



Election 2024: Supervisor, District 5

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Why does this race matter?

Supervisor Keith Carson's decision to step down from his District 5 seat after eight terms has launched one of the most contested elections in the Bay Area this year — at least, in terms of the **number of candidates** running. Eight are vying for the seat that represents all of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, Piedmont and part of Oakland.

What does a county supervisor do?

Supervisors govern county programs and departments and approve the county budget. Their largest area of spending is traditionally health care and human services. Supervisors are also responsible for local jails and elections, and they make decisions on law enforcement and housing in unincorporated areas of the county. If a supervisor candidate receives over 50% of the vote in the primary, they take office for a four-year term. Otherwise, the top two candidates face off in the November general election.

What is your plan to address the state of emergency on homelessness in Alameda County?

Bas says the county “has the resources through the health care system and housing system to have the biggest impact, and our solutions must be grounded in advancing racial equity.” She says she has “led the charge for stronger tenant

protections,” including authoring and passing California’s strongest city-level COVID-19 eviction moratorium in March 2020 and co-authoring Oakland’s Fair Chance Housing ordinance.

How would you help increase the amount of affordable housing in the county?

Bas says that while serving on the Oakland City Council, she worked to create a \$14 million fund to help housing-insecure tenants purchase their homes, “making these homes permanently affordable and taking them off the speculative market.” She adds that on the board of the Association of Bay Area Governments, she is currently working on a regional bond measure to raise up to \$20 billion for 80,000 affordable homes.

How would you address what many consider another emergency in the county: fatal drug overdoses?

Fortunato Bas says she co-authored an Oakland **resolution that would allow the city to create overdose prevention programs** proven to work elsewhere. She says she also supports programs the county is already pursuing, including clean-syringe services, naloxone distribution and training, fentanyl testing, and peer support programs. She adds that “Alameda County has an opportunity to expand programs and innovate solutions with the anticipated \$40 million from settlement of opioid lawsuits.”

What would you do to address the county’s rising crime rates, and where do you stand on the related effort to recall District Attorney Pamela Price and hire a new Oakland police chief?

Bas says, “Relitigating a recent election through a costly special election recall, while blaming the incumbent for issues that pre-date her recent tenure, is not something I support.” Rather, she says, she would champion prevention and support programs with proven track records, like Operation Ceasefire and the mobile crisis response unit. “I will focus on prevention, crisis response, community policing and addressing the root causes of poverty and violence.”

What do you feel should happen next with the Oakland Coliseum and the 155 acres it sits on?

Bas says that as a transportation hub and an “opportunity zone,” the site can be a model of “equitable economic development and regional pride.” She notes that she has worked closely with the parties involved on this project and supports developing the city’s portion of the site with facilities that accommodate sports, entertainment, retail, housing and education. Doing so “would create a path for economic equity for the Black community,” she says.