

Berkeley Tenants Union & Berkeley Citizen Action 2014 Candidate QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is the first step in seeking an endorsement from BTU and BCA. Thank you for answering all questions and returning this questionnaire to Kimberly, almanzacamille@yahoo.com no later than **Friday, September 12 at 6 PM.**

Candidate Name: Karen Hemphill

Phone number & e-mail: 510-502-6137

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/karencandidate> FaceBook: Karen Hemphill for School Board Campaign Committee: Karen Hemphill for School Board 2014 2822 Wallace Street 94702 Campaign ID# 128789.

School Board

1) Do you support the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance?

Absolutely and especially these days when some landlords would evict just to raise the market rate on a vacated apartment due to the skyrocketing rents in Berkeley.

2) Do you see a nexus between health, housing conditions (habitability) and academic performance? Please explain. Yes. Student learning is impacted by being homeless or underhoused as it is hard to focus on education if one's housing is not secure and/or dealing with health issues including environmentally based health issues, such as asthma and/or exposure to lead paint that is often correlated with housing habitability.

3) Will you work with Berkeley's Rent Board on outreach and education about habitability and tenant's rights, and if so, how? Will support including in family outreach initiatives.

4) How have you or will you advocate for homeless youth? I have been a successful advocate of providing funds beyond what is provided through the McKenney-Vento Act in support of our homeless youth and families. I championed the formation of a homeless taskforce to review and make recommendations on our services to homeless students/families – the taskforce was 100% comprised of families receiving McKenny-Vento Act services. I have continually raised the need to give priority to homeless families with children in providing shelter and more importantly permanent housing within the City's subsidized housing program. In addition, I have advocated for increasing funding for family outreach services as well as programs, such as free/reduced fee BART and AC Transit tickets and was an early supporter for the District's Universal Breakfast program.

5) How does the diversity of the city's school-age children compare with the diversity of the BUSD student population (income, parents educational attainment and race-ethnicity)? What can you do to draw in the students who are not being sent to BUSD schools?

My focus is providing a GREAT education to all of our students and working to ensure that all students have access to a GREAT education. This is what is owed to students who are in our District and if the District provides a GREAT education than students currently not in the District will come. This is already coming to pass as the District's student enrollment is growing; the historical "dip" in enrollment

in our middle school has almost disappeared; and the REALM charter school does not have as many Berkeley resident students as they originally thought they would.

6) What will you do to improve science and technology education as well as art and music education?

Art and music education is embedded in our local tax measure and I will be a strong advocate for the renewal of our school parcel tax in 2016. I also have urged that our art and music program provide a more culturally diverse program, such as electronically produced music, choral, ethnic dance, and curriculum that includes artists from around the globe as well as from the diversity of culture that exists in the United States. In terms of science and technology, I championed increasing the funds allocated for improved/expanded science labs (including the first science lab to be established at our continuation high school – which is currently under construction) and am a strong champion of expanding our career-technical educational options, such as the BioTech Academy; health science; Emergency Medical Technician; and Fire Science programs. I also have been an advocate for improving our secondary school math program – and have seen the results especially in Algebra and Algebra readiness. I also advocated expanding the District’s funding of gardening programs to every elementary and middle school as well as our continuation high school (the District had lost \$2.8 million in federal funds due to reduced number of low income students that could have resulted in the elimination of the program without District funding) and transferring the program from Nutrition Services to Curriculum and Instruction Services so that the gardening program would be included as part of a hands on science curriculum. In general, I believe that our District needs to do more “hands on” science in order to relate academics to the real world as a way of facilitating student interest and understanding of science.

7) And please mark an “x” with your position on the following local ballot measures, and 1-2 sentence(s) explaining your position:

Name of Measure	Support	Oppose	No position	Please explain.
Measure D – Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages	x			I have formally endorsed Measure D and have contributed \$ to the campaign. And I will be coordinating my campaign’s precinct walking and phone banking in support as well.
Measure F - Special Tax Supporting Parks	x			Parks and open space is very important for our children’s well-being.
Measure O - Amendment to the Recall Provisions			x	I am only taking public positions on issues that directly impact the education, health, and well-being of our youth.
Measure P - Eliminate Corporate Personhood			x	I am only taking public positions on issues that directly impact the education, health, and well-being of our youth.
Measure Q - Allowing Workers to Request to Work			x	I am only taking public positions on issues that directly impact the education, health, and well-being of our youth.

