

Name	Sophie Hahn	Stephen Murphy
Age	55	44
Job	Zoning Adjustments Board member; retired small business owner and attorney	Associate director, Alameda County Family Justice Center
What is the main reason you are running?	I am running to represent the people and neighborhoods of Berkeley, and ensure that as we grow and change, we protect and amplify the things that make Berkeley a uniquely wonderful place to live, work, learn and play. With a lifetime of service for our schools, libraries, community and the environment, I will champion equity and forward Berkeley's great tradition of progressive leadership. Berkeley is facing a crisis of affordability, displacement and homelessness. Addressing this will be my top priority. Endorsed by the Sierra Club, I will continue my work to address climate change and improve Berkeley's resilience.	I have spent my career dedicated to public service and social justice and I want to build upon my experience and relationships to help my community. As a father of three children under the age of 7, I care a great deal about the quality of life in our neighborhood. I fell in love with Berkeley when I moved here 26 years ago and I want to ensure that Berkeley continues to be a place where everyone has choices for a good life. We must enact new initiatives to ensure that Berkeley is safe, prosperous, and accessible for all.
Why are you qualified for the position?	My qualifications are: (1) My deep roots in District 5 and close, lifelong relationship with the community I am running to serve; I grew up in District 5, and have raised my family here (2) My unparalleled record of service to Berkeley's schools, libraries and to the community (3) My leadership on the Environment and fighting Climate Change (4) My education, including graduating from Berkeley High and UC Berkeley (Phi Beta Kappa, with Honors) and receiving a JD from Stanford Law School (5) My public service as a senior member of the City of Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board and as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, and as a member of the Solano Avenue Business Improvement District Board (6) My leadership in the community, serving on Boards including the Berkeley Public Library Foundation, The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, the Sierra Club, the Bancroft Library at CAL and Planned Parenthood; as President of the King PTA and Chair of the Governance Council, and more (5) My work experience, including practicing law, working for a large international organization (the International Planned Parenthood Federation) and starting, growing and operating a small manufacturing and wholesale business.	In my professional life, I serve as the Associate Director of the Alameda County Family Justice Center. I deal firsthand with serious problems affecting marginalized communities. I have dedicated my life to pursuing social justice and my desire for justice and equity has resonated with voters. I have been serving the Berkeley community for five years as an appointee on numerous commissions and boards addressing housing affordability, economic development, public safety, equity, and homelessness. I have a long track record of accomplishing goals and building bridges between divergent perspectives. As the unanimously-elected Chair of the Berkeley Planning Commission, I understand the importance of consensus building for addressing the needs of District 5 residents. Each day, I hear about your desire for a safe, prosperous, and vibrant city. I can offer a fresh, independent perspective in addressing these challenges. Solutions are at hand, but existing resources are not always effectively aligned. To realign resources or launch new solutions, conditions of trust and common purpose must prevail. I bring a mindset that is geared towards pragmatic and collaborative solutions, and I have gained the trust of the majority of Council Members needed to make these solutions a reality.
