



2007

**PROGRESSIVE
PLATFORM**

Oakland Progressive Empowerment Network

INTRODUCTION

OPEN (Oakland Progressive Empowerment Network) is a city-wide network of progressive community, labor, and political organizations. We have come together because we have a vision for how to realize the great promise of Oakland:

- An Oakland that supports children and young people to thrive in schools and in the community.
- An Oakland that is vibrant and sustainable in its economic growth and housing policy.
- An Oakland that supports all people to meaningfully engage in the community.
- An Oakland that honors the important contributions of immigrants.
- An Oakland that sustains the health and economic well-being of its people.

OUR VISION for a promising Oakland is based on the following progressive values:

- Community self-determination based on collective responsibility for basic needs
- Use of public resources to meet basic needs with dignity
- Protection of the earth and its natural resources
- Ensuring effectiveness in public policy by focusing on creativity and prevention
- Engagement of impacted community members in making change a reality

To make this vision a reality, we propose that the elected officials of Oakland support, pass, and enforce the implementation of the following policies.

AN OAKLAND THAT SUPPORTS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS

1. Oakland elected officials will work to end the state takeover and return full local control to the Oakland Unified School District.
2. The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will incorporate training, education, and resources for teen dating violence prevention (AB 589).
 - a. Prioritize training for educators, counselors, and nurses on how to identify and prevent teen dating violence.
 - b. Contract with outside agencies to conduct workshops for students on how to identify, prevent, and seek help for teen dating violence.
 - c. Reduce barriers and provide support to students in accessing counseling and medical care.
3. OUSD will comply with the comprehensive sex education bill, SB 71.
 - a. Prioritize training for instructors.
 - b. Contract with outside agencies to provide comprehensive sex education.
 - c. Conduct regular compliance audits of schools throughout the district.
4. OUSD will increase access to college by improving how information gets distributed. The district will mail and distribute college access information beginning in the freshman year and hold a college access seminar once a year. This will include:
 - a. A-G requirements and other basic college requirements (including GPA, SAT scores, etc.)
 - b. Information on college entrance exams, ACT, SAT, PSAT (including what they are, when students should take them, how students sign up for them, resources to help prepare for them)
 - c. Information on the University of California and California State University systems admission processes
 - d. Information on how to pay for college (including scholarships, FAFSA process, grant deadlines, etc.)
 - e. Basic statistics on OUSD college rates
 - f. Information on the CAHSEE, the California High School Exit Exam (including what it is, when students should take it, etc.)
5. Oakland public schools will provide college preparation courses.
 - a. SAT preparation courses at each school twice a year
 - b. Access to A-G classes year-round per main subject area (e.g., schools would have to provide visual & performing arts classes year-round so students have access to this requirement)
 - c. Honors Classes
6. Oakland will strengthen the connection between local colleges and universities to high schools by offering:
 - a. College tours
 - b. College fairs
 - c. Concurrent enrollment
7. Oakland elected officials will support a moratorium on school closures.
8. Oakland will implement supportive behavior models for youth instead of expulsion and suspension. The City will implement alternative discipline models to punitive action, such as the Positive Behavior Support model adopted successfully at Skyline Youth Center.

9. OUSD will incorporate wrap-around programming.

Schools will incorporate wrap-around programming and support services for students, families and local communities, such as those promoted by Skyline High School's One Land, One People Youth Center. Educational institutions should include a variety of learning opportunities and services, during and after school, including conflict mediation, college and career counseling, student and parent counseling, music, art, mentoring, health services, and case management.

10. OUSD will increase the number of teachers of color. It will provide incentives for low-income African descent, Raza, Native, and Asian Pacific Island college students to become teachers in the Oakland Unified School District.
11. Oakland will increase funding for our public schools by using a weighted student formula that gives money to the schools that need it most, in order to fully support the academic, social, and emotional health of all OUSD students.
12. Oakland will provide ethnic studies at every school so that students can learn about their history and see their communities reflected in all aspects of the curriculum.
13. Oakland will not comply with CAHSEE until the state provides equal opportunity to low-income students of color.
14. Oakland elected officials will go on record in supporting the dismantling of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation.

AN OAKLAND THAT
**SUPPORTS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO
THRIVE IN THE COMMUNITY**

1. The City Council will urge the Department of Human Services to work towards opening a West Oakland Youth Center (modeled after the very successful Youth Uprising Center in East Oakland).
2. The City Council will support an increase to Measure K, the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY), that will provide jobs to youth, tutoring, counseling and leadership development programs.