Part-Time				
Measure R - Downtown Zoning and Civic Center Historic District			x	I am only taking public positions on issues that directly impact the education, health, and well-being of our youth.
Measure S – City Council District Boundaries			x	I am only taking public positions on issues that directly impact the education, health, and well-being of our youth.

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Candidate Name: Ty Alper

Phone number & e-mail: 510-593-4227; ty@tyalper.org

Website: www.tyalper.org

School Board

- 1) Do you support the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance?

Yes. Not only does a strong ordinance provide critical protections for tenants in Berkeley, but the existence of an elected Rent Board is equally critical in terms of ensuring compliance with the ordinance. As the ordinance has evolved over the years, the Board has been able to focus on its administration and enforcement as only a dedicated, democratically-elected body could do.

- 2) Do you see a nexus between health, housing conditions (habitability) and academic performance? Please explain.

Absolutely. If students are coming to school sick, tired, or traumatized, the quality of the programs inside the four walls of the classroom cannot fulfill their purpose. About half of BUSD's student population comes from tenant households. The purpose of Berkeley's rent control laws – to provide stability and predictability and fairness to the tenant population – is in 100% alignment with the District's goals. We have better schools when students have stability and habitability in their home environments at the end of the day.

- 3) Will you work with Berkeley's Rent Board on outreach and education about habitability and tenant's rights, and if so, how?

Yes. When I was in charge of communications for the Rosa Parks PTA, I worked with the Rent Board to place full-age, bilingual ads in our student directory, which was distributed to the entire Rosa Parks community. This was a good outreach effort, and there is more than we can and should do. We should have Rent Board representatives attend school and community events and provide workshops to inform tenants of their rights. I have a close working relationship with my colleagues at the East Bay Community Law Center and look forward to exploring opportunities for greater education to the BUSD community on these issues.

- 4) How have you or will you advocate for homeless youth?

In my work as a social justice lawyer and law professor who represents indigent clients in the criminal justice system, I have advocated for many homeless clients over the years, many of whom were homeless as children. I also serve on the BUSD Parent Advisory Committee, which advises the District on how to spend funds provided to the District via the new Local Control Funding

Formula. This process provides an opportunity for BUSD to allocate funds directly towards low-income students as well as foster children, and we need to be vigilant about ensuring that those funds are being used to fund programs that work for these children.

- 5) How does the diversity of the city's school-age children compare with the diversity of the BUSD student population (income, parents educational attainment and race-ethnicity)? What can you do to draw in the students who are not being sent to BUSD schools?

The BUSD student population is somewhat more diverse than the city’s school-age population. I am proud of the District’s school-assignment and busing plan, and think that it results in excellent, demographically-similar elementary schools. My vision is that every parent and guardian is able to send their child to a Berkeley public school and know that that child is getting the educational services that he or she needs. There may be religious or other reasons why a parent or guardian may choose not to send a child to a public school, but it should not be because the parent or guardian believes that child’s needs will not be met.

- 6) What will you do to improve science and technology education as well as art and music education?

The first thing with respect to technology is to acknowledge that we do not have an instructional technology vision for the District, and we lag far behind neighboring districts in taking advantage of technology for differentiated instruction, meaningful collection of data, and stimulating engagement for all of our students. That needs to change. We need a vision for how technology can improve instruction, and we need a plan to implement that vision. This is an area in which we could, and should, engage the resources and expertise in the Public Policy School, and Education Department, at U.C. Berkeley, as well as similar resources at other institutions of higher learning in the Bay Area. There are a great deal of exciting developments in this field, and we should be leaders in innovative and productive uses of technology. With respect to art, science and music, it is critical that we renew the BSEP measure in 2016, and that needs to be one of the highest priorities of the next School Board. We should also acknowledge, *and resist*, the impact on these subjects of a high-stakes testing culture that crowds out of the curriculum skills and characteristics that are not easily measured on a standardized test but that we want to develop and nurture in all children.