What sets you apart from other candidates?	The above qualifications set me significantly apart. In addition, I have been a strong advocate for the full implementation of Berkeley's Downtown Plan, while my opponent has worked on behalf of real estate interests seeking to maximize profits by building luxury housing. The Downtown Plan approved by Berkeley's citizens promised taller buildings with ample affordable housing, historic preservation, green buildings and transit features, units for all family sizes, attractive parks and plazas, public parking, and more. I co-authored the legislation that saved our Downtown Post Office and protects our entire historic Civic Center from privatization. I have championed affordable housing, green buildings and transit, and approved over 2,500 units of housing. I approved the expanded parking garage under construction, successfully opposed leasing publicly funded spaces to the new hotel development (which now includes parking) and insisted on public restrooms. My vision for an arts- and pedestrian-centric downtown is published on Berkeleyside. I work with developers, but not for them. My opponent led a campaign funded by the California and National Associations of Realtors, and his own campaign is heavily funded by development interests. Finally, my opponent has been sanctioned and fined by the Courts for serious misconduct.	Berkeley wants its representatives to build consensus and implement sound, reasonable, and progressive policies. I am the best candidate to implement this vision. My opponent co-authored Measure R in 2014 which would have upended our Downtown Plan. This award-winning plan was created after hundreds of public meetings over the course of 10 years. My opponent was one of the principal authors of this measure to overturn the community-based process. I led the effort to reject the measure my opponent wrote and luckily, 80% of District 5 voters agreed with me. I believe we should pursue progressive, cooperative approaches in tackling our community's problems. While my opponent has supported ballot measures that have been repeatedly voted down by the voters, I simply believe that my policies align more with District 5 voters. I also believe in bringing positivity and collaboration to City Council. I think many residents are exhausted by unending mudslinging in politics and really just want someone to implement thoughtful policies. I believe that we can tackle our pressing problems in a collaborative and constructive manner. (My fellow parents at Washington Elementary School think it would be great to have their voice represented at Council too!)
How did you end up in Berkeley?	My parents moved to Berkeley when I was a young girl. Berkeley citizens had just voted to integrate the public schools, and my parents wanted our family to be part of what was then a groundbreaking movement. Attending Cragmont, "Columbus," King, West Campus, Berkeley High and UC Berkeley, I was steeped in Free Speech, Civil Rights and the Farmworkers' struggle, participating in marches, protests and boycotts. Thus began my life as an activist in Berkeley - and beyond. My commitment to this community, and to our shared values, has been expressed through continuous leadership, advocacy and service since that time.	I came to Cal in 1990 on a baseball scholarship and met my wife Monalisa soon after. I knew a number of Cal students who had attended Berkeley High School and was so impressed by their high emotional intelligence. I decided during my first year at Cal that eventually I wanted to raise my children in Berkeley and send them to Berkeley public schools. I am not disappointed. The city and university form a socially and intellectually engaging community. The serene parks, grand vistas and fabulous people offer an environment for reflection and connection. We are never leaving.

Name	Sophie Hahn	Stephen Murphy
<p>What are the three biggest challenges Berkeley faces in the near future?</p>	<p>We are not powerless in the face of intense regional market forces, but we need to act quickly and decisively if we want to stem the tide of displacement. A report by Just Cause/Causa Justa, “Development without Displacement,” outlines an approach to development that enhances existing communities rather than pushing them out.</p> <p>Alameda County has an Affordable Housing Bond on our November ballot, which will provide much needed funds for Berkeley. We need to pass it. I support Measure U1, taxing landlords’ windfall profits and dedicating those monies to our affordable housing trust fund. (I oppose Measure DD, a deceptive competing initiative put on the ballot by the landlord lobby).</p> <p>Market-rate housing is also part of the solution, and I welcome new, well designed, green developments – with affordable housing fees and inclusionary housing requirements set at the highest feasible levels.</p> <p>I will work with UC Berkeley to fast-track student housing and will join with other jurisdictions to create a “Commercial Linkage Fee” that results in regional monies for affordable housing.