



BENNETT REA POLICY ONE-PAGER

No one-page document can effectively go over every detail of a policy platform, but this is a comprehensive, holistic view of what I believe will make Claremont a more affordable, inclusive and equitable place to live -- for the next four years and far beyond -- while maintaining its character and preserving the city's distinguishing beauty and values.

You are no less a Claremonter because you are Black

The discrimination felt by BIPOC residents of Claremont is unacceptable. Antiracist curriculum in schools, amplification of Black voices, and the abolition of policing as it exists are vital to the future of our city and its residents. Abolition is not the solution, it's the destination. In order to responsibly work toward that goal, we must divert funds from the police budget to infrastructure, health and human services, childcare and housing -- treat the disease instead of the symptoms. In addition, we must give our police commission the power of an oversight committee, decriminalize poverty, and work together with our neighboring cities to plan a viable, long term network of community safety.

You are no less a Claremonter because you don't make six figures

This pandemic has widened the gap between those who were thriving vs. those who were surviving. We need to provide free financial literacy programs, subsidize childcare for those in need, and tear down systemic barriers to entry and laws that unjustly criminalize poverty, from inequitable parking fines to restrictive zoning. These issues are inextricably tied to race in many ways, but not solely -- affordable housing does not solve police harassment of Black residents above Baseline, and matching grants for non-white business owners does not solve income inequality. Both racial and economic equity must be in our sights.

You are no less a Claremonter because your business is struggling

There is no shame in having difficulty making ends meet, whether you're a working class parent, a small business owner or anyone else trying to create and sustain a life of dignity and value during an economic crisis. As a city, it is our duty to support the small business owners who help to create not only the image of Claremont, but the actual character of Claremont. I propose deferring all license and fee payments until the crisis has ended, placing a local moratorium on evictions in both commercially and residentially zoned areas, and creating a centralized digital hub that facilitates communication between business owners and the city.

You are a Claremonter, no matter your skin color, religious affiliation, income level, immigration status, employment situation, sexual orientation, gender identity or residency. This is what I believe. This is what I will fight for as your City Councilmember. This is what Claremont can be, if we're willing to rise to the occasion. I believe we are.