

GREEN voter guide

Election Day: June 3, 2008

A special election publication of the Green Party of Alameda County, an affiliate of the Green Party of California

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Green Party of Alameda County Newsletter
- Special Center Pullout Section

Primary Election
June 3, 2008

PROPOSITION 98: NO, NO, NO! • PROPOSITION 99: YES, YES, YES! Eminent Domain and Government Acquisition and Regulation of Private Property

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme court held in *Kelo v. City of New London* that the governmental taking of property from one private owner to give to another in furtherance of economic development constitutes a permissible “public use” under the Fifth Amendment. This expansion of the commonly accepted concepts of “public uses” that include such things as parks, schools and roads means that Grandma’s house could be seized by the government for transfer to a developer for condos or a Wal-Mart parking lot, using eminent domain laws. Almost nobody wants that.

The court decision has sparked a nationwide movement to have states prohibit this form of eminent domain abuse. The failure of the California Legislature to respond to the legitimate concerns of homeowners and local policy makers has created a platform for right wing and wealthy property interests to push a hidden agenda under the guise of eminent domain reform. We defeated their first attempt, Proposition 90, two years ago, but only by a few percentage points. They’re back—this time with Proposition 98. Proposition 99 has been placed on the ballot by their opponents as a much more limited alternative to give voters a way to enact eminent domain reform while retaining local government’s ability to regulate and determine land use policies. It has a “poison pill” clause: if it gets more votes, it kills Proposition 98.

Oakland City Council, District 5 - Mario Juarez

For many years, City Council President Ignacio De La Fuente has been one of the biggest barriers to progressive local politics in Oakland. Backed by loads of developer money, he usually has been challenged by relatively weak opponents (or sometimes not at all). This year, however, he faces perhaps his strongest challenge ever—for at least a decade—from small business owner **Mario Juarez**.

Juarez is a product of local Oakland public schools (Hawthorne Elementary, Calvin Simmons Middle and Fremont High Schools). He started working immediately out of high school, and after buying and selling several businesses, he started his current Fruitvale-based real estate firm, which is now a 65-person operation, which caters to minorities. Besides managing his business, he has also served on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Unity Council Board of Directors, and he currently is a member of the City of Oakland Workforce Investment Board.

Juarez gave generally solid answers to our questionnaire, and even better responses when we interviewed him in person. Interestingly, he talked several times about “wholistic solutions”, and one of his questionnaire answers included the following, “...I have observed past Council decisions that have long term impact, I believe that they are often made in a piecemeal manner with only short-term consideration. I am a successful business person who must calculate far ahead in order for my company to survive and prosper and think the City would benefit by having at least one such person on the Council”.

Two of the areas we were most concerned about in our interview were housing and crime. He explained that he supported rent and eviction control, and that he was opposed to Proposition 98 on the June ballot. In addition, he supports a minimum of 25 percent for inclusionary (low-income) zoning units, as opposed to the standard 15 percent. (This is in stark contrast to De La Fuente, who has only favored the minimum 15 percent -- even for huge

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Prop. 98: NO, NO, NO!

While Proposition 98 is ostensibly about eminent domain, it has hidden agendas that threatens local land use planning and environmental protections and was deliberately crafted to challenge affordable housing policies, including the elimination of rent control and eviction protections. It would also prohibit laws and regulations that “transfer economic benefit to one or more private persons at the expense of the private owner.” The courts have ruled that most land-use decisions and environmental laws transfer economic benefit from one party to another. The power to enact positive land use decisions that protect the environment and the needs of local communities could be taken away from elected legislative bodies and shifted to the courts. If Proposition 98 becomes law it will be a social tsunami as big or bigger than Proposition 13 and like Proposition 13 its effects will haunt us for decades to come. Whole areas of protection would disappear. Not just rent control, but all tenant protections GONE! Environmental laws like the Coastal Commission GONE! The negatives of Proposition 98 outweigh any benefits by 100 to 1. This measure comes from many of the same wealthy special interests that proposed the defeated Proposition 90 in 2006. Rejecting Proposition 98 this June is a top priority for the Sierra Club, many renter’s rights organizations, and other groups. For more info., see the No on 98 (and Yes on 99) campaign website at: <http://no98yes99.com/>

Oakland School Board, District 1

Dual endorsement:
**Jody London or
Tennessee Reed**

The three candidates in this race are Jody London, Tennessee Reed, and Brian Rogers. Rogers, the heir to the Dreyer’s ice cream fortune, is truly dangerous. He is the Executive Director of the ‘Rogers Family Foundation’, which uses its money in a manner not unlike the infamous Eli Broad Foundation, well-known as a significant force for privatizing the public schools. While knowledgeable, Rogers is a major player in the corporate agenda in Oakland, being one of the main advocates for “Expect Success”—a policy which is tied to a business model for schools, which links public education to foundations, and he is advocating “alternative/merit compensation.”