- 7) And please mark an “x” with your position on the following local ballot measures, and 1-2 sentence(s) explaining your position:

Name of Measure	Support	Oppose	No position	Please explain.
Measure D – Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages	X			This is a reasonable, yet groundbreaking, effort to tax the distribution of one of the largest contributing factors of diabetes, which afflicts one-third of all children. I am also offended by the hundreds of thousands of dollars that Big Soda corporations are pouring into our community in an effort to defeat this challenge to their bottom lines.
Measure F - Special Tax Supporting Parks	X			It is critical that our parks and recreation centers are well maintained and preserved, and this is a reasonable tax to ensure we are

				able to do that.
Measure O - Amendment to the Recall Provisions			X	I am concentrating on the School Board race and taking a public position only on Measures D and F, which relate directly to the youth of this City.
Measure P - Eliminate Corporate Personhood			X	I am concentrating on the School Board race and taking a public position only on Measures D and F, which relate directly to the youth of this City.
Measure Q - Allowing Workers to Request to Work Part-Time			X	I am concentrating on the School Board race and taking a public position only on Measures D and F, which relate directly to the youth of this City.
Measure R - Downtown Zoning and Civic Center Historic District			X	I am concentrating on the School Board race and taking a public position only on Measures D and F, which relate directly to the youth of this City.
Measure S – City Council District Boundaries			X	I am concentrating on the School Board race and taking a public position only on Measures D and F, which relate directly to the youth of this City. (I will add, though, that I think we should have an independent board/commission to draw the District lines.)

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Candidate Name: *Josh Daniels*

Phone number & e-mail: *510-213-VOTE (8683) & Josh@ElectJoshDaniels.com*

Website: *www.ElectJoshDaniels.com*

School Board

1) Do you support the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance?

Yes.

2) Do you see a nexus between health, housing conditions (habitability) and academic performance? Please explain.

Yes. As a Berkeley School Board member, I have worked with the limited powers and influence of a school board member to mitigate the effects of health and habitability on academic performance. For instance, I supported the hiring of a counselor dedicated to supporting "McKinney-Vento" students.

3) Will you work with Berkeley's Rent Board on outreach and education about habitability and tenant's rights, and if so, how?

Yes. I will promote information regarding the Rent Board and the Rent Board's services to constituents during my office hours and during School Board meetings.

4) How have you or will you advocate for homeless youth?

Yes. As I mentioned, I supported the hiring of a counselor dedicated to supporting "McKinney-Vento" students. In addition, before I got on the Board I co-founded the Berkeley High Student Court, an alternative discipline program. As program director for three years, I worked directly with a number of homeless youth and used the Student Court to help them avoid suspension and stay more engaged in school.

5) How does the diversity of the city's school-age children compare with the diversity of the BUSD student population (income, parents educational attainment and race-ethnicity)? What can you do to draw in the students who are not being sent to BUSD schools?

The BUSD student body has a high percentage of students of color and students from low-income families than the city at large. Recently, BUSD has been very successful at drawing in students who in the past have opted not to attend BUSD schools. Part of the reason for this success has been the continued improvement of BUSD school and the improvement in the District's ability to

6) What will you do to improve science and technology education as well as art and music education?

As a Board member, I strongly supported funding for the Superintendent's Super Science Saturdays, and innovated program to introduce elementary school students to science. The program began last year and has received rave reviews.

7) And please mark an "x" with your position on the following local ballot measures, and 1-2 sentence(s) explaining your position:

Name of Measure	Support	Oppose	No position	Please explain.
Measure D – Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages	X			I am the co-chair of the Yes on D campaign.
Measure F - Special Tax Supporting Parks	X			
Measure O - Amendment to the Recall Provisions	X			
Measure P - Eliminate Corporate Personhood	X			
Measure Q - Allowing Workers to Request to Work Part-Time	X			
Measure R - Downtown Zoning and Civic Center Historic District		X		
Measure S – City Council District Boundaries			X	

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Candidate Name: *Norma J F Harrison*

Phone number & e-mail: 510-526-3968 normaha@pacbell.net

Website: <http://normajfharrison.wordpress.com>

School Board

1) Do you support the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance?

