

IFPTE Local 21 Oakland City Council Candidate Questionnaire

**Background Information**

Candidate Name: Kerry Hamill

Title (and District) of Office Sought: Oakland City Council At Large

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: Manager, BART

Employer: BART

Campaign Committee Name: Hamill For City Council

Campaign Website: www.kerryhamill.com

Campaign Phone(s): 559-908-5619

Campaign email : hamill4citycouncil@gmail.com

Campaign ID Number (FPPC): 1304614

Briefly describe your work background.

RESUME

2006 - Present

Manager, Local Government and Community Relations, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).  
Manage a team of problem solvers and community outreach and communications representatives in four-county BART district. Prepare materials and publicly present BART policies and programs, manage consultants and develop district strategy with Board of Directors and General Manager. Write editorials, negotiate solutions in community disputes, disseminate relevant information through e-mail, snail mail and fax networks.

2004 - 2006

Legislative Officer, BART (AFSME member)

Developed legislative program and served as key BART liaison to Sacramento and Washington DC elected officials. Managed consultants at the local, state and federal level. Created the annual "Report To Congress" publication and organized trips to the national and state capitols for BART executive staff and Board of Directors. Served as the BART legislative liaison to regional, state and federal agencies.

2000 - Present

Elected Member, Oakland School Board

Lead the effort to increase the school district's focus on student achievement. Initiated a new reading program and aligned Sacramento funding sources which brought millions of additional state training dollars into the district. Created an effective communication network to explain complex initiatives to constituents and the media. Analyzed and created policy

initiatives in a broad range of areas - from “green building” standards, to No Child Left Behind, to teacher contract negotiation protocols.

1996-2000

Chief of Staff, Senator Don Perata

Lead a staff of 20 and crafted legislation on education, environmental and public safety initiatives. Collaborated with a broad network of local and statewide organizations to create initiatives and build supporting coalitions. Secured millions in state revenues for various district programs.

1990 - 1996

Policy Advisor, Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris

Created and monitored policy on land use and housing issues. Lead outreach efforts to the community, authored the city’s Annual Report for five years. Coordinated policy among a number of city departments. Ran two successful mayoral campaigns for Mr. Harris.

1982 - 1990

Newspaper Reporter, Contra Costa Times

Award winning journalist - covered city government, schools, environmental issues, etc. from Richmond and Martinez bureau offices.

1982

Graduate Bachelor of Arts, San Francisco State University

I also serve as a member of a number of community boards. I started 2 non-profit organizations which support public education. Both are still thriving.

Why are you running for this position? I enjoy public service – I believe that I am good at it and have the necessary skill, commitment and passion to step in at this critical time for Oakland and do good work.

Have you ever been associated with a union? If so, in what capacity? (Please state the International and Local, if possible.) At BART, I was a member of AFSME.

### **Campaign Information**

Who are your campaign staff, consultants, and campaign manager?

Terry Sandoval is running my campaign – I have hired 2 organizers as well.

How much do you expect to raise and spend during your campaign for City Council? To date, how much have you raised? Please list your top five contributors to date.

\$200K already raised \$50K – Carpenters Union, Oakland Administrators Union, Firefighters

3. Please list your major political and organizational endorsers.

Jerry Brown - Former Oakland Mayor, Current CA State Attorney General  
Elihu Harris – Former Oakland Mayor & 16th A.D. Assemblymember  
Don Perata - Senate President pro Tem  
Nancy Skinner – 14th A.D. Assemblymember Elect  
Dion Aroner - Former 14th A.D. Assemblymember  
Sheila Jordan - Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

Jane Brunner – Oakland City Council  
Henry Chang, Jr. - Oakland City Council  
Ignacio De La Fuente – Oakland City Council President  
Patricia Kernighan - Oakland City Council  
Jean Quan - Oakland City Council, President Pro Tempore  
Larry Reid - Oakland City Council  
Dick Spees - Former City Council Member  
Danny Wan – Former City Council Member

Betty Olson-Jones - President Oakland Education Association  
Sheila Quintana - Former Oakland Education Association President  
Chris Dobbins – Oakland School Board Member  
Noel Gallo - Oakland School Board Member  
Greg Hodge – Oakland School Board Member

Jumoke Hinton Hodge – Oakland School Board Member Elect  
David Kakishiba - Oakland School Board President  
Alice A. Spearman – Oakland School Board Member  
Gary Yee - Oakland School Board Member  
Jason Hodge – Former Oakland School Board Member  
Ken Rice – Former Oakland School Board Member

Elsa Ortiz - AC Transit Board of Directors

Eva Aguilar - Mayor's Commission on Aging  
Bobbie Bonds - Mayor's Commission on Aging  
Yui Hay Lee – Oakland Planning Commissioner

