I worked closely with the young adults working to organize at the Berkeley Bowl. Also worked on organizing efforts with security workers, janitors, and child care workers, just to name a few.

I was honored to be selected for the Union Hero Award: "in recognition of your incredible efforts to win justice for hotel workers. Your commitment to building a strong union movement for low wage workers is an inspiration to us all".

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.

Young adults have been major influences in my personal, political and professional life. They have been my dearest friends, my peers, my volunteers, and my boss.

As a fourteen year old starting to volunteer and get involved in social and political groups it was primarily college students and other young adults who educated me on what was going on in the world, especially through the peace movement and civil rights movement.

As a college student, I became President of the Student Government Association. I created numerous new work-study jobs doing community organizing and community service. As a non-profit manager for various agencies I have worked closely with thousands of volunteers, and the majority of them were students or young adults.

As a frequent volunteer myself I have seen the good the bad and the ugly of how people treat volunteers so I make extra efforts to make it a mutually beneficial experience.

I have hired numerous young adults as staff people. In nearly all cases they have performed excellently and it made me look good that I brought in new energy and enthusiasm.

While I make a special outreach to attract students to City community service, many of our applicants are anywhere from one to ten years out of school. Sometimes they are hesitant to apply since they are not students, or they are worried about work and family obligations. I reassure them that it is possible to work with us or be a commissioner and still have a family too.

Young adults are currently involved in my campaign as Communications Coordinator, scheduler, BCC coordinator, Students for Kriss coordinator and a variety of volunteers. I have always kept young people involved after the elections. It is one of the passions of my life.

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.

COMMISSIONERS:

My appointees to City Commissions, and the ones I persuade other City Council members to appoint, frequently become the Chair or Vice Chair of their commissions. It is especially gratifying to see people three times their age, who questioned my wisdom (and my sanity) when I first appointed them, to turn around and vote to name the young person their commission leader. This has happened on numerous occasions.

Some of these commissioners later go on to run for elected office or hold important hired posts. Sulaiman Ahmad, Mona Patel, and Howard Chong were elected to the Rent Board. Andy Katz was elected to the EBMUD Board. Tara Kelly was elected to town Council. Darryl Moore my former Public Works Commissioner was elected to City Council. Jesse Arreguin, my former Housing, ZAB, and Downtown commissioner was elected to the Rent Board, and recently became the youngest person on the City Council. Others have been hired in State and Federal offices or to important non-profit positions.

INTERNS:

In conducting a robust intern program through my City Council office, we plan carefully to challenge our interns and give them experiences that will well serve them in the employment market. Our internships are not limited to students, and include other young adults and occasionally senior citizens. We repeatedly expose interns to new technology and new skills. We also teach them about effective research skills, community organizing and coalition building. In recent years we added experience with website installation to our basic skill package. We also teach them to monitor the wide range of activities they experience with us, so we can give them an outstanding recommendation to improve their job or education prospects.

Professional :

When I was hired as Manager for Walnut Street Center, to run a home for mentally retarded young adults, I was told they don't have much potential, so you just have to keep an eye on them to be sure they don't get in trouble. By treating people in a humane way we were able to encourage our 18 to 25 year old clients to participate in job training, friendships and a multi-year love affair.

When I was first hired as Apartment Manager I was told fascinating stories about how things were or were not being managed. In short order, I restructured the maintenance operations, the bookkeeping operations, the workshift operations, and office operations. We responded to serious drug dealing promptly, cleaned up graffiti, and implemented an aggressive recycling program that cut our trash bills by more than fifty percent.

In both of these situations, the success came as much from the young adults as from me. My contribution was reaching out with respect and a supportive attitude and the young adults helped improve their own lives with a bit of encouragement from me.

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 been a passionate advocate for age, gender and racial diversity in each and every job, group and elected office I have held as well as in my own personal life. I will continue to do so for as long as I live. To explain how these experiences make me an effective advocate for young adults as an office holder, I simply point to my long track record of involving more young people than any other City Council member by far, and involving them in important roles such as Chair of the ZAB and PRC and helping get them elected and hired as well.

- **KRISS WORTHINGTON Volunteer experience**
- **National Multiple Sclerosis Society**
- **National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**
- **Student Government President in College, 2 years**
- **NOW Board member**
- **NAACP Board member**
- **East Bay LGBT Democratic Club Board member**
- **Sierra Club NACG Chair, Bay Chapter Secretary**
- **And many more**
- - **Berkeley City Councilmember, 1996 – present**
 - **Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (CMA) 1998-2010– 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 2006-2010**
 - **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) 2004-2010



- **Kriss Worthington Professional Experience**
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.

Kriss Worthington 2010 ENDORSEMENTS

SIERRA CLUB

BWOPA (Black Women Organized for Political Action)

John George Democratic Club

ACT Up East Bay

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

**State Assemblymembers Sandre Swanson & Tom Ammiano,
Assemblymember-to-be Bob Wieckowski
A.C. Board of Supervisors Keith Carson, Nate Miley, Scott Haggerty & Alice
Lai-Bitker, Supervisor-elect Wilma Chan;
Emeryville Mayor Ruth Atkin, Union City Mayor Mark Green,
Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson,
Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin,
San Leandro Mayor Tony Santos, Albany Mayor Joanne Wile,
Piedmont Vice Mayor John Chiang, Fremont Vice Mayor Robert
Wieckowski; Albany City Council *Marge Atkinson and Robert Lieber;
Berkeley City Councilmembers Max Anderson & Jesse Arreguin;
Emeryville City Councilmember Ken Bukowski; Fremont City
Councilmember Bill Harrison; Hayward City Councilmember Olden Henson;
Newark City Councilmember Luis Freitas;
Oakland City Council Desley Brooks, Rebecca Kaplan, Jean Quan & Larry
Reid; Oakland School Board Chris Dobbins
San Leandro City Councilmembers Jim Prola & Joyce Starosciak;
Berkeley Rent Board members Dave Blake, Howard Chong, Katherine Harr,
Judy Shelton, Lisa Stephens, Jesse Townley, Igor Tregub, & Pamela
Webster,
Berkeley School Board Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, *Karen Hemphill, & John
Selawsky,
BART Board members Carole Ward Allen, Thomas Blalock, & Bob Franklin,
A.C. Transit Board members Chris Peeples & Joel Young
EBMUD Board Doug Linney, Peralta Board Linda Handy, William Riley
ASUC/VP Ricardo Gomez;**

Ex Berkeley City Council Ann Chandler, Don Jelinek, Ying Lee

**Ex Rent Board Judy Ann Alberti, Selma Spector
Ex Albany Mayor Robert Cheasty, Ex El Cerrito Mayor Mark Friedman,
Ex Peralta Brd Alona Clifton; Ex EBMUD Stuart Flashman
Ex A.C.Transit Board Matt Williams & Pat Piras**

***Karen Hemphill and Marge Atkinson are DUAL endorsements**