</p> <p>For the homeless, I support Housing First policies, working with regional partners to pool resources and coordinate services. We must increase emergency services for those are on the brink of homelessness, with well-publicized hotlines, rental assistance, hotel vouchers and relocation services. Second, we need to invest in proven long-term solutions such as San Francisco’s navigation centers and transitional and permanent supportive housing. Finally, we must address the immediate humanitarian and health crisis on our streets. Sanctioned tent cities and tiny homes are just a few viable ideas to explore, as well as the recommendations from Berkeley’s Homeless Task Force.</p> <p>Saving Alta Bates will take sustained organizing and action on many fronts. I am already working with the Nurses/CNA, who have successfully organized to save many hospitals.</p>	<p>Homelessness: As the Associate Director of the Alameda County Family Justice Center, I work every week with families who are suffering from homelessness. Homelessness has a ripple effect not only on the individuals and families experiencing homelessness but on the community at large. It is inhumane to allow people to live on our streets.</p> <p>I also understand there is a difference between homelessness and dangerous and unhealthy street behavior. For this reason, I am in favor of the Community Sidewalk Ordinance. Unlike my opponent, I believe it is reasonable to disallow public urination and defecation and limit the amount of space where one can spread their belongings on the sidewalk only if we also provide free storage and public bathrooms. I think this is compassionate and fair.</p> <p>Public Safety: I walk down Cedar Street every day with my three young children. I want them to be just as safe as every resident and visitor to Berkeley. Not only do we need to reduce crime in our community, we need to make pedestrian safety a high priority in District 5 by promoting walkable, safe communities. I am honored to have earned the support of the police and firefighters.</p> <p>Affordability: Housing affordability is an enormous challenge in our community. We need to make sure people can afford to live and retire here. As the Chair of the Planning Commission, I have worked on this issue extensively. I was instrumental in making it easier to legalize and create accessory dwelling units or granny flats in Berkeley. Accessory dwelling units are one source of low-cost housing because they are much less expensive to build than a traditional infill unit. This is just one of many examples of how my work on the Planning Commission will help families throughout District 5.</p>

Name	Sophie Hahn	Stephen Murphy
What are your ideas to solve them?	<p>We are not powerless in the face of intense regional market forces, but we need to act quickly and decisively if we want to stem the tide of displacement. A report by Just Cause/Causa Justa, “Development without Displacement,” outlines an approach to development that enhances existing communities rather than pushing them out.</p> <p>Alameda County has an Affordable Housing Bond on our November ballot, which will provide much needed funds for Berkeley. We need to pass it. I support Measure U1, taxing landlords’ windfall profits and dedicating those monies to our affordable housing trust fund. (I oppose Measure DD, a deceptive competing initiative put on the ballot by the landlord lobby).</p> <p>Market-rate housing is also part of the solution, and I welcome new, well designed, green developments – with affordable housing fees and inclusionary housing requirements set at the highest feasible levels.</p> <p>I will work with UC Berkeley to fast-track student housing and will join with other jurisdictions to create a “Commercial Linkage Fee” that results in regional monies for affordable housing.</p> <p>For the homeless, I support Housing First policies, working with regional partners to pool our resources and coordinate services. First, we must increase emergency services for those who are on the brink of homelessness, with well-publicized hotlines, rental assistance, hotel vouchers and relocation services. Second, we need to invest in proven long-term solutions such as San Francisco’s navigation centers and transitional and permanent supportive housing. Finally, we must address the immediate humanitarian and health crisis on our streets. Sanctioned tent cities and tiny homes are just a few viable ideas to explore, as well as the many recommendations from Berkeley’s Homeless Task Force.</p> <p>Saving Alta Bates will take sustained organizing and action on many fronts. I am already working with the Nurses/CNA, who have successfully organized to save many hospitals.</p>	<p>Homelessness: Through my work at the Family Justice Center, I know firsthand the importance of implementing a Housing First policy and providing wraparound services and permanent supportive housing. I also am realistic about what one city can do when this is a regional crisis. The City needs to collaborate with other municipalities to address homelessness. The most critical need is funding and making sure we are spending that money wisely. We need more mental health services, shelter beds, and supportive housing. At the same time, we need to take a hard look at how our current services are functioning using performance metrics. We cannot afford to waste one dime in supporting ineffective services because in the end, that just hurts more homeless individuals.