Gilda Gonzales – Unity Council CEO

Annalee Allen – Historical Preservation Writer  
Jon Ball – VP Hensel Phelps Construction Co.  
Kathy Kahn – Montclair Community Leader  
CJ Hirschfield – Executive Director Children's Fairyland  
Brooke A. Levin – Rockridge Community Leader  
Susan Montauk – Rockridge Community Leader  
Terry Sandoval – Oakland Public School Leader  
David A. Stein – Attorney, Past President Oakland Rotary  
Phil Tagami – Oakland Businessman  
Christopher Waters – North Oakland Community Leader  
R. Zachary Wasserman – Attorney, Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean LLP

Reverend Wortham Fears - Patton College  
Reverend David Kately - Shiloh Christian Fellowship Church  
Reverend Joe Smith - Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
Bay City Baptist Minister's Union

AFSCME – Local 3993  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters – Local 70  
Laborers' International Union of Northern California- Local 304  
Oakland Education Association  
Oakland Firefighters – Local 55  
Operating Engineers - Local 3  
Pipe Trades Association – Local 342  
United Brotherhood of Teamsters – Local 70

### **General Questions**

What are your top legislative priorities?

Public Safety – Both from Enforcement and Prevention side

Restore trust and credibility to City Hall

Build a future Oakland that is green, walkable and rich in public amenities

How will you achieve these objectives?

Politics is the art of relationships. I care genuinely about people in all spectrums of the community and the workforce and have forged successful relationship by building trust and focusing on common ground.

I have successfully led efforts to improve classroom reading and multiply art programs in the school district – even during times of budget cuts.

I've wrestled with the problems that come with managing a local school system in state trusteeship. These experiences taught me about the power of an involved community and the critical nature of working with our collective bargaining units to ensure that all transitions are in the best interest of the customer and the staff.

On my website, I have an extensive program to decrease crime and increase the coordination and alignment of our recreation resources to keep our children busy.

I have the endorsement and respect of all organizing units that have worked with me in the school district – and have managed to create record of accomplishments under the most difficult circumstances.

Oakland needs more than a proportionate share of the \$1.6M new jobs projected to come to the region between now and 2025. We need to build a range of new housing and take advantage of the billions of dollars in transit infrastructure here by building new transit villages at and around all BART Stations. I started the MacArthur BART project many years ago and know what it takes to get community buy-in for such endeavors.

What are the top five most serious issues facing the City?

Crime

Lack of revenue in the city budget

Lack of jobs

Lack of credibility at City Hall

Lack of reinvestment of commercial strips

What distinguishes your goals and priorities from your opponent?

Please describe your long term commitment to Oakland and to making City services the best they can be. Do you plan to seek higher office?

I have made no decisions about higher office. I have been here 20 years and intend to live in my current home until I die.

We need a jobs and a business development strategy in the city that is cohesive and realistic because our city must have a greater level of services than we can currently afford.

### **Public Employee Union Questions**

Some people feel that the City should be run like a business, what are your thoughts?

I don't like the strategy. Government should set the example for fairness and joint cooperation between workers and managers. A highly functioning city should set the standard in the community.

What is your position on preserving the current level of health and retirement benefits for public employees? Do you think City employees should be required to contribute more for these benefits? I don't support take-aways.

What is your position on contracting out or privatization of City services? How have you addressed this issue in the past? We have not contracted services out at the School District. I don't support contracting out.

What actions would you advocate for to address the City's budget deficit? What steps would you support to raise revenues and/or reduce expenditures? Here are some that I would consider:

Higher fees on permitting and plan checking. Higher fees on the use of city facilities and ballfields-higher code enforcement fees

Retirement buyout plan to encourage older staff to retire, thus eliminating the need for layoffs

4-day work week

What do you believe the role of unions is in the City's budget and legislative processes? What steps will you take to ensure their meaningful participation?

Unions should be at the table every step of the way. It is very detrimental to the process when members of the City Council are taken into closed session and given a budget overview and allowed to craft reductions without the full participation of unions.

In light of recent events, how would you address issues of nepotism, cronyism and favoritism in City hiring and contracting? Good management and oversight by the City Council is required. The complaints about skewed hiring and favoritism have been in the newspapers for years – yet they have been ignored. The City Council needs to have its own budget rolled back and it should no longer take the \$250K Pay Go allotment of \$ that each City Council member gets each year. This money is a distraction and keeps the City Council members from paying attention to the City Manager at the appropriate level.

What reforms to Civil Service would you support? Under what circumstances would you support exempting City jobs from Civil Service requirements? I would keep the current system as is.

8. What role would you play as a City Council member in directing City staff? I have a great record on the school board of introducing legislation to create school based health clinics, keep military recruiters off our campuses, revitalize ballfields for community use, etc.

I work through my colleagues and through the Chief Administrator, not through the staff.

### **General Labor Union Questions**

Please describe any actions you have taken to support workers' rights.

I support workers rights all the time as a member of the School Board. I successfully carried a resolution in 2004 to block the State Administrator from imposing a contract on teachers, and organized throughout Oakland to ensure that I had the support of the community to stop his actions.

What role should the City Council play in labor issues? They should involve themselves when asked by the union.

If endorsed, will you carry the union endorsement on your mail and materials?

Yes

If elected, would you be willing to come and speak to our membership about City-related issues?

Yes