

LIBBY SCHAFF

Seeking Position of: Oakland City Council Dist 4
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1. If elected, what are your top priorities during your term? What would you like to accomplish and how would you go about doing so? Please be specific.

Reduce and Prevent Crime:

As Mayor Jerry Brown's point-person on violence prevention, I helped draft the Measure Y Violence Prevention Plan and oversee the Project Choice Re-Entry Program, whose parolees overwhelmingly stayed out of jail. I will support Chief Batts' strategic and progressive policing, improve neighborhoods to promote safety.

Build a Thriving Economy:

I've brought millions of dollars to Oakland, to build parks and transit-oriented development, and I've helped reduce pollution, cut red tape, and support businesses and artists. I'll make Oakland more business-friendly, attract new living-wage jobs, and invest redevelopment funds wisely.

Support Our Schools:

In my 20s, I left practicing law to build a centralized volunteer program for Oakland public schools, and I've helped start some of Oakland's most successful public schools. I will focus on combating truancy and strengthening city-school partnerships.

Make Your Government More Responsive and Responsible:

Being effective in City Hall means spending less time actually in City Hall. I'll be in the community every day, addressing your concerns. I'll bring decades of experience to create a sustainable budget and make tough choices to get City finances under control.

2. How have you in the past and how will you in the future use your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Americans in public policy and politics?

As Chief of Staff to Council President Ignacio De La Fuente, I assisted in the passage of Oakland's Equal Access Ordinance – a law that ensures that the City employs sufficient bi-lingual employees in public contact positions so all major groups of non-English-speaking citizens have full access to City services. As leader of the Decent Housing Task Force, I also worked closely with groups with East Bay Local Asian Development Corporation, Sentinel Fair Housing and East Bay Community Law Center to ensure that immigrant tenants were protected by cracking down on habitability violations and offering tenants-rights workshops in Cantonese and Spanish. I have a credit in the documentary Oak Park Story for my role in helping this group of primarily South East Asian Immigrants win an inspiring battle against their landlord.

As Director of Public Affairs for the Port of Oakland, I supported Oakland's important economic connection with Asia as we exchange imports and exports.

In my personal volunteer work, I was a Founding Board Member and President of Lighthouse Community Charter School in Chinatown from 2001 – 2009. I've also served on the Board of Directors of Mocha since 2002, and have successfully advocated for an expansion of programs into Chinatown.

3. What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific American interests in the following areas (and if you have not contributed in these areas, please discuss any area(s) in which you have made a contribution):

- **Education**

In my 20s, I left practicing law to build a centralized volunteer program for Oakland public schools, which serve a high percentage of APA students. Some of the first schools we started the program included Franklin, Garfield, Lincoln and San Antonio, which were predominantly APA. I've helped start some of Oakland's most successful public schools, including Lighthouse Community Charter School in Oakland's Chinatown and several of the Small Autonomous Schools.

- **Health Care**

I am endorsed by the California Nurses Association. I have worked to reduce Port pollution while working there. I have advocated for City Planning Policies that promote health as Senior Policy Advisor for Economic Development to the City Council.

- **Civil Rights**

In 1993, I was honored with my law school's Alumni Association Award as the student with the most all-around "Scholastic Achievement, Integrity & Moral Character," in recognition of my work promoting diversity and leading post-riot relief work in South Central Los Angeles. I was Chair of Committee of Community, a coalition of groups seeking to make the Law School more welcoming for diverse cultures, including the Asian Pacific American Law Association, to which I belonged.

I served on the Board of Sentinel Fair Housing and was appointed to the Community Action Partnership, which both promote civil rights.

- **Business**

As Senior Policy Advisor for Economic Development to the City Council, I have worked to attract and retain Oakland businesses and make Oakland more business-friendly.