I am opposed, as you know, to tenancy/landlord-ing. Until we amass to control our lives, produce for our communal benefit and not for our Owners' profit, I support this measure for the protection, small as it is, the little protection that it provides us.

Sacramento, with its Democrats and Republicans holding office, eradicates our advances. Berkeley, even California (less liberal than Berkeley, but more than much of the U.S.), frightens them. They know they have to contain our uprisings. So rent control gets cut into constantly by our Owners' representatives – assembly and senate electeds.

2) Do you see a nexus between health, housing conditions (habitability) and academic performance?
Please explain.

All our social elements affect our lives. Presently the structure, a wholly trinity, the socialpoliticeconomic structure of our lives, all three being one, this composite is our foundation. Using the terms separately is our Owners' way of controlling our thinking about the manner of our existence. We're to think, for example that 'the economy' becomes itself by its nature, rather than by control of our Rich – and any instances of labor's influence on it that have to be taken into account in order for the system to be perpetuated.

Having bread comports our social selves; if we have it we survive, are members of society. It is political when we don't have it – our owners control our ability to get it. It's economic as well, when we're caused not to have it... deprivation of our comforts, for which we work, employed or not – unemployment being a singularly necessary feature of capitalism, ...deprivation of our comforts – necessities including pleasures, affect all facets of our lives.

What this means is that all material factors of our lives affect all details of our lives.

3) Will you work with Berkeley's Rent Board on outreach and education about habitability and tenant's rights, and if so, how?

As you know, I'm a member of BTU, and of the Peace and Freedom Party. For any of you who are not familiar with Peace and Freedom Party, as is the situation of MANY Californians – that they're unfamiliar with it – sadly - it's a Party on the ballot. It's been on for more than 40 years – a product of resistance to the rulership of this country, and a result of the VietNam war our rulers were conducting.

I'm a member of both the State and County Central Committees. The outreach I do is strongly based on what BCA pretends it stands for, and what the Tenants Union does stand for whether it knows it or not. The tenants' union, assertions to the contrary, works against private property and for total justice for ALL people; lovely housing, lovely dinner, lovely materials of life, in common, with lovely provision and use of our social needs together. Our campaigns focus on these issues.

There is no such thing as affordable housing for us '99%'.

Rent control mitigates the misery. We work to maintain at least this, and more.

4) How have you or will you advocate for homeless youth?

Segregation by age – where did that come from! ...become a requirement? – except as the rule of divide and conquer. With children and parents placed in opposition the Ruling Class steps in multi-faceted to control each sector. Advertisements of what to consume blatantly explain the control our Owners exert over us, the disunity it causes between who otherwise could live with love, harmoniously, instead. Much of that lack of harmony has to do with parents telling children they can't ___ this or that - can't get a top rated 'education' at a top rated school, or a particular brand of shirt or shoes, because there isn't the money to, meanwhile overcoming the seriously interruptive loud music maybe with local recreational drugs by anyone involved, parent or child.

The discord within the family is for lack of funds, while the standards displayed by media and our world at large are felt to be more necessary than 'bread'.

Children are actually in pretty much the same relationship to society as adults; subjects to our Rich's control of our work for THEIR profit.

People under age 18 are not kids.

Child is not 'kid'.

Kid is the happy-go-lucky, kick-up-your-heels, devil-may-care creature. Likely there hasn't been such a child.

Children are already inaccurately marginalized into being a different creature from regular people. I don't want to reinforce that abusive misconstrued characterization.

Child is cradled - likely, as we all should be, but especially children should be.

Children must mingle with us equally. They must be included as workers; substantial, as important as all of us in production; participate integrally in decision making, in guidance of our communities. No age limit; whenever a child has input s/he must be heard. To this end we must change the education system so that children participate with us. Their participation then becomes like ours - input offered because the child has knowledge, concern. Like us - we raise our hand to offer our idea. So must they!

We must stop treating them or ANY person as less capable than any others of us. Thus respected people will sort themselves out as able to contribute, or obliged to sit back and learn.

We are all intellectuals, all geniuses. These are NOT genetic traits!

Children are not more - or less - happy than adults, more or less 'kick-up-your-heels' creatures in the corral.

As long as the strata exist, some positioned as deserving more, some less, we will not have peace.