Jody London is a parent activist who is linked to Kerry Hamill, the current occupant of this seat. While a business consultant for non-profits, she has a fairly developed understanding of the District apparatus, having served as chair of the Measure G committee and on the committee dealing with facilities (of which she is highly critical). She is clear on opposition to state control, has a decent critique of standardized testing, and calls for a moratorium on charters in Oakland. However, she avoided giving us a clear answer about merit pay/alternative compensation in our questionnaire, and we are nervous about her links with incumbent Hamill.

Tennessee Reed is a writer and editor. She is the daughter of famed Oakland poet and author Ishmael Reed. Reed is less knowledgeable than London on some key public education issues (restructuring, charters, alternative compensation, funding sources, et al), and some of

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Prop. 99: YES, YES, YES!

Unless Proposition 99 receives more votes, all of Proposition 98’s evils will take effect if they both pass. Proposition 99 is a real eminent domain reform measure intended to constitutionally protect home owners without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of Proposition 98. Proposition 99 will prohibit government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to a private developer. If the Green Party had written it we would have included other protections such as protecting small businesses and family farmers, but it is an alternative for homeowners, environmentalists, labor, cities and counties who want eminent domain reform that responds to the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Kelo* decision. Of highest importance is that if Proposition 98 passes, as it very well may do, it doesn’t become law if Proposition 99 has more votes.

This may be the most important issue you can work on this year; if you have any time between now and June 3rd contact: **East Bay Coalition, No on 98 and Yes on 99, (510) 559-8189, david94703@gmail.com or Just Cause Oakland, (510) 763-5877, lauren@justcauseoakland.org.**

Superior Court Judge, Seat 9

Dual endorsement:
**Dennis Hayashi or
Victoria Kolakowski**

Of the four candidates running for the open seat on the Superior Court, we endorse **Dennis Hayashi** and **Victoria Kolakowski**.

Dennis Hayashi has the most relevant professional experience and a solid commitment to civil rights and other Green key values. He is a public interest attorney with a focus on defense of civil rights, employment laws protecting low-income employees, and employment discrimination cases. His resume shows 30 years of professional experience and a dedication to social justice (including race, gender, age, and class) issues, and includes a five-year position as Director of the Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His performance in that office earned him a DHHS Award for Distinguished Service in 1997.

More recently, Hayashi served as an elected member of the Board of Directors of A.C. Transit. Before that, he served as Director of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the largest civil rights agency in the country. This organization protects the rights of seniors, women, the disabled, and minorities who face discrimination in employment, housing, or access to public accommodations.

As Staff Attorney at the Asian Law Caucus, Hayashi was a lead counsel in the well-known civil rights case *Fred Korematsu v. United States*. Korematsu was convicted in 1942 for failing to obey World War II Japanese internment orders. Hayashi and the legal team successfully argued to overturn Korematsu’s conviction. During his service as National Director of the Japanese American Citizens League, Hayashi coordinated efforts to pass the federal Civil Rights Act of 1991, and championed anti-hate laws in California. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board of Directors for the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and previously, he served on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Legal Assistance

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The Green Party of Alameda County

The "GPAC" is one of the few County Councils that produces a Voter Guide for each election. We mail about 9,000 to Green households, and distribute another 6,000 through cafes, BART stations, libraries and other locations. Please read yours and pass it along to other interested voters. Feel free to copy the back "Voter Card" to distribute it as well.

Your Green Party

The things you value do not "just happen" by themselves—make a commitment to support the Green Party. Call us to volunteer your time during this election season and beyond. Clip out the enclosed coupon to send in your donation today.

During these difficult times, individuals who share Green values need to stand firm in our principles and join together to work to make our vision of the future a reality.