AN OAKLAND THAT IS VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE IN ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH

1. The City will create, adopt, and follow a comprehensive economic development strategy focused on creating family-supporting jobs that are accessible to Oaklanders. The strategy will grow economic sectors that provide high-quality jobs, identify ways to improve traditionally low-quality jobs, tie training and education to new and existing jobs, and ensure Oaklanders have access to quality jobs and training. The process to create this strategy will be transparent and inclusive.
2. Oakland will be a “Green City” and support policies that protect the health and safety of residential communities and workers from exposure to chemicals known to cause cancer, impair development, or harm reproductive health. These policies will also provide incentives to small businesses that want to transition to become “Green Businesses”.
3. The City will establish the Oakland Green Jobs Corps.
 - a. Fund and establish a collaborative effort among community-based organizations, unions, workforce development service providers, and employers to train Oakland residents in green construction and retrofitting.
 - b. Employ Oakland residents on city-sponsored energy projects funded with energy company settlement money.
4. The City will create a “Green Enterprise Zone”. It will create a set of green business/clean tech business attraction and retention policies for Oakland. Could include things such as streamlining permitting, offering incentives to green businesses or firms to come to Oakland, having a Green Business Attraction Desk in the Community Economic Development Agency, etc., with an eye toward quality job creation in the Green Economy.
5. The City will preserve Oakland’s industrial land with an eye toward attracting and growing green industry in Oakland.
6. Oakland will adopt a policy requiring the completion of “Community Impact Studies” (CIS’s) that objectively measure the positive and negative impacts of large-scale projects. The City will require a public hearing on the findings of CIS’s early in the development process.
7. Any requests for proposals or qualifications (RFPs and RFQs) issued by the City or Redevelopment Agency to solicit large-scale development projects will include criteria that prioritize responsible and equitable development. This includes affordable housing, family-supporting jobs, neighborhood services, community infrastructure, open space, and environmentally sustainable building practices.
8. The City will support AC Transit’s Decision to bring BRT to Oakland, giving Oakland’s workers and residents a faster, safer, more convenient transit choice that responds to the community’s needs as quickly as possible.
9. The City will pass a resolution supporting our locally elected state representatives’ efforts to protect Spillover Funds and all state funding for public transit, which would be used to maintain and improve public transit in Oakland.

AN OAKLAND THAT IS VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE IN ITS HOUSING POLICY

1. The City Council will allocate an additional \$1.5 million from the 2006-2007 Third Quarter Revenue Surplus, excess General Purpose Reserve funds, increase to the Master Fee Schedule, and Operations and Maintenance funds from the redevelopment budget, to significantly increase funding for emergency housing services to keep African American and all working class communities in Oakland. Specifically, the Council will spend these funds in:
 - a. Providing resources for grants to serve 500 renters per year with Emergency Rental Assistance grants to help pay for deposits or delinquent rent payments and protect against displacement.
 - b. Increasing funding for the number of homeowners receiving counseling to protect themselves from predatory lending and retain their home with a portion of those funds earmarked toward programs that protect senior homeowners. Funding would be provided for homeowner counseling, outreach, and awareness, and grants to help homeowners pay for delinquent mortgage payments.
2. The City will adopt an Inclusionary Zoning policy that will create options for increasing affordable homeownership and funds for lower income rental housing or mixed income housing.
3. The City will increase resources for affordable housing that will stabilize families and strengthen neighborhoods.
4. The City will ensure that mixed income developments and community benefits policies for large projects will grow the housing pie.
5. The City will increase utilization of first-time homebuyer programs by promoting increased down-payment assistance, mortgage assistance with larger soft second mortgages, and interest rate write-downs.
6. The City will strengthen Condominium Conversion policies that will protect the affordable rental housing stock and prevent displacement.
7. The City will strengthen rent control laws by closing loopholes and increasing information to tenants to prevent displacement.
8. The City will couple housing code enforcement with landlord incentives to enable more families to live in habitable and affordable homes.
9. The City will protect and improve Oakland's Single Room Occupancy housing stock to prevent homelessness.
10. The City will provide fair access to Oakland Housing Authority housing to formerly incarcerated residents and provide housing to residents in transition.
11. The City will increase inter-agency collaboration with increased funding for permanent supportive housing serving homeless and special needs populations and deepens coordination with Alameda County.

