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## Profile

Rodney

First Name

K.

Middle Initial

Nickens

Last Name

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Email Address

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City

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Postal Code

~~Home: (202) 735-0973~~

Primary Phone

~~Home: (510) 458-2004~~

Alternate Phone

San Francisco Foundation

Employer

Program Officer

Job Title

## Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Housing, Residential Rent and Relocation Board: Submitted

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## Interests & Experiences

**Please tell us how your qualifications and participation will relate to the requested board and/or commission's mission.**

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I am an elected California Democratic Party Assembly District Delegate and a Program Officer of Policy and Innovation at the San Francisco Foundation. Early in my professional journey, I have had the privilege of serving in critical roles on the frontlines of progressive change in California and across the nation. Driven by a passion for racial, economic and housing justice, I have served on several boards and committees including, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Housing Methodology Committee at the Association of Bay Area Governments, as well as the One Bay Area Grant Program/Priority Development Area Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Regional Transit Oriented Development TAC at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. My work includes advising regional housing planning staff and elected officials throughout the Bay Area on regional policy, programs, and strategies that preserve and expedite production of affordable housing, protect tenants, advance racial justice and economic equity, and proactively address historical patterns of racial exclusion and segregation. I have also served on the boards of several non-profit organizations rooted in millennial civic engagement including the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, the Black Young Democrats of Sacramento, and the California Young Democrats Black Caucus. As a passionate social justice advocate, I have volunteered on numerous local, state, and federal campaigns for Democratic leaders. I was a 2020 New Leaders Council (NLC) Oakland Fellow and now serve on the Board of Directors for both NLC Oakland and the Greenlining Institute Academy Alumni Association, where my focus includes leadership and professional development and digital organizing and communications. I was recently appointed to the Regional Planning Committee at the Association of Bay Area Governments. Additionally, I am the Founder of R&N Strategies, LLC, a political consulting firm focused on identifying, recruiting, and advising progressive grassroots candidates for local elected offices in the Bay Area. He is a 2009 graduate of the inaugural class at the University of California, Merced, a 2011 graduate of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African-American Studies at UCLA, and a 2016 graduate of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where he earned a certificate in Social Justice Lawyering. Rodney is a native of Portsmouth, Virginia and currently resides in Oakland, California. Early in my professional journey, I have had the privilege of serving in critical roles on the frontlines of progressive change. Some of the highlights of my public interest career include serving as a Public Policy and Networks Associate in Washington, D.C. at the National Black Justice Coalition in 2011, where I was instrumental in the marriage equality campaign in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 2012, Maryland made United States history as the first state in the country to approve marriage equality at the ballot box for same-sex couples. After graduating from law school, I worked at Public Advocates, a leading San Francisco Bay Area non-profit civil rights law firm and social justice advocacy organization that challenges the systemic causes of poverty and racial discrimination by strengthening community voices in public policy and achieving tangible legal victories advancing education, housing and transit equity. I have also served as a Law Clerk at the California Department of Justice in the Office of the Attorney General and worked at the Greenlining Institute, a progressive policy, research, organizing, and leadership development institute in Oakland, working for racial and economic justice. My most recent accomplishments, include participation in the Equality California Institute's Northern California Leadership Academy in 2017, service at the California State Senate and at the Democratic Party of Georgia, as part of their historic coordinated campaign in 2018, which sought to elect Leader Stacey Abrams as the country's first Black woman Governor. I have served on the boards of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, the Black Young Democrats of Sacramento, and the California Young Democrats Black Caucus and volunteered on numerous local, state, and federal campaigns for progressive leaders. I currently serve on the board of the Greenlining Academy Alumni Association. In 2015, NBJC named me one of the 100 Black LGBTQ/SGL Emerging Leaders to Watch. I am excited to apply for the Oakland Planning Commission due to my passion for expanding housing opportunities for our most vulnerable neighbors and commitment to affordable housing and equitable and sustainable development. I believe my passion, experience and background will prove to be an asset to the work of the commission.

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***Please submit your resume or curriculum vitae. You may upload a document. (A Word format is preferred.) Alternatively, you may paste the text of your resume in the field provided below.***