Children, as should all concerned, must be able to vote.

Children's homelessness is only less able to be solved in this system, because of their special marginalization. Integration of children instead of the separation brings a force together to work for the benefit of us/them all. The hostilities with which homeless youth respond will take a different working out than the disorientation of homeless adults.

5) How does the diversity of the city's school-age children compare with the diversity of the BUSD student population (income, parents educational attainment and race-ethnicity)? What can you do to draw in the students who are not being sent to BUSD schools?

School perpetuates the strata children are marched into – from social outcast/criminal to boardroom member. I haven't got the data, but most school children seem to fall into the clerical job category after school almost no matter what their certification – diploma, degree. The one salvation from this stultifyingly deadening assignment seems to be some electronic stardom, social media being the savior. Some happenstance novelty allows the lionized escapee privilege that's touted by our media as available to everyone, the essential lie in this system, dis-informing our ideas about ourselves – about what's possible for us – that we missed choosing.

School cannot rectify racism, or the staggering income inequities, or the need for income to be our source of maintaining ourselves, removed as we are into our Owners' factories to create our income.

Your question – is it about children who are sent to private schools, schooling?

People have worked hard to put their children into alternative schooling situations they think are better for their children. There's probably some measure that shows that removing a child from the common public system gets them a better life, a better job, than staying in the public system.

But that's not the problem. The problem is the re-creation of the brutal system – the system that allows success for a few, failure of varying degrees for most of us, which includes bombing people in other places.

School is not the answer to the problem, no matter what 'reforms' are tried. Reforms fit the model, the spoonful of sugar to make the tyranny go down. People need to be together working, living, maintaining, advancing – adding a better structure here and there – not a dollar-competitive device by which to make profit. And enjoying life – the park, the piano, the milk, the plenty we can all give us all absent profit, no competition for profit – no faster running or ball throwing for more pay.

6) What will you do to improve science and technology education as well as art and music education?

I will continue to work for integration of content. Creating schooling into blocks of content to be sold, commodifying knowledge into subjects is fitting for the system we live in. But science and engineering and all are made of math and art and literature and history and gym and all knowledge.

Knowledge is ecstatic. We are denied that almost entirely throughout school and classroom. The work there is to prepare a person to fit into the profit system. This is a brutality imposed on the youngest to the oldest person in our society, ...throughout the capitalist world.

Yes, the nations that work to establish communism socialism haven't reached the nirvana yet. But the people have had the joy of knowing the brilliant goal. That's changed them. It's why the U.S. is still fighting the communist-tending countries. U.S. capitalists – the people who own our labor, our production, and trees and water and farming and all – deeply understand what they're up against – us as the next human being, the people who work – who live! – for the benefit, the enjoyment of us all.

Specialty studies come about from working in the field and becoming interested in one then another area of study. Sometimes it comes about because a 3 year old asks a 10 or 20 year old a question, pointing either or both into an area of interest and of work to do.

What limited the USSR and Cuban successes was the establishment of 'capitalist'- style, segregated schooling – age and subject matter segregated, prohibiting letting all people 'work'. Marginalizing people because of their age is destructive to society.

(did anyone read any of these in their entirety?)

7) And please mark an "x" with your position on the following local ballot measures, and 1-2 sentence(s) explaining your position:

Name of Measure	Support	Oppose	No position	Please explain.
Measure D – Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages	x			It takes on the corporations. ...is the only reason I'll vote for it. It won't stop the ugly consumption of yet another enormously advertised altogether environmentally and personally destructive product.
Measure F - Special Tax Supporting Parks				Of course we want parks and plenty of well-paid people working them.
Measure O - Amendment to the Recall Provisions				I'll read and talk about it with people.
Measure P - Eliminate Corporate Personhood				I altogether support removal of Citizens United – or limiting it, if that's all we can do. However, I need to study the way this is written – I'm told it equate corporations' power and influence with unions', so I'd oppose this law.

