

## Here's who is running for Alameda County Supervisor District 5

2/6/24

<https://oaklandside.org/2024/02/06/alameda-county-d5-supervisor-election-2024/>

Nikki Fortunato Bas was elected in 2018 to the Oakland City Council, where she has served as Council President since 2021. She helped craft Oakland's 2023-2025 budget, which balanced a \$360 million deficit. She was previously the executive director of the Partnership for Working Families.

Homelessness is one of Bas' top priorities. She noted that Alameda County already has a strategy for reducing homelessness over a five-year period called the Home Together 2026 Community Plan. Bas would focus on prevention, intervention, and increasing the stock of affordable housing. Bas also wants to stem evictions that have surged since the moratorium ended last year by funding more legal services and rental assistance for tenants.

She wants the county to work with East Bay cities to increase funding and support for permanent supportive housing and wraparound services, and to better measure results.

“A more robust case management system not only tracking if people enter shelters and permanent housing, but making sure they can remain housed,” Bas said.

Bas wants greater oversight and accountability for Santa Rita Jail. She said it's unclear whether any staff have been held accountable for the death of Maurice Monk — an inmate who died in 2021, and whose family recently received a \$7 million settlement in a wrongful death lawsuit against the county.

“One very important thing we need to do is reimplement the reimagining adult justice recommendations, and make sure those funds instead of expanding the jail are used for more care navigation centers,” Bas said, referring to non-carceral facilities where individuals in crisis can get care.

As an Oakland council member, Bas said she's advocated for a combination of traditional law enforcement, violence prevention, and alternative crisis response like MACRO. She wants to use a similar holistic strategy at the county level, coordinating with cities.

"It's really important to look at safety from a regional lens because crime and violence is impacting all our communities, not just Oakland," Bas said. "We have to have a regional strategy, so we're able to address the crisis at its roots."

[Regarding crime in Oakland] Bas said many of Oakland's public safety problems stem from the pandemic's economic fallout. Bas added that other issues aren't unique to Oakland, like the shrinking number of candidates applying to police departments. She also noted that during her time as council president, the city has reduced attrition at OPD, boosted the number of officers graduating from the academies, rebooted the Ceasefire gun violence strategy, agreed to purchase 300 surveillance cameras, and expanded foot patrols in business districts.

Bas said she does not support the recall of District Attorney Pamela Price.

"During this time of economic uncertainty, I think the county could better use those precious taxpayer funds, rather than on a special recall election, on sorely needed community services," Bas said.