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) *

Preston Jordan

Preferred email address *

prestonforalbany@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. *

56

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

1994-present

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

Engineering Geologist/Hydrogeologist

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.) *

Albany Mayor Nick Pilch
Albany Council member Peter Maass
Albany Trustee Sara Hinkley
Berkeley Council member Kate Harrison
former Albany Mayor Robert Cheasty

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.) *

website: albanyforward.org (still coming up as of this writing on 8/17), Fb: progresswithpreston, 510 418-9660, and individual email of course.

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. *

I am managing my own campaign and not using any consultants. I expect to win spending no more than Albany's voluntary spending limit of $6,000. It is early in the campaign relative to typical Albany timelines so funds raised at this time are limited.

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. *

Service on the Albany Democratic Club's Board
Campaigning for Albany Mayor Nick Pilch in 2010 and 2012
Originated Albany Measure P1 in 2016; co-led its successful campaign
Originated Albany Measure BB; co-leading its campaign
Originated Albany Measure DD's structure; co-leading its campaign
Originated Berkeley Measure HH's structure; assisting its campaign

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. *

1994-1995: Traffic and Safety Commissioner
1997-2004: A lead advocate for reconfiguring Marin between Cornell and Tulare
2000-2004: Led effort to install path under the freeway onramp
2004: Co-founded Albany Strollers & Rollers
2005-2006: Co-led community outreach for Ohlone Greenway lighting
2005-2007: Waterfront Committee member
2008: Co-founded Carbon Neutral Albany (merged into Albany Climate Action Coalition)
2008-2012: Conceived of and led effort for westbound Buchanan cycling lane
2008-2018: Charter Review Committee member
2008-2018: Alameda County Transportation Commission's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee member
2008-2020: Led effort resulting in Measure BB for socially just elections; co-leading campaign
2009-2016: Originated Measure P1 for sidewalk repair; got it on the ballot; co-led successful campaign
2009-2017: Led effort to signalize active transportation crossing of San Pablo at Dartmouth and build cycletrack along San Pablo
2010-2012: Conceived of Albany's rapid and relaxed biking networks in its Active Transportation Plan
2010-2020: Conceived of and advocated structural basis of Measure DD and Berkeley Measure HH for climate protection; co-leading campaign on first, assisting on second
2010-present: Sole advocate for economic justice in Albany's tax structure resulting in low-income provisions in tax measures
2016-2018: Action Director, League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville
2016-present: Led effort to connect the planned active transportation bridge over I-80 at Gilman to the Codornices Creek path (construction start end of 2020)
2019: Co-founded Voter Choice Albany
2019-present: Transportation Commissioner
2019-present: Improving approach to pavement management

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 2009 I conceived of a census of sidewalk conditions and subsequently led a volunteer team conducting the census through 2010 (http://www.albanystrollroll.org/current-projects/sidewalk-census/). The results demonstrated that requiring adjacent private property owners to repair sidewalks was not working. I successfully advocated for the City Council to place the most progressive property tax measure in Albany's history on the 2016 ballot to fund sidewalk repair. I co-led the successful campaign for this first-in-state measure. Albany's sidewalks are now being returned to safe condition at ~$10/resident/year. I inexorably bring science to policy.

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. *

Personally, caring for my wife as her disability due to multiple sclerosis has increased from diagnosis in 2001 to near total now while co-parenting our children born in 1998 and 2000 has improved my ability to discriminate what is necessary, possible, and impossible, with compassion. This has improved my ability to determine causes that are just inside the boundary of achievable and work for them virtually indefinitely. Professionally, my research career at a world-class institution (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) has honed my critical and creative thinking in collaboration with colleagues pursuing "team science".

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

We are fortunate to live in a city that has the second lowest case rate of any of the more than 100 cities in the Bay Area as of this writing (https://albanycovid.azurewebsites.net/). I would advocate for the City to positively message on this basis to keep us all going with the actions that decrease transmission.

I am keen to get public mental health serving Albany again. Berkeley used to but has bowed out due to funding distribution complications. The mental health toll from the pandemic is growing.

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

I would and have advocated for the City to support requests from the business community for the policies it needs. In my role on the Transportation Commission I led the City's rescission of limiting each business to only two parking spaces on Solano for their outdoor operations. along with other policy requests from Albany Inside Out. I am not a business person but I am a good judge of what is feasible for the City to provide in terms of policy support and a good team member in getting it done.

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

During my campaign in 2018 I learned from the owner of Toy Go Round Albany has regressive business taxes. The tax is based on the number of employees without regard to any other factor. I am committed to changing these taxes by lowering them for small businesses and increasing them for large businesses, such as by taxing based on revenue. This will be fair and make the City a business partner. When businesses struggle so will the City. When businesses succeed so will the City. Incentives will be aligned so the City has a real reason to support economic development.

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

I am co-leading the heavy lift to eliminate structural racism from our election method. Currently, whites outvote people of color such that the latter cannot elect candidates of their exclusive choice. Transitioning to ranked choice at large will eliminate the veto power whites have wielded over the choices of voters of color. If Measure BB passes I will let voters and potential candidates of color know they now have the power in the hope of ending the spectacle of an all white Council trying to figure out how to change policing without voices of color having real power.

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

This is not an area in which I have expertise currently. As such I would work in support of my running mate, Aaron Tiedemann's ideas given his knowledge in the area of housing and homelessness, should we both be fortunate to gain office. With or without that outcome it is a policy area I will learn about with my demonstrated capacity, hopefully with the help of some of you who may offer.

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

Albany's voters remanded off-street parking requirements to Council control in 2016. The Council immediately reduced those requirements in the higher density areas. The result in home construction has been underwhelming. Only 47% of people here get to work driving alone, the second lowest of any city in the Bay Area (https://data.bayareametro.gov/dataset/Vital-Signs-Commute-Mode-Choice-by-Place-of-Reside/cizf-84fb). If we want justice in housing, we need to let the market decide how much parking to build, raise building height limits in our denser zones, and expand those zones.

Albany should not raise its inclusionary housing requirement so high projects are uneconomical.

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

As evident from my record, chief among them four ballot measures, I prioritize then pursue with tenacity. Our Council has not been able to do this. Its strategic plan has 50 items in no particular order. Meanwhile, we have been reminded that disasters happen. A major Hayward Fault earthquake is the biggest disaster awaiting us. Reducing this disaster is in our power by adopting a mandatory soft story retrofit ordinance for multi-residence buildings as neighboring cities have done. This is our opportunity to save lives and livelihoods. Not flashy but necessary. Please put me in office to get it done.

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