The Green Party of Alameda County is coordinating tabling, precinct walking, phone banking, and other volunteer activities.

The Green Party County Council meets in the evening on the 2nd Sunday each month at 6:45pm. This is the regular "business" meeting of the Alameda County Green Party. We have several committees working on outreach, campaigns, local organizing. Please stay in touch by phone or email if you want to get more involved.

Ways to reach us:

County Council:

Phone: (510) 644-2293 Listen to our outgoing message for upcoming events.

Website: www.acgreens.org

Email lists: To join a discussion of issues and events with other active Greens, send an email to GreenPartyofAlamedaCounty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com (all one word, no spaces, but a dash between *County-subscribe*). To get occasional announcements about current Green

Party of Alameda County activities send an email to announcementsGPAC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Locals:

Alameda County Green Sundays: 2nd Sundays, at 5 pm (followed by a 6:45 pm County Council business meeting); Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. at 65th St., Oakland. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AnnouncementsGPAC>. (510) 644-2293

Berkeley Greens: Last Saturday, at 10:30 am, 2022 Blake St., Berkeley. Berkeley Green Monday events are on the 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 pm, at Anna's Jazz Island, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. To join our email list, and for more information, contact: berkeleygreenparty@gmail.com; 510-644-2293; www.berkeleygreens.org

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: 4th Thursdays, at 7 pm, Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park, Oakland. (1-1/2 blocks east of the Grand Lake Theater); <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens>; Michael or Jan, (510) 436-3722

U.C. Berkeley Campus Greens: Contact Edward Chow, President of Campus Greens, Berkeley Chapter c/o ASUC Office of Student Affairs, University of California, 400 Eshleman Hall, MC 4500, Berkeley, CA 94720-4500, calgreens@yahoo.com, <http://greens.berkeley.edu>

East and South County Greens: We are looking for east and south Alameda County Greens interested in helping re-activate an East County and a South County local. If interested, please contact Suzanne Baker (510) 654-8635, suzannebaker@earthlink.net

Credits:

Our "unindicted Voter Guide co-conspirators" include: Jan Arnold, Victoria Ashley, Bill Balderston, Paul Burton (page layout wizard), Maxine Daniel, Greg Jan, Perrine Kelly, Khur-

shid Khoja, Gretchen Lipow, Don Macleay, Bob Marsh, Patti Marsh, John Morton, Wilson Riles, Michael Rubin, Susan Schacher, John Selawsky, b soffer, Lisa Stephens, Kate Tanaka, and the rest of the Newsletter team!

Voter Guide Contributions

We would like to thank the campaigns, businesses, and individuals whose donations allowed us to produce this voter guide. For the candidates and campaigns, please be assured that we conducted our endorsement process first. No candidates or measures were invited to contribute to the funding of this publication if they had not already been endorsed. At no time was there a discussion of the likelihood of a candidate's financial support during the endorsement process. The Green Party County Council voted not to accept contributions from for-profit corporations. If you have questions about our funding process, call us at (510) 644-2293.

Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

If you're interested in political analysis or campaigning, we could use your help. Or if you are wondering why we didn't mention some of the local races, it may be because we don't have analysis from local groups in those areas. Are you ready to start organizing your own local Green Party chapter or affinity group? Contact the Alameda County Green Party for assistance. We want to cultivate the party from the grassroots up.

Some races aren't on the ballot

Due to the peculiarities of the law, for some races, when candidate(s) run for office(s) without opposition they do not appear on the ballot — but in other races they do. We decided not to print in your voter guide write-ups for races that don't appear on ballot. Where we have comments on those races or candidates you will find them on our web site (www.acgreens.org). Please check it out.

Our endorsement process

For many of the candidates' races, we created questionnaires for the candidates and solicited their responses. For others we conducted over-the-phone or in-person interviews. We also gathered information from Greens and others working on issues in their communities and from the public record. For local measures we gathered information as comprehensively as possible. The Green Party of Alameda County held endorsement meetings to consider all the information and make decisions. Our endorsements are as follows:

When we list "No endorsement," either we had unresolved differences that prevented us from agreeing on a position, or no position was warranted.

We only endorse bond measures for essential public projects that are unlikely to be funded otherwise. Our endorsement "Yes, with standard bond reservations" reflects our position that funding through bonds is more costly and therefore less fiscally responsible than a tax.