</p> <p>Public Safety: Presently we have only one officer patrolling both District 5 and District 6. I will work to increase those numbers. Many District 5 residents also complain of an increase in property damage crimes. I will work with Berkeley Police to better understand the nature of these crimes and how to combat and help our residents feel safe. In addition, we must prepare for a potential natural disaster. I will work with the Berkeley Fire Department to implement a comprehensive District 5 wide plan to identify escape arterials, well organized blocks and temporary shelters.</p> <p>Affordable Housing: We need to take a hard look at our permitting processes in Berkeley. Our community needs affordable housing now and not in five years. We need to streamline the cumbersome permitting process in order to create housing for our workers, families, and retirees. We also need to pursue workforce and teacher housing in our community by creating affordable housing on city or BUSD land so our teachers and city employees can live in our city (and reduce their carbon footprint).</p>
What is your most inspired or unique idea for Berkeley?	<p>I am committed to working with merchants, property owners, neighbors and North Berkeley residents to transform Solano into a vibrant, sustainable Main Street for North Berkeley. The Institute for Local Self Reliance champions measures to support strong local economies. I am excited to partner with the community on this initiative.</p>	<p>We will reopen the Oaks Theater. As a boardmember of From Little Acorns Grow, I am currently working to save the theater. We will screen movies on the weekend and host music and arts events during the week. This is just one of my ideas to improve Solano Avenue.</p>
How will you be accessible to constituents?	<p>I love being of service to the people of Berkeley, and will be a full-time councilperson, with no other job competing for my time and attention. My door will always be open, and with my kids in college, I will be available to meet with constituents evenings and weekends. As president of King PTA I responded to thousands of inquiries every year, providing support and connections, and solving problems. I will hold regular coffees and town halls, reaching out to neighborhood groups and tapping the amazing ideas and talents of District 5’s residents.</p>	<p>First and foremost, I will be vigilant about responding to constituent inquiries. Councilmembers must be responsive and available. I will continue Laurie Capitelli’s popular monthly “coffee with the councilmember.” I will rotate these coffees throughout the various business districts in District 5. I will sponsor numerous informational sessions between District 5 residents and the Berkeley Fire Department and the Berkeley Police Department to discuss public safety and disaster preparedness. I will regularly attend neighborhood gatherings such as block parties and CERT group meetings.</p>
How much do you expect to spend on your campaign?	<p>I am honored to have received over 500 enthusiastic donations, the vast majority from Berkeley and District 5 residents. To date, I have raised over \$65,000.</p>	<p>\$45,000</p>

Name	Sophie Hahn	Stephen Murphy
A final thought?	<p>I am pleased to be endorsed by:</p> <p>The Sierra Club Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte The Green Party of Alameda County The East Bay Times (Oakland Tribune)</p> <p>Alameda Labor Council SEIU Local 1021 California Nurses Association American Postal Workers Union, East Bay Area Local East Bay Young Democrats Wellstone Democratic Club CAL Berkeley Democrats Berkeley Citizens Action Berkeley Progressive Alliance John George Democratic Club Berkeley Tenants Union</p> <p>Congressman Mike Honda Controller Betty Yee CA Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin (ret.) Assemblymember Tony Thurmond Alameda County Superintendent of Schools L. Karen Monroe Alameda County Superintendent of Schools Sheila Jordan (ret.)</p>	<p>I hope I can earn your vote to represent you in District 5. I promise to offer a positive, independent and fresh perspective. Please join Loni Hancock, Nancy Skinner, the mayor and majority of City Council, every endorsing school board member, Berkeley Firefighters, Berkeley Police, Berkeley Democratic Club, League of Conservation Voters, Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus, Alameda Labor Council and many trade unions, and hundreds of District 5 residents in supporting my candidacy. I would like to represent your ideas, your voices, and your vision. If you would like more information about my campaign, please visit www.stephenmurphy2016.com.</p>
Website	http://www.sophiehahn.com	www.stephenmurphy2016.com
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/Sophie-Hahn-for-Berkeley-City-Council-District-5-27182510921/	https://www.facebook.com/stephenmurphy2016/
Twitter	(none provided)	https://twitter.com/murphy4council
Original source	Berkeleyside	Berkeleyside