<p>Measure Q - Allowing Workers to Request to Work Part-Time</p>				<p>Workers should have control over their time, and over their working conditions. I don't know what this measure says. I'll have to find out.</p>
<p>Measure R - Downtown Zoning and Civic Center Historic District</p>	<p>x</p>			<p>Yes, I strongly support the people's work that attempts to prohibit the Post Office and our other buildings from being gobbled up by uglify-ers, the profiteers, our Owners.</p>
<p>Measure S – City Council District Boundaries</p>		<p>x</p>		<p>We have few barely progressive – well, by comparison, VERY progressive Council members in office, one or two of whom are under attack by the latest redistricting proposal, which I oppose.</p>

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Candidate Name: Julie Sinai

Phone number & e-mail: 510-332-6251; Julie@juliesinai.org

Website: www.juliesinai.org

School Board

1) Do you support the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance? **Yes**

2) Do you see a nexus between health, housing conditions (habitability) and academic performance? Please explain.

Yes, having stable, healthy housing is critical to a students' sense of stability. Having secure housing, with space for studying, is critical to a student's ability to succeed and a parent/guardian's ability to support their child.

3) Will you work with Berkeley's Rent Board on outreach and education about habitability and tenant's rights, and if so, how?

I am happy to help with outreach to our students and families. It would be important for our office of Family Engagement to have materials and resource for families.

4) How have you or will you advocate for homeless youth?

I have and will continue to advocate for homeless youth, their families and transition age youth. I have worked with YEAH, Berkeley Food and Housing and BOSS over the years to link services and supports to children, youth and families in need. During the recently BUSD planning process for the Local Control Accountability Plan we ensured focus group discussion happened at Harrison House and with A Better Way, to ensure homeless families and Foster Care families had a voice in the goals, strategies and outcomes.

5) How does the diversity of the city's school-age children compare with the diversity of the BUSD student population (income, parents educational attainment and race-ethnicity)? What can you do to draw in the students who are not being sent to BUSD schools?

2013	District (BUSD)	District (BUSD)	Citywide (Census -- all age groups)
Total Students	9,048	100%	112,662
% Asian/ Pac. Isl./ Filipino		8%	19.7%/.03
% Latino		24%	11%
% African American		20%	8.8%
% White		35%	62.7%
% Two or more races		11%	5.5%
% Other / Not Reported		2%	3.2%

	Total	Public	Private
Kindergarten to 12th grade	10,155	79.9%	20.1%
Kindergarten	920	78.4%	21.6%
Elementary: grade 1 to grade 4	3,266	77.6%	22.4%
Elementary: grade 5 to grade 8	2,630	71.2%	28.8%
High school: grade 9 to grade 12	3,339	89.2%	10.8%

Source: US Census

We continue to strive to be a “world class” school district. Over the past few years the enrollment has continued to grow. We will continue to offer the best education and families will decide what is beset for their family and child(ren).

6) What will you do to improve science and technology education as well as art and music education?

I have been actively engaged with bridging resources from UCB with BUSD on STEM education, and I co-chair the College and Career Readiness Action Team of the East Bay STEM Network. I worked with Superintendent Evans to secure funding for last year’s pilot “Super Science Saturdays”. I am on the BSEP renewal planning committee – since it is BSEP that fund our valuable music program we must ensure that BSEP is renewed.

Julie Sinai

7) And please mark an “x” with your position on the following local ballot measures, and 1-2 sentence(s) explaining your position:

Name of Measure	Support	Oppose	No position	Please explain.
Measure D – Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages	X			We need to fight obesity and diabetes and promote healthy living and child nutrition with funds from the tax.
Measure F - Special Tax Supporting Parks	X			We need to support the maintenance and development of our parks for our children and families
Measure O - Amendment to the Recall Provisions	X			Aligns with current law
Measure P - Eliminate Corporate Personhood	X			Citizens United is one of the greatest affronts to our democracy.
Measure Q - Allowing Workers to Request to Work Part-Time			X	As an advisory measure, I support the concept, but I have not taken a public position as it does not relate directly to the District.
Measure R - Downtown Zoning and Civic Center Historic District			X	While there could be significant financial ramifications on projected revenue to the schools with future development, I have not taken a public position as it does not relate directly to the District.
Measure S – City Council District Boundaries			X	I wholeheartedly support the goal of having substantive student engagement in Berkeley’s civic life. I have not taken a public position on Measure S as it does not relate directly to the District.