Where no recommendation appears, we did not evaluate the race or measure due to a lack of volunteers. Working on the Voter Guide is fun! Give us a call now to get signed up to help on the next edition!

On Taxes and Budget Deficits

One of the most important background aspects of this election is the widespread presence of budget deficits. They exist at every level of government in California—state, county and municipal; and at every level of education—from K-12 through U.C.

There are many reasons for this—international and national. But let's focus on California budget priorities and taxes as a starting point. California is not poor. Its economy is larger than the economies of most countries. But the income tax burden has been gradually shifted from corporations and the rich to workers. Corporate income taxes have dropped 40 percent over the last 20+ years. As of 2006, 52 percent of profitable California corporations did not pay any state income taxes.

There are many ways to increase revenues at the state level. This is necessary because the state plays a large role in financing local governments and education, and local governments have more limited taxing authority. Increasing the tax rate on taxpayers in the highest bracket, and the elimination of tax loopholes, are obvious first steps. The

most comprehensive and controversial proposals involve changing Proposition 13. For example, California could return to the "split tax roll" system, which would again allow profit-making property to be taxed at a higher rate than owner-occupied homes. Another proposal which involves Prop. 13 would allow reassessment of corporate property when corporations are sold.

One of the factors we are looking at when we evaluate candidates is how they respond to questions about budget priorities and revenue shortfalls that are so widespread. If they are incumbents, have they been willing to use their offices to reorient spending to meet human needs, instead of handouts to business? Have they attempted to introduce proposals that point to progressive taxation? Are they willing to tell the truth about the tax-shifts that have occurred? For non-incumbents, are they willing to use their campaigns in a similar fashion? The Green Party of Alameda County thinks that these issues are crucial. We hope that you will take these questions into account when you vote.

Green Party of Alameda County

2022 Blake Street, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94704-2604

(510) 644-2293 • <http://acgreens.org>

Name: _____

Phone (h): _____ Phone (w): _____

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

email address: _____

Enclose your check made out to "Green Party of Alameda County" or provide your credit card information below.

Credit card #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

Include your email address if you want updates on Green activities between elections.

If you'd like to volunteer your time, check here and we'll contact you.

There's much to do, and everyone's skills can be put to use.

State law requires that we report contributor's:

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Thanks for your contribution of:

\$1 \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$ _____

Support Your Green Party

The Green Party cannot exist without your help. Unlike some political parties, we do not receive funding from giant, multinational polluting corporations. Instead we rely on donations from generous people just like you.

In order for the Green Party to be an effective alternative, we each need to contribute money and/or volunteer time. Please send in the coupon to the left with your donation today! And give us a call if you can volunteer your time.

Please clip the form to the left and mail it today to help your Green Party grow.

Oakland City Council

City Council, Dist. 5

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projects such as Oak-to-Ninth).

Regarding crime, Juarez was strongly supportive of a comprehensive approach, which includes making job creation a priority. He said he was willing to lobby the Port of Oakland to impose a small user fee so that funding could be provided for expanding job development and training programs, as well as for more community policing, and other grassroots public safety programs.

Candidates Beverly Blythe and David Wofford will also be on the ballot. Wofford seems to be well-meaning from his questionnaire responses, but many of his ideas were not very well developed, and he only completed part of our questionnaire. And despite repeated contact, Blythe did not return our questionnaire at all, and we have no reason to believe that either she (or Wofford) will be able to mount an effective challenge to the well-connected De La Fuente.

For way too many years, incumbent De La Fuente has favored wealthy developers over the general populace of Oakland, especially those who are low-income. He has sided with Oakland's error-prone police force, and his authoritarian style as Council President has been used to silence activists and ensure that democracy simply doesn't exist at council meetings. (These two major weaknesses combined five years ago when De La Fuente failed in his attempt to halt public testimony over the police attack on anti-war protesters at the Port, and stormed out of the meeting). More recently, his loss to Ron Dellums in the 2006 Mayor's race has weakened his standing -- so now is the time to mount a strong campaign to remove him from office!

