

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name as it will appear on the ballot:

ELSA ORTIZ

Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number)

AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 3

What is your current occupation or elected office?

Policy Consultant for Senator Darrell Steinberg, President pro Temp, State Senate.

AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 3

Are you the incumbent? Yes (x) No

How long have you resided in this district and city?

In the district: Since 2003

In Oakland: Since 1975

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Elsa Ortiz for AC Transit, Ward 3

Address: 57 Teralynn Court

City, State, Zip: Oakland, CA 94619

Name of staff contact:

Campaign Phone:

Campaign Fax:

Campaign E-mail: eoelsa@gmail.com

FPPC# 1288172

OUR ISSUES (18-35 year olds)

Please answer the first five questions in 250 words or less each.

AC Transit has been mired in conflict with local labor unions recently. What would you do to help settle this labor dispute and deal with the reality of the AC Transit budget? What do you think of the approach AC Transit has taken so far, and would you change anything moving forward?

Our employees are essential members of the AC Transit family; they provide good and professional services, therefore, it is very important to have a healthy relationship between the Board, management and labor. Unfortunately, this relationship was challenged when the Board and management imposed a contract on ATU. As a strong supporter of labor all my professional life, it was a very difficult decision to make. Although, I voted to impose a new contract, I didn't vote to appeal the judge's decision imposing binding arbitration. We lost in court, now we must work on dealing with the budget deficit.

The question of whether AC Transit can survive and sustain itself over the long-term weighs heavily on the hearts and minds of the Board, management and staff; we must set aside the animosity between labor, board and management and work together to ensure that the bus riders of today, and hopefully of tomorrow, will have bus service they can depend on.

Local transit agencies are under intense scrutiny over civil rights issues regarding increased fares and the elimination of routes. For instance, BART lost federal funding for the Oakland Airport Connector because of civil rights issues with the proposed plan. What would you do as a member of the AC Transit board of directors to address civil rights issues?

AC transit codified Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by adopting Policy 551 requiring an analysis of accessibility and quality to key destinations within the district service area to determine whether the quality of service is consistent among different groups and the degree to which transit is responsive to minority needs.

At AC Transit, we take seriously our responsibility to ensure that our service decisions don't result in disparate treatment for our minority group riders; consequently, whenever service changes are

being planned, Environmental Justice issues are analyzed for potential violations. We are very vigilant; we analyze other activities for potential violation of Title VI as well such as the implementation of the Clipper card program and the publication on-time performance results.

What are your top three priorities if you are elected to the AC Transit board?

My number one priority is to solve our current budget deficit that is threatening the very existence of AC Transit. This fiscal year, we have a growing \$17.5 million deficit requiring concrete and immediate solutions. Unlike the federal government, we can't print money or paste over the deficit.

During my time in office, I have worked on improving our on-time performance in order to have a reliable and efficient bus service. If re-elected, I will continue to push the District to improve our rider experience.

I will continue to seek additional funding. I am the only candidate in this race who has personal and professional relationships with those who make funding decisions in Sacramento and Washington D.C.

The City of Berkeley recently rejected any plans for BRT. How do you envision the future of BRT for Alameda County? What service model would you support for Berkeley if the city does not approve some version of BRT? What are your priorities for BRT in the short-term and long-term?

The BRT project is facing many challenges. At this point, Oakland and San Leandro are the 2 cities defining the aspect of the project since they have been willing to choose a Locally Preferred Alternative for study in the final EIS/EIR.

I support entering into an Easy Pass program with employers in Berkeley as well as working with the City of Berkeley, businesses and residents to plan the best bus service along Telegraph Avenue.

Short term: continue our efforts to qualify for Small Starts funding. Since BRT can be implemented in segments, having the 2 cities approve the final project will help us to qualify for that particular funding source.

Long Term: I would like to see the BRT project connect as many cities as possible in order to have a real impact in the East Bay: reduction of carbon/greenhouse gas emissions, increase ridership, attract new small businesses along the BRT route, attract people out of cars and onto public transit, etc.

In San Francisco, public transit safety is a growing concern amongst transit riders. What should AC Transit do to ensure their riders feel safe? Are there public safety issues not currently being addressed by AC Transit?

AC Transit has a contract with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office to provide security to our riders. We train our drivers how to handle safety problems that arise in our buses as well as to communicate to our divisions potential hazards while driving.

