

Coastside Democrats



COVER SHEET - NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION

I, Marc Berman, hereby apply for the Coastside Democrats Club endorsement for the office of California Assembly District 24.

My email address is: Marc@voteberman.com.

My cell phone number is: 650-421-5141.

The contact person for my campaign is: Zack Ross.

The contact person's email address is: Zack@voteberman.com.

The contact person's phone number is: 650-814-6282.

I am a registered Democrat and have been since 1998.

I certify that the information provided on this application and in any subsequent interview or written submission is true and correct.

Signature: Marc Berman Date: 8/19/18

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS – NOVEMBER 2018

Instructions:

Please read and provide responses to the following questions. There is generally no single “right” or “wrong” answer to these questions. General position statements may not be substituted for answers to the questions. Please submit your response on Word in font no smaller than 12pt and limit your total response to 3 pages maximum.

Your responses will be posted on our newsletter, website, Facebook page and Coastside Nextdoor.

Please email your completed cover sheet and responses to these question to:

coastsideendorsement@gmail.com

These materials must be received by email no later than midnight on August 19, 2018.

Questions:

1) Why are you running for this office?

While Congress and the Trump Administration remain mired in gridlock, I'm proud of the real work we have done for Californians in the State Assembly. In 2017, we passed landmark legislation to address California's severe housing crisis, repair our crumbling transportation infrastructure, and extend our world-leading Cap and Trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Governor Brown signed eleven of my bills in 2017, including establishing California's Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights and extending the Planning for Sea-Level Rise Database. As Chair of the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee, I've led efforts to protect our voting systems from outside interference and supported campaign finance reforms including the Disclose Act. As a champion of public education, I'm leading the effort to restore the promise of an accessible, affordable, high quality public higher education to every California student who qualifies. I'm also heading up the efforts to ensure a fair and complete census count. Congressional representation and billions of dollars in federal funding are at stake. While the Trump administration puts up more obstacles to achieving an accurate count of all of our residents, regardless of immigration status, California will conduct a historic outreach campaign to encourage all residents to participate in the 2020 Census.

2) What will your top priorities be if you are elected?

- Environmental protection and combating sea level rise.
- A complete count in the 2020 census and keeping our election systems secure.
- Continuing my work to revise California's 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education
- Alleviating our severe housing crisis and California's housing shortage.

3) What do you see as the major issues on the Coastside?

Coastside residents face some issues that they share with residents over the hill (concerns about over-development, too much traffic congestion, crumbling infrastructure, the rising cost of housing), others that are unique to the coast but are caused by common problems (sea level rise causing coastal erosion in some Coastside communities and contamination of freshwater aquifers

used by farmers in others), and many issues that are very unique to the coast (access to pristine public places like Martin's Beach, the impacts of climate change on hard working local fishermen, poor cell phone reception).

One of the most important issues for the Coastsides is the long-term impact of sea level rise. While Caltrans and San Mateo County are doing their best to come up with short-term solutions to coastal erosion on the Surfer's Beach shoreline, the combination of sea level rise and King tides will likely eventually compromise Highway 1. The state needs to work with the county and local communities to come up with long-term climate adaptation plans for the Coastsides, likely including the need to relocate sections of Highway 1 further east. We don't know exactly what the future will bring, but we know that a certain amount of sea level rise is inevitable. It's imperative that we plan ahead to address the range of possibilities.

It's also important to protect Coastsides values. People don't move to the coast because they want to live in a big city. They move there to live in quieter communities that are within commuting distance of jobs and amenities either in SF or on the peninsula. The legislature established the CA Coastal Commission to govern land use in the coastal zone in coordination with local governments along the coast. However, the Coastal Commission has seen its budget slashed by 26% and its staff cut nearly in half since 1980, and until recently they had minimal enforcement authority. We need to fully fund the Coastal Commission and strengthen and streamline its enforcement authority so that it can quickly work through the backlog of thousands of unresolved enforcement cases.

In my first term in the Assembly, I have championed legislation on combating sea level rise. I have also secured \$5 million in funding in the State Budget to create a county park at Tunitas Beach, as well as \$4 million in funds to protect Pescadero during the annual flooding they face from Butano Creek. I have more miles of coastsides than any other Assembly District, and I plan to continue to be a champion for issues related to the coast.

4) How will you support the Democratic Party, Democratic Clubs and other Democrats if elected?

I have donated over \$100k to the Democratic Party and individual candidates since being elected in 2016. I will continue to donate money, as well as volunteer and campaign for strong Democratic candidates. I also make it a priority to stay connected with local groups like the Coastsides Democrats, trying to update each Dem Club in my district in person at least once every two years.

5) What have been your most significant contributions to your organization, city or district?
See list above.

6) How will you work with, lead, motivate and support your city or district's officers and employees?

I take a lot of pride in my work with my colleagues and staff. In Sacramento, to be a successful legislator, you have to be able to work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I have worked to cultivate and strengthen relationships there to ensure that I can effectively advocate for my

district. Additionally, with the hectic schedule in Sacramento I need to rely heavily on staff. I work diligently to ensure my staff is given all the tools they need to succeed, and feel comfortable, in an effort to get the best results possible. I'm proud that only one person has left my staff since I joined the Assembly 20 months ago, and that was to attend law school.

- 7) Have you ever run for political office, served on a political committee or been identified publicly with a political organization, candidate, ballot measure or issue? If so, please provide the details of your involvement.

I am the current Assemblymember for the 24th Assembly District, I previously served as a Palo Alto City Council member. I also served on the board of the Peninsula Democratic Coalition for six years, including two years as President.

- 8) Is there anything in you background which, if you receive the Club's endorsement, could cause embarrassment to the club? If so, please provide the details.

No.

- 9) How can we resolve the following two major conflicting elements on the Coastside:
- The need to preserve the natural coastal environment for all, including future generations, as spelled out in the CA Coastal Act passed by the voters; and
 - The need on the Coastside for additional housing (both market rate and low-income) and the currently proposed numerous developments on the Coastside (hotels, RV parks, etc.), taking into consideration the Coastside's limited infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.) and the current traffic congestion?

This question is critically important. The housing crisis affects everyone. We have limited supply, and a growing demand. I think the key is development in strategic places. My district is more than 75 percent open space, and that is incredible and never should change. We also need to allow people to live near their jobs, without rents skyrocketing from limited supply. The key therefore has to be in creating housing in certain places, while limiting and protecting open space in all of the other places. This sort of strategic developments also alleviates burdens on infrastructure and schools. We will, however, need to strengthen our transit infrastructure to keep pace. This is why I have supported both statewide and local transit funding measures.

- 10) What are your ideas for Highway 1 safety and traffic improvements?

One immediate solution is supporting additional funding for our infrastructure. Across the district and especially on the coast and Highway 1, our roads and bridges are in need of repair. In an effort to fund those needs the Legislature last year passed SB 1, a 50 billion dollar funding measure for public transit, roads, highways, bridges, and bike and pedestrian routes. I was a proud supporter of this bill, and believe it will have very positive effects for our coast, Highway 1, and all of AD24.