

2020 Aug 19th Albany Democratic Club Endorsement Candidates Survey - Albany City Council

Questions and responses will be shared with the public. Please type your answers in another document window, eg. Google Docs, and paste them here when ready. Google Docs auto-saves and will tell you the word and character count of selected text when you click Tools/Word Count. Deadline: Monday August 17 @ 10pm.

Your name (as it will appear on the ballot) *

Aaron Tiedemann

Preferred email address *

Aaronforalbany@gmail.com

Party registration. *

Democratic Party

Republican Party

Green Party

Libertarian Party

American Independent Party

Peace and Freedom Party

Not registered for a political party

Other:

Your age as of Election Day Nov 3, 2020. *

24

During what years have you been a resident of Albany? (eg. someone who left and returned might put 2012-2014, 2017-2020) *

1995-present (on and off from 2014-2017)

Your ballot designation as it will appear below your name on the ballot (usually occupation or current office) *

Housing Analyst/Student

List of any prominent endorsers, both organizations and individuals. (It is understood that in the first days of a campaign this list may be very short or nonexistent.) *

Mayor Nick Pilch
Council-member Pete Maass

List any and all of the following: Website, facebook group, mailing list or other ways voters can reach out to or follow your campaign. (It is understood that in the first days of a campaign these resources may not be fully fleshed out.) *

Albanyforward.org (under construction)

Brief description of your campaign organization and finances – names of any consultants or campaign managers you will use, funds you have raised to date, and how much you expect to have to spend to win. *

Running a joint campaign with Preston Jordan. No Consultants and campaign managers, have not started fundraising, plan to raise and spend about \$12,000

Brief description of your history of involvement with and support for the Democratic Party and its candidates and ballot measure positions – include Democratic clubs/organizations to which you belong or which you have supported financially. Limit 10 words each item. *

Worked on Nancy Skinner for State Senate Campaign 2016
Worked for Mark Leno for SF Mayor Campaign (2018)
Secretary of Albany Democratic Club

What work have you been engaged with to improve the city of Albany and during what years? eg. work with PTA, school fundraising groups, local non-profits, community groups, city committees and commissions, city-sponsored events, etc. Limit 10 words each item. *

Member, the Albany Economic Development Committee (2018-present)

Core Member, Voter Choice Albany (2019-present)

member/secretary, Albany Democratic Club (2019-present)

Advocated to the Council on a range of housing issues

Work as a housing analyst for the Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department

Of the work you did in the previous question, pick one item to explain what was your role and how was the Albany community impacted? Limit 100 words. *

In my work as a Housing Analyst of Alameda County HCD I have been involved in a variety of work that benefits Albany both directly and indirectly. I analyze Federal and State housing policy, helped draft the County COVID-19 Eviction Moratorium, used my experience with that moratorium to advocate for changes to our own City Eviction Moratorium, and have worked with City and Housing Developer staff to fund the Albany Family project.

What in your background - as a person and in your activities professional and otherwise - do you think will help inform your decision making if elected? Limit 100 words. *

My Generation has grown up and started our career aware of and profoundly affected by the 2008 economic downturn, worsening effects of climate change, and now COVID-19, just to name a few of the challenges we face. Experience with these issues motivates my energy to reform and improve our community. Additionally, my study of political science, economics and ethics has given me a breadth of knowledge of political challenges and solutions, while my experience working in the staff of a local government has given me a broad understanding of the government policy making and implementation.

If elected, what would you advocate the city do to support public health during COVID?

Limit 100 words. *

If elected I would protect public health by ensuring, we keep up the protections in place. Possibly the most vital protections we have are the city and county eviction moratoriums. Seeing as COVID-19 shows no sign off ending soon, these ordinances will need to be extended in order to protect the ability of residents to stay safe in their homes despite the legal risk to the city. Additionally, while loosening of restrictions is our goal, our leaders must be willing to take a realistic approach to public health that includes moving back towards stricter protections if COVID-19 continues unabated.

If elected, what would you advocate the city do to support businesses during COVID? Limit

100 words. *

The most important way to help our businesses is to get to stage 3 of the virus, where businesses can open fully. This will require collective action from everyone in our city, which as community and government leaders, the City Council can encourage. In the interim, our city needs to provide information and flexibility to our businesses to allow them to conduct business as they can.

If elected, what would you advocate the city do to support businesses in general, after

COVID? Limit 100 words. *

One of the best methods to help businesses generally is to increase the density off Albany residents and improve our transportation network. By encouraging dense infill housing development we will bring more customers to Albany businesses, and by updating our streets and transportation network to make our city more accessible for everyone we will increase business traffic.

If elected, how would you work with stakeholders to address systemic racism and police policy? Limit 100 words. *

I would start by advocating for interim measures that are both morally right and agreed upon, like instituting stricter use of force standards. While reform measures do not solve the problem, they indicate a willingness and commitment from our government. This credibility is vital to continuing the long conversation about what we need to change about our law enforcement process. Additionally, I would approach this issue with an open mind to the changes we need to make. This issue has motivated a huge number of people to get involved, but have been met with skepticism and narrow thinking.

If elected, what would you advocate the City do to address the needs of unhoused individuals and families? Limit 100 words. *

Albany needs to expand its homeless services by giving additional funding for our shower program, creating a homeless shelter, and sending mental health and social care workers to assist homeless residents in need (instead of police). These measures can be accomplished via diverting funds from the police budget and passing a housing bond. Finally, my experience working in housing has shown me that homelessness is a regional problem that is based on supply and housing affordability. The best way to solve homelessness is provide affordable housing and Housing First programs.

If elected, what would you advocate Albany do about the housing crisis? What would you advocate Albany not do? Limit 100 words. *

I would push that Albany eliminate parking requirements, loosen development regulations, up zone large areas of single-family zoning to allow multiple units to be developed on one parcel, and pass an affordable housing bond to fund affordable housing development. Additionally, using my position as a city councilmember I would advocate for regional and statewide solutions and policy changes. Housing is a large scale collective action problem and requires action on the local, regional, state and Federal level, but the experience of local governments on the front line of the crisis means we bear an outsized role in advocating for change.

Why should the people of Albany vote for you? Limit 100 words. *

I bring a new perspective to Albany leadership. The energy, inventiveness and radical thinking of my generation are needed to solve the problems facing our City and our Country. Albany residents should vote for me if they want to see our City driven by our values and a strong understanding of the larger picture in which Albany exists.

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