

**Mari Mendonca**  
**2166 Ashby Ave**  
**Berkeley, CA 94705**



**Education:**

Academy of Art University, San Francisco  
BFA June, 2005  
Contra Costa Community College, San Pablo  
1989 - 1992  
Berkeley High School  
Graduated June, 1989

**Employment:**

Berkwood Hedge School, January 2017 to present, groundskeeper  
Albany Florist, 2015 - 2016, delivery driver  
Hyatt House/Woodfin Suites, 2006 - 2014 front desk/night audit

Please provide written responses of no more than 100 words per question to the following:

1. Describe why you would like to be a Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner and how your perspective and relevant experience will support and enhance the work that the Board currently

Berkeley is my home. I was born in Berkeley at Alta Bates Hospital, attended Berkeley schools and graduated from Berkeley High School. I have always been a tenant living below the poverty line... I have experienced homelessness as a young mother in Berkeley as well as displacement from Berkeley in 1994. I am currently a section 8 tenant in Berkeley living in a rent controlled unit. I have a deep passion for community and am passionate about learning, exploring, researching and working together towards aspirational and relevant goals. I have been a committee leader with Unite Here 2850 advocating and working alongside co-workers for the right to form a Union and workers rights. I currently engage with

2. What role do you think Rent Board Commissioners should play? How will you handle situations where the Rent Board does not have jurisdiction to act, but community members call upon Commissioners to take action?

I think Commissioners should do what is outlined for them to do as stated in the purpose of the Rent Board Ordinance: "...protect tenants from unwarranted rent increases and arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions, in order to help maintain the diversity of the Berkeley community and to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the rental of housing. This legislation is designed to address the City of Berkeley's housing crisis, preserve the public peace, health and safety, and advance the housing policies of the city with regard to low and fixed income persons, minorities, students, handicapped, and the aged."

I will advocate for justice and fairness whether or not the issues at hand are a part of their jurisdiction or not.

3. Describe three issues that you consider important to tenants in Berkeley and the role the elected Rent Board should have regarding these issues.

Rising rents is one of the most important issues in our current "Market" as it threatens an extremely large part of our community. The Rent Board should constantly be working towards solutions to the affordability crisis.

Education, information and protection from being forced out is another major concern. I personally have been threatened by the Manager of my unit to be forced out if I did not accept their "Offer" to buy me out.

Protect tenants rights to have safe and habitable housing.

4. Describe three issues that you consider important to landlords in Berkeley and the role the elected Rent Board should have regarding these issues.

Small property owners, especially low income landlords who want to rent to low income tenants need our support -in terms of accessing resources to make sure that their rental units are fully habitable.

Support for mediating conflicts between tenants as well as between themselves and their tenants.

Provide small landlords with the information and tools needed to manage their properties.

5. How much time are you able to devote to your duties as a Commissioner? Are your hours flexible? Can you attend meetings until as late as 11:00 pm? Can you attend a two-hour twice-a-month daytime meeting?

I am a single parent and work part time. I take the position of Rent Board Commissioner extremely seriously and will do my best to be flexible and accommodate schedules for meetings.

6. What Committees are you interested in being a member of and why?

Eviction/Section8/Foreclosure Committee -These are things that I have real life experience with.  
Outreach - I like to make connection with the community and inform and empower them to be advocates.

2x2x2 - I have a school age child and am concerned about the number of homeless children in Berkeley Public Schools

7. What is the Rent Stabilization Board doing well and what does it need to improve upon?

The Rent Board has members with a variety of skills and experience who are good at doing long term policy and shaping policies state wide.

The rent board could improve outreach and participation to people of color.

8. If you are selected to fill this seat, you will have to run for office in November 2020 to keep the seat. Please describe your experience, if applicable, running for office and what your approach to the process will be.

I have never run for political office but I have many diverse connections to a lot of people in Berkeley. I am comfortable, and have in the past gone door to door and I enjoy talking to people individually and in large groups.

9. Please share any other information you would like us to should consider in evaluating you as a candidate.