The Green Party is pleased to endorse Mario Juarez for the District 5 Council seat, and we hope that he will finally be able to end the De La Fuente era of "business as usual" Oakland politics. For more information, or to help out with Juarez's campaign, please see his website: <http://www.marioforoakland.com/>. And if you live in District 5, be sure to vote (and encourage your neighbors and local friends to vote), for Mario Juarez.

Oakland City Council, At-Large - Rebecca Kaplan, with reservations

In the crowded field of five Democrat candidates for Oakland City Council's At-Large seat, the Green Party has decided to endorse **Rebecca Kaplan**, albeit with reservations. Of all the candidates, Rebecca has taken the strongest progressive positions on the important local issues of crime, police staffing, zoning, and implementation of Measures Y and Z. Rebecca is also able to add an LGBT element to her agenda in a pragmatic way. Her proposals are very specific and mostly in agreement with Green Party positions, not surprising since she was a Green Party member until just after starting her campaign this year.

Rebecca's ideas are good and they prioritize working people's needs, the environment and good government. Her proposals are very well researched. If elected to city council she will bring not only another progressive voice but also some hard working, professional policy development that has been sorely lacking.

Our reservations with Rebecca are in four areas. First of all, she has not shown as good an understanding of employment/labor issues as she does in other areas. Secondly, she does not propose any structural changes to the gerrymandered districts and overlapping adminis-

trative groupings that make it difficult to bring change to Bay Area governments. Thirdly, we have concerns about at least one of her actions as a member of the AC Transit Board. In 2004, Rebecca voted to grant a low cost, long term loan of several hundred thousand dollars to the AC Transit General Manager for housing, even though the GM had been with AC Transit for eight years. There may be an argument defending this action, but because the proceedings were behind closed doors, the public is left questioning, and so are the Greens. And finally, her departure from the Green Party marks a clear disagreement with us in priorities.

The Green Party does not exist only to advance any one person's public service career or promote certain progressive proposals. The Green Party exists to offer the public an alternative to the two official corporate parties, an alternative that Americans badly need at all levels of government. Here in Oakland we basically have a monopoly of the Democrats creating a situation that is neither democratic nor good for quality government. We have many officials with public service careers who "joined the system to change it from within," only to find out that membership in the system has its price. We feel that Rebecca has made a pragmatic political choice which, however helpful to her career in the short run, may in the end destroy her chances to be an effective force for change in government.

The other four candidates are three mainstream Democrats and one special interest group leader.

The mainstream Democrats are Kerry Hamill, Clinton Killian and Frank Rose. While we do not endorse them, each has something to contribute to the public discussion.

Kerry Hamill was a member of former Mayor Elihu Harris' administration, and is a member of the Oakland School Board. She also runs her own educational non-profit. She has a history of micromanaging her pet projects and personally directing the spending of public funds. To her credit she did speak to the crime issue using the term "restorative justice." Her idea is to have ex offenders in retraining the day they come back and to get Jerry Brown to help fund our parolee reintegration. She also supports the Ambassador Program. Her answers to the Green Party questionnaire did not really address any of the day to day issues, such as measure Y or police staffing problems and the police union contract. She supports the status quo in urban development and thinks the transit hubs are great. She supports "infill development," which is a favorite term of the developers for their vision of a much more populated city center. She did not make clear to us who endorses her.

Clinton Killian did not answer most of our questions. He said nothing on crime other than that we should try to make the city safer. He supports the Mayor on health care in the schools. He admitted to not knowing about the BP Eco Fuel proposal, while on the other hand holding up his activism at the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce that promotes this proposal. On the subject of the new job opportunities that will arise from the growth of green technology, he replied that he city must create new jobs by attracting job producing businesses. He is supported by Oak Pac, state assembly member Sandre Swanson, a long list of pastors and a few members of the Chamber of Commerce. His main qualification and relevant background was his stint on the planning commission. Killian is also in favor of "infill development," but did not address the overcrowding problem. He has an interesting and clearly defined proposal: Neighborhood Infrastructure, making sure that each neighborhood has the stores, public services and such that they need. This is a good idea and needs to be remembered. Let's hope he brings it up often in his campaign.