We have also pursued and received Department of Homeland Security grants to place more safety cameras on the buses as well as technology that allows to know where our buses are at all times.

Expanding our Rider Guide materials to include more about safety on and off the buses is a good way to involve our transit community.

During my time in office, I have worked hard to improve our customer service department to be responsive in a timely manner to calls and emails regarding incidents and problems so that they can be prevented in the future.

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 a one person campaign. I would be delighted to have young adults help me walk precincts.

If re-elected, I will welcome their on-going input to help us with our decisions affecting our riders.

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.

During my time as Chief of Staff to Senator Bill Lockyer, I implemented our intern program for young people in high school or pursuing a higher education degree. They learned the legislative process as well as how to deal with the public.

During my time as a Board member, I strongly supported Rocky Fernandez for President of AC Transit Board, the youngest president ever. I was also very instrumental in having Joel Young appointed to the AC Transit Board of Directors. It is important that those of us, who have

been working in politics or public service for many years, help young people run for office or facilitate their involvement in activities helping the general public.

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 also list endorsements here.

I have 30 years of experience in government and public policy. First, as Chief of Staff and Assistant Attorney General during Bill Lockyer's tenure as a State Senator and as Attorney General. Subsequently, as a policy consultant to former State Senator Don Perata, and now for Senator Darrell Steinberg.

Throughout my professional and political life, I have worked with young adults. This experience have taught me to recognize the importance of helping them to grow personally and professionally. Old timers like me must allow the younger generation to participate in decisions impacting the future of our society.

Endorsements:

Elected Officials:

Hon. Ellen Corbett, State Senator

Hon. Loni Hancock, *State Senator*

Hon. Don Perata, *Former State Senator and Former President of the State Senate*

Hon. Dion S. Aroner, *Former State Assemblywoman*

Hon. Johan Klehs, *Former State Assemblyman*

Hon. Alice Lai-Bitker, *President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors*

Hon. Wilma Chan, *Supervisor-Elect, Alameda County Board of Supervisors*

Hon. Mary King, *Former Board Member, Alameda County Board of Supervisors*

Hon. Sheila Jordan, *Alameda County Superintendent of Schools*

Hon. Gay Plair Cobb, *Former Board Member, Alameda County Board of Education*

Hon. John Russo, *Oakland City Attorney*

Hon. Tony Santos, *Mayor City of San Leandro*

Hon. Frank Matarrese, *Alameda City Council*

Hon. Lena Tam, *Alameda City Council*

Hon. Desley Brooks, *Oakland City Council*

Hon. Ignacio de la Fuente, *Oakland City Council*

Hon. Pat Kernighan, *Oakland City Council*
Hon. Larry Reid, *Oakland City Council*
Hon. Michael Gregory, *San Leandro City Council*
Hon. Jim Prola, *San Leandro City Council*
Hon. Chris Daly, *San Francisco Board of Supervisors*
Hon. Mike McMahon, *Alameda Unified School Board*
Hon. Jeff Davis, *Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District*
Hon. Rocky Fernandez, *Alameda -Contra Costa Transit District*
Hon. Greg Harper, *Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District*
Hon. Chris Peeples, *Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District*
Hon. Joe Wallace, *Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District*
Hon. Joel Young, *Alameda-Contra Costa Transit Director*
Hon. Peter Smith, *Former Board Member, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District*
Hon. Matt Williams, *Former Board Member, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District*
Hon. Robert Bonta, *Alameda Health Care District*
Hon. Bob Sullivan, *Bay Area Rapid Transit District*
Hon. Doug Linney, *East Bay Municipal Utilities District*
Hon. Doug Siden, *East Bay Regional Park District*

Organizations:

Sierra Club
Alameda County Democratic Party
Political Action Committee for Excellence (P.A.C.E.)
Teamsters Joint Council 7

Individuals:

Tony Bruzzone
Judith Briggs- Marsh
Patrick Cashman
Hugh Cavanaugh
Amy Costa
Michael Decker
Susan Decker
Barbara Ellis
Alton Jelks
Elizabeth Jewell
John Knox White
Geoffrey Pete
Rebecca Perata
Rob Platt
Terry Sandoval
Libby Schaff
Greg Schmidt

Jon and Linda Spangler
Penny Stanley
Richard Winnie