

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) *

Ge'Nell Gary

Preferred email address *

genell4albany@yahoo.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. *

N/A

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

2018-

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

GeNell Gary-Business Woman

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.) *

COMMUNITY: Brian Beall, Brian Presley, Allan Maris

ORGANIZATIONS: Albany Fire Fighters Association Local 5130

CITY OFFICIALS: Peggy McQuaid, City of Albany Vice Mayor, Rochelle Nason, City of Albany Council Member, Michael Barnes, City of Albany Council Member

REGIONAL OFFICIALS: Buffy Wicks, District 15 Assemblymember, Kieth Carson, Alameda County District 5 Supervisor

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.) *

<https://genellgary.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/tggary2020/> <https://twitter.com/GeNell4Albany>
<https://www.instagram.com/genell4albany/> genell4albany@yahoo.com

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. *

Consultant: JW Consulting Group LLC

Approximately:\$12k raised- expected expenditures are being revised and pending. My goal would be to use all the funds towards my campaign.

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. *

Emerge CA - training for Democratic women

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. *

Library BoardMember - 2018-2019

Commissioner on the city's Social and Economic Justice Commission 2019 - Present

Commissioner on the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women 2019 - Present 2019 - Present

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. *

I'm currently the Vice Chair of the SEJC. Prior to COVID, we were in the process of implementing celebratory events for MLK Day and Juneteenth. However, the recent injustices that continue to plague our country have been on the forefront of our commission. I have made this issue my 1st priority to develop ways to increase the communications between the City and community in regards to policing and the systemic racism in our community.

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. *

I have over 17 years of claims/risk management experience. I was the former Program manager for the City's JPA which comprised of 21 Cities in the Bay Area. I have always been a community leader am continuing that community-building today by mentoring & tutoring youth, volunteering in my neighborhood, and helping my community and its economy thrive. I serve as a Commissioner for the City's Social and Economic Justice Commission and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women, which has given me an understanding of advocating for the Albany community. My life experiences will translate well into being an effective Council member, community leader, and public servant.

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

Limit 100 words. *

As a City Representative I would be committed to review and share emerging scientific data, best practices researched and policy shifts that affect how we respond as a united community to the COVID-19 virus. This disease changes rapidly; therefore I will ensure that updates are noted and shared to all in my sphere of influence. In supporting the Public. I will be an advocate in learning about and representing Older Adults; as I see that more are alone than ever. Albany has had low Covid, however we should take this disease lightly. We must encourage our communities to slow the spread and provide them with the resources and positive feedback to do so during such a challenging time. Thus, I'm a strong advocate for education and safety. An effective public health response must be one that is widely understood with tangible benefits for our most vulnerable communities during this time. I would also advocate for tangible ways to uplift and thank essential workers for the sacrifices that they are making for our community.

If elected, what would you advocate the city do to support businesses during COVID? Limit 100 words. *

As a City Representative and a compassionate human being, I care about commitment in keeping our small businesses invested in the City of Albany Community . Addressing business owners which requires open lines of communication and strategizing on how to increase their visibility. I would meet with small business owners to discuss the impact of paying utilities, taxes, and licensing fees if applicable, and worker's salaries; in an effort to keep businesses open. I would look into Executive Orders or Legislative motions within our Federal government, County and City; indirectly implementing such measures. I would advocate for clear messaging around COVID -19 during this time for businesses to implement safe measures.

If elected, what would you advocate the city do to support businesses in general, after COVID? Limit 100 words. *

I want Albany to continue to be home to a multitude of local businesses and see economic growth. As a city, we must provide individuals with the resources to grow their businesses here. Utilizing legal resources, workshops, and loans can allow businesses to start, grow, and stay in Albany. I would also advocate for Albany to be a great place to work for all by advocating on behalf of workers and employees.

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

It is critical that the City of Albany address systemic racism in all forms of government, not just police policy. Housing, education, civic engagement, and healthcare are all sectors that have experienced systemic racism. Working with stakeholders to add a racial equality lens to their work will be one of my top priorities. In terms of police policy, I would also be in favor of reexamining the police budget, practices, and training to ensure that we are protecting and serving all communities, especially communities of Black citizens and people of color in Albany.

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

I would advocate for the City to take a more active role in meeting the needs of unhoused individuals. We can collaborate better with the County, local nonprofits, and leaders in this space to fortify Albany's services. Unhoused individuals like any group have a variety of complex needs that must be met with comprehensive and multidimensional solutions. I would look to expand job training programs, food and housing programs, and educational programs to assist unhoused individuals.

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

I would advocate for Albany to be a leader in the housing crisis. We need increased housing at all levels of affordability to meet our housing needs in the Bay Area. For Albany to be a progressive and leading city, we need to build a city where anyone can afford to make a life for themselves and thrive. To implement this plan, we would need to look at Albany's city planning and zoning laws to encourage housing.

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

I bring a new fresh perspective to ongoing and new issues that we face during these turbulent times. I will provide strong leadership that is transparent that lifts our voices. I am advocating for a City that is a better home for all. As a community leader and active commissioner, I know what it takes to make this equitable vision come true. I have the passion and dedication to work with staff, our boards and commissions to prioritize and address the needs of our City to move forward. With your vote, I promise to be the leader Albany needs to address housing, infrastructure, public safety and diversity and inclusion to bring our community together.

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