

Libby Schaaf

Libby Schaaf served as the 50th mayor of her hometown Oakland, California from 2015-2023. During her tenure, Oakland experienced its greatest housing building boom this century, paved its most roads ever and had its lowest 5-year period of gun violence on record. She created The Oakland Promise, described by experts as the most comprehensive cradle-to-career initiative in the country to get low-income children through college.

Her “17K/17K Housing Plan” doubled Oakland’s affordable housing production, increased tenant protections for more than 36,000 low-income Oaklanders and created nearly 20,000 new homes. Her innovative public-private partnerships “Keep Oakland Housed” and “Cabin Communities” have been widely replicated. They prevented 1,800 families a year from entering homelessness, and compassionately resolved unsafe street encampments with supportive interim housing. In 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Mayor Schaaf to California’s first Council of Regional Homeless Advisors. She also was appointed the inaugural Chair of the Bay Area Regional Housing Finance Authority Oversight Committee and Co-Chair of the national bipartisan organization Mayors & CEOs for US Housing Investment.

Mayor Schaaf was selected to participate in the US Delegation to the United Nations’ Habitat III, which developed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to the COP27 Climate Summit. She was named 2020’s Housing Hero by the Bay Area Housing Action Coalition.

She is currently the Interim ED of Emerge California, which recruits and trains Democratic women to run for political office, and teaches at UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy. She holds Fellowships with Mayors for the Guaranteed Income and the Harvard Graduate School of Education.