**Please paste the text of your resume or curriculum vitae below.**

EXPERIENCE San Francisco Foundation San Francisco, CA | Program Officer, Policy and Innovation | February 2021 – Present Manage grantmaking portfolio and contribute policy expertise and advocacy to advance equitable housing justice comprised of transformative affordable housing policy system change efforts to expand robust tenant protections, and affordable housing preservation and production efforts to ensure that African-American and Black, indigenous and low-income Bay Area residents, essential workers, and families of color have access to safe and affordable places to call home and thrive. Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California San Francisco, CA | Policy Manager | May 2019 – January 2021 Led and coordinated policy advocacy activities for organization’s major regional initiatives and campaigns, including updating the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC) Transit Oriented Development Policy; following and advocating for the expedited delivery of affordable housing through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (state-mandated housing plan) and the Plan Bay Area 2050 processes (9-county long-range land use and transportation plan for the San Francisco Bay Area); and monitoring and analyzing all other regional housing and transportation oriented development (TOD) initiatives under the authority of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), MTC, and the Bay Area Rapid Transit Agency (BART). R&N Strategies, LLC Oakland, CA | Founder and Principal Consultant | January 2019 – Present Provide strategic and management political consulting for candidates, causes, and organizations utilizing a grassroots field organizing approach to campaign and project management and political and community engagement to develop short and long-term plans to achieve electoral and legislative goals. Democratic Party of Georgia Atlanta, GA | Coordinated Campaign Field Organizer | August – December 2018 Executed volunteer based 2018 Midterm Election grassroots field plan at the local level to achieve monthly, weekly, and daily voter contact goals, reporting deadlines, and expanded and accurate voter databases utilizing web-based electoral applications such as VoteBuilder - NGP Van, MiniVan, Mobilize America, Hubdialer, and Hustle. California State Senate Sacramento, CA | Legislative Consultant | April 2017 – August 2018 Staffed nation’s first transgender-inclusive sexual harassment training and employment non-discrimination legislation to promote (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) goals and objectives of the California LGBTQ Legislative Caucus of providing equal opportunity and workplace inclusion for LGBTQ residents. Public Advocates San Francisco, CA | Metropolitan Equity Legal Team Bridge Fellow | November 2016 – March 2017 Drafted memoranda conducted legal and policy research on affordable housing and displacement issues and provided legal staff support to anti-displacement, equitable development, and affordable housing campaigns working collaboratively with lawyers, community organizers and low-income residents. EDUCATION UC Hastings College of the Law | San Francisco, CA | J.D., Social Justice Lawyering Concentration, 2016 UCLA | Los Angeles, CA | M.A., Afro-American Studies, Political Science and Sociology Concentration, 2011 UC Merced | Merced, CA | B.A., History, United States Concentration, 2009 COMPUTER SKILLS Windows and Macintosh operating systems, Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite, DropBox, Slack, LexisNexis, Westlaw and various web-based research, philanthropic, and electoral tools and applications.

**Please click the acknowledgement below.**

**Service on City of Oakland boards, commissions, and committees may require filings of the FPPC's Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700). Upon appointment and determination of filing status, I will comply with all filing obligations.**

I Agree \*

# RODNEY K. NICKENS JR.

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## EXPERIENCE

### **San Francisco Foundation**

San Francisco, CA | *Program Officer, Policy and Innovation* | February 2021 – Present

Manage grantmaking portfolio and contribute policy expertise and advocacy to advance equitable housing justice comprised of transformative affordable housing policy system change efforts to expand robust tenant protections, and affordable housing preservation and production efforts to ensure that African-American and Black, indigenous and low-income Bay Area residents, essential workers, and families of color have access to safe and affordable places to call home and thrive.

### **Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California**

San Francisco, CA | *Policy Manager* | May 2019 – January 2021

Led and coordinated policy advocacy activities for organization's major regional initiatives and campaigns, including updating the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Transit Oriented Development Policy; following and advocating for the expedited delivery of affordable housing through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (state-mandated housing plan) and the Plan Bay Area 2050 processes (9-county long-range land use and transportation plan for the San Francisco Bay Area); and monitoring and analyzing all other regional housing and transportation oriented development (TOD) initiatives under the authority of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), MTC, and the Bay Area Rapid Transit Agency (BART).

### **R&N Strategies, LLC**

Oakland, CA | *Founder and Principal Consultant* | January 2019 – Present

Provide strategic and management political consulting for candidates, causes, and organizations utilizing a grassroots field organizing approach to campaign and project management and political and community engagement to develop short and long-term plans to achieve electoral and legislative goals.

### **Democratic Party of Georgia**

Atlanta, GA | *Coordinated Campaign Field Organizer* | August – December 2018

Executed volunteer based 2018 Midterm Election grassroots field plan at the local level to achieve monthly, weekly, and daily voter contact goals, reporting deadlines, and expanded and accurate voter databases utilizing web-based electoral applications such as VoteBuilder - NGP Van, MiniVan, Mobilize America, Hubdialer, and Hustle.

### **California State Senate**

Sacramento, CA | *Legislative Consultant* | April 2017 – August 2018

Staffed nation's first transgender-inclusive sexual harassment training and employment non-discrimination legislation to promote (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) goals and objectives of the California LGBTQ Legislative Caucus of providing equal opportunity and workplace inclusion for LGBTQ residents.

### **Public Advocates**

San Francisco, CA | *Metropolitan Equity Legal Team Bridge Fellow* | November 2016 – March 2017

Drafted memoranda conducted legal and policy research on affordable housing and displacement issues and provided legal staff support to anti-displacement, equitable development, and affordable housing campaigns working collaboratively with lawyers, community organizers and low-income residents.

## EDUCATION

**UC Hastings College of the Law** | San Francisco, CA | J.D., *Social Justice Lawyering Concentration*, 2016

**UCLA** | Los Angeles, CA | M.A., *Afro-American Studies, Political Science and Sociology Concentration*, 2011

**UC Merced** | Merced, CA | B.A., *History, United States Concentration*, 2009

## COMPUTER SKILLS

Windows and Macintosh operating systems, Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite, DropBox, Slack, LexisNexis, Westlaw and various web-based research, philanthropic, and electoral tools and applications.