

Rent Board Convention Questions 2016

1. Tell us something about yourself and why you have decided to consider running for Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner.
2. How much time are you able to devote to the campaign? A contested campaign can consume 20 hours a week of your time until the election. As a Commissioner, you'll be attending one lengthy evening board meeting a month and a minimum of two daytime committee meetings (plus preparation time!) Are your hours flexible? Are late meetings a problem? Can you attend daytime meetings?
3. What experience have you had with Berkeley's rent control ordinance, the Rent Board's staff, or the elected Board?
4. Tell us about at least three issues that you consider important to tenants in Berkeley.
5. What is the role of the Rent Board Commissioners? What powers do they have? What changes do you think should be made in how the Rent Board operates?
5. (a) How do you feel about affordable housing? (b) What do you think about low-income housing?
6. The Berkeley Housing element says, "*Ensure that below-market-rate housing is distributed as evenly as possible throughout the community.*" What are the pros and cons of distributing low-income units as parts of new projects, and what are the pros and cons of using set-aside fees from those projects to build mixed low- and medium-income buildings around the city? We want to emphasize that this question is unsettled area and there are no right or wrong answers.
7. Is a pro-tenant Rent Board capable of treating both large and small landlords fairly? Explain.
8. How do you think that rent and eviction controls are related to homelessness? Can the Rent Board have any effect on the homeless situation?
9. What do you consider to be your constituency or base of support? What organizations are you affiliated with? What qualities would you bring to the slate?
10. Please check links on our website (berkeleytenantconvention.net) to two potential ballot measures affecting tenants that will be on the ballot in November: (a) Safe and Affordable Homes tax, and (b) Amending Measure Y to increase relocation payments and prevent family evictions during the school year. Explain your position on both.
11. The Convention asks all candidates to sign a pledge to not run against or endorse against the slate the Convention selects. Will you sign it? Do you think that the pledge is important? Do you think it's fair?
12. If you are nominated by the convention, will you agree, in concert with other slate members, to hire a coordinator with full authority to make campaign decisions in consultation with the slate? The slate will retain the power to determine an overall budget and replace the coordinator.

Please return to berkeleytenantconvention@gmail.com by 10 AM on April 5th

Late responses will be distributed at the convention but may not be in time for the screening by community groups. ALL responses will be posted on the website.