Frank Rose provided real answers to all the questions on our questionnaire. He describes his own background as that of someone from the private sector "who knows how to manage things," but he has also been an active public citizen on many civic groups, from a Farmer's Market to Measure Z. He is very clear on what he wants for parolee integration and hits the three main points most professionals point to, which no one else did. Nevertheless, he is a strong Oak to Ninth supporter and wants no changes in the project. He is strong on youth and senior issues, where he has a lot of hands-on experience, but did not elaborate on the school situation. His most detailed reply to our questions was about how he will keep his Council staff office open eight hours a day and actually have the phone answered by a staff member when residents call. He was a last minute entry into the race and does not yet have a list of endorsers. He is VERY Democrat, even if the official Democrats are committed elsewhere.

Charles Pine of Oakland Residents for Peaceful Neighborhoods did not respond to our questionnaire but he did find time to probe us about Rebecca Kaplan changing party registration. Charles Pine is the "Law and Order" candidate who only seems to have one thing to propose: that Oakland hire the same number of police per 10,000 residents that other US cities do. This idea probably has some value if we can also get a handle on how to pay for it, which he did not discuss. He is basically opposed to government "waste," as he defines it. He has failed to address the issues we most care about: the Port, schools, redevelopment. Pine's negative approach and constant vilification of public officials add little to the public discussion.

Given all of the above, we endorse Rebecca Kaplan, with reservations.

Oakland City Council, District 1 No Endorsement

While crime and public safety are hot button issues in Oakland, those problems have persisted throughout incumbent Jane Brunner's tenure on the City Council. Measure Y, a tax increase passed by the people of Oakland in 2004 which includes funds earmarked for violence prevention programs, has only partly been implemented and is being gutted on the watch of this incumbent.

She has consistently supported developers including the recent Children's Hospital Oakland expansion plan (that met with defeat in the February election) without concern for the longtime Oakland residents who would have been displaced.

We need a full-time City Council member who will deal with the problems that Oakland faces rather than working as a lawyer in the Siegel and Yee law firm, her day job.

She presents herself as a progressive with a green outlook with her North Oakland tree project and her effort at saving the mature trees on her block in Rockridge from the city cutters. However, she also supports selling Oakland green credits to the highest bidders. This translates into allowing the biggest polluters to pay rather than cutting their pollution.

Patrick McCullough is challenging Ms. Brunner. Although we agree with Mr. McCullough's not liking the power-brokering or favoritism that seems to pervade the politics of current office holders, we're not satisfied that he is knowledgeable enough about the issues either. His answers to our questionnaire did not suggest any solutions to what he indicated as problems in Oakland, for example crime, the budget deficit and economic development. His approach to crime centered around giving the Oakland Police Department a free pass without recalling any of the history of OPD.

While citing air pollution as a problem his proposed solution centers around encouraging residents to conserve energy, use nonpolluting energy resources and increase recycling while totally ignoring the pollution at the Port, big diesel trucks, etc. We think he is out of touch with what is happening in Oakland, and we do not feel we can endorse him either.

This City Council district has more Greens in it than any other. We need a good Green candidate to run for this seat. Please begin making your plans now!



BERKELEY GREEN PARTY presents



Green Monday: May 19, 2008, 7:30 pm

The 2008 Election: THE RULING CLASS CONDUCTS ITS HIDDEN PRIMARY

Before the Democrat and Republican primaries, the corporate ruling class selects its candidates by funding and advertising them in its media. Learn how this "hidden primary" works.

with Z Magazine author **Larry Shoup**

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Oakland City Council

Oakland City Council, District 3 Don't vote for Sean Sullivan

Aside from asking voters not to vote for the Chamber of Commerce's candidate, Sean Sullivan, the Green Party has decided not to make a formal endorsement of any of the candidates in this race. While Nancy Nadel, generally considered the City Council's "progressive" member, has often come down on the Green side of issues, she has also taken some regressive positions, and has not always shown the leadership she might have when asked to back up her progressive ideas. Greg Hodge, a well-known progressive on the Oakland School Board, has been vague in responding to our questions, and reluctant to make statements on issues of great import to Greens, leaving us in doubt as to some of his positions.

Neither Nadel or Hodge rises to the level of meriting the Green endorsement, but either of these two candidates, both 25-year-plus residents of District 3, would be a much better choice than Sullivan. Therefore, please review the information below, and then DO DEFINITELY VOTE! At least a majority of voters need to vote for candidates other than Sullivan, in order to prevent him from being elected.

Nancy Nadel, the current Council member, has represented District 3 on the City Council for over eleven years. Ms Nadel is generally seen by environmentalists and tenants as the most supportive of their issues, among the current Council members. According to her responses to the Green Party questionnaire, she offers a balanced approach to crime, not just more police, and wants to continue her work to "expand programs to reduce youth homicide, including expanding the restorative justice system for our youth and developing a new teen center in West Oakland where we have many idle teens and serious violence."

As an example of her inconsistency on social justice issues, however, in 2005 Ms Nadel surprised us by supporting then-Mayor Jerry Brown's draconian police ordinance to arrest bystanders at illegal youth car rallies ("sideshows"). When Greens spoke out in favor of the youth and against the ordinance, she publicly criticized us for supporting air pollution in the form of car exhaust. While some Greens think that Nadel's response was merely a momentary annoyance, others believe that she intended to deflect attention from her authoritarian stance by attacking the Greens. We all agree, though, that she was clearly wrong to support the ordinance.

On the plus side, Ms Nadel introduced the "Oil Independent Oakland by 2020" resolution in 2006, and oversaw its Task Force meetings in 2007. The Task Force recently issued its recommendations, and Ms Nadel plans to work on implementation. She has also been looking

at specific ways to reduce the impact of air pollution associated with the Port of Oakland on West Oaklanders. For example, she secured an area at the former Oakland Army base to be set aside for truck parking, in order to get the trucks off the neighborhood streets. Ms. Nadel passed Oakland's green building policy and will continue to work to bring green industry here.

But Ms Nadel's tenure on the City Council's Port committee has not been without controversy. In 2004, she watched as plans were surreptitiously developed for a Walmart on Port land at Hegenberger Road, in spite of a City ordinance against big box stores, and chose not to notify Oakland's progressive community of the project until it was too late to oppose it. We have still not gotten a satisfactory explanation on this issue.

And in 2006, Ms Nadel surprisingly voted for the environmentally, socially, and economically disastrous Oak to Ninth condominium project on the last bit of undeveloped Oakland waterfront. The Green Party strongly opposed that project, and we were major participants in the referendum campaign to overturn the City's approval. Although Ms. Nadel voted for the Oak to Ninth project, she claims in her answers to our questionnaire that she has criticisms of it. If the developer has to return to the City Council, she says she would work for specific improvements such as including more open space, and integrating the affordable housing into the market-rate area, not keeping it segregated as in the current plan. She says she understands that the plan locates housing too close to Highway 880 for the health of the residents, that transit for the development is inadequate, and that a school should be located there. Despite knowing all that, she did vote for Oak to Ninth when it came before the City Council.

Finally, Ms Nadel dealt us a additional blow in the aftermath of the Oak to Ninth Referendum Committee's lawsuit, when she failed to respond to our request to restart the development approval process, in light of the fact that it was mired in litigation. She only offered the languid suggestion that we approach the mayor with our concerns. In summary, we are not able to endorse Ms. Nadel this year.

One of Nadel's two challengers in the District 3 race, Greg Hodge has served on the Oakland School Board for seven years and is a widely respected progressive activist. He helped create the Freedom Schools Program that has served thousands of kids during the summers. He managed the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth, which funds youth services in the afterschool hours, during the first years of its existence. He served as the executive director of three policy advocacy organizations based here in the City: Urban Strategies Council, Safe Passages and California Tomorrow. To Hodge's credit, his answers to our questionnaire show years of advocacy on behalf of children and youth, with a particular interest in working with Black and Brown youth to increase their life chances with better education, jobs and safe, fun things to do.

In his responses to our Green Party questionnaire, Mr Hodge reminds us that, "the need for cleaner, sustainable and renewable resources is a common public conversation. The promise of a Green Economy is on the horizon, and the vision and plan I have for District 3 will ensure we are the beneficiaries in what is forthcoming." He understands corporate "greenwashing," however, and his response to the question of supporting the British Petroleum project to use Oakland's industrial zones for their so-called "green" energy research was a clear and principled "No."

Nevertheless, Mr Hodge's website, and his answers to our questionnaire, while clearly similar in vision to Ms Nadel's, are short on specifics. For example, when we asked about possible changes to the hugely important Oak to Ninth development, Mr. Hodge's response was unclear. We understand, however, as was cited in the press, that Mr. Hodge