AN OAKLAND THAT SUPPORTS ALL PEOPLE TO MEANINGFULLY ENGAGE IN THE COMMUNITY

1. The City of Oakland will follow the lead of San Francisco and eliminate the requirement that job applicants disclose all past convictions on their initial application (with the exception of jobs that include working with children due to federal law). If a person qualifies as a finalist for a job, their conviction history would be revealed at that time – allowing the person to explain their past.
2. The City of Oakland will reprioritize funding allotments that promote the improvement of any existing re-entry services for former prisoners as well as the development and sustainability of new ones.
3. The City will provide people emerging from prison with waivers for AC Transit and vouchers to pay for community college, to aid in successful transitions back into the community.
4. The City of Oakland will take a positive stance and support its residents by ending the curfew for people on parole.
5. The City Council will issue a resolution that Oakland will not count charges as strikes and will issue a resolution that does not support the Three Strikes Law.
6. The City of Oakland will stop using Operation Impact, which unfairly targets black and brown communities, and will stop all collaboration with Immigration Enforcement agents and be the City of Refuge it claims to be.
7. The City will adopt the United Nations Children's Bill of Rights, encourage family contact and nurture the relationships between children and parents.

AN OAKLAND THAT HONORS THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS

1. The City will instruct Oakland police officers not to serve as immigration agents and not to engage in racial profiling.
2. The City will pass a resolution supporting non-cooperation with implementing or enforcing the “R.E.A.L. ID Act”.
3. The City will pass a resolution to not cooperate with implementing or enforcing the Social Security Administration’s “no match” letter policies.
4. The City will invest in integration of bilingual services in city agencies and community-based organizations to ensure all individuals have equal access to services.
5. The City will ensure that policies, practices, and public contracts do not prohibit access to services based on immigration status.

AN OAKLAND THAT SUSTAINS THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ITS PEOPLE

1. The City of Oakland will provide the necessary funding to ABC Security to ensure that the wage and vacation standards, as outlined in the SEIU master contract, are satisfied so that City of Oakland security officers will not be excluded from union representation by ABC management.
2. The City will implement responsible contracting policies such that:
 - a. The City of Oakland will be prohibited from contracting with anyone that is in known violation of labor laws.
 - b. The City of Oakland will contract with employers who pay a living wage and provide benefits.
 - c. The City of Oakland will require anyone bidding for a city contract to answer a questionnaire, to be developed in partnership with the community, that details their performance and compliance history, financial interests, true ownership, and business integrity.
3. The City will support the creation of a “Contract Oversight Committee” for the allowance and renewal of all city contracts made up of community stakeholders, including rank and file city workers.
4. The City will pass a resolution to protect residents of Oakland from predatory money transfer companies. The resolution will require companies conducting business in the City to abide by the following provisions:
 - a. Money transfer companies will reinvest in communities from which they substantially profit.
 - b. Money transfer companies will create standards of fairness and respect in their corporate practices for its agents.
 - c. Money transfer companies will abide by standards of corporate social responsibility that do not infringe upon the human rights of remitters, their families, and communities as defined by the United Nations Conventions on Human Rights.
5. Oakland officials will publicly support funded healthcare coverage for all Oaklanders without exception, regardless of ability to pay, income, medical history, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status or language spoken, through protecting and expanding Medicaid and Medicare programs and through other program mechanisms.
6. The City of Oakland will take action to support countywide healthcare coverage with a single standard of care and should support all efforts to create a statewide universal healthcare (single payer) system. Specifically, the City will support SB 840, Senator Sheila Kuehl’s Universal Healthcare Bill.
7. The City of Oakland will amend the City Charter for the purpose of generating additional funding from taxing the Port of Oakland.^v These additional funds will support Oakland public schools, housing, and other areas that directly impact the quality of life for working families.
8. The City will decrease and limit the number of liquor stores in local communities and increase the number of grocery stores. Local liquor store owners will be provided with training and incentives to shift the focus of their business.

The following organizations have endorsed the 2007 OPEN Progressive Platform:

Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice
Asian Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership
Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition
Critical Resistance Oakland
Eastside Arts Alliance
Ella Baker Center
Education Not Incarceration
Green Party Oakland
Just Cause Oakland

Leadership Excellence
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
Oakland Education Association
SEIU 24/7
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
Youth in Focus
Youth Together

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENDORSE

the OPEN Progressive Platform, please email mamie@mscactionfund or call 510.444.0710.

The OPEN Platform represents dynamic, progressive policy solutions to transform Oakland into a city that meaningfully engages and respects all of its residents. These policies are drawn from the active campaigns of OPEN member organizations, and from the diligent efforts and research of other allied coalitions. We would like to acknowledge their thoughtful work, and we are honored to advance their efforts through the OPEN Platform. They include: Californians for Justice, Plan for a Safer Oakland, Economic Development Roundtable, Organize Da Bay, People's Housing Coalition, Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action (TIGRA), and Transportation and Land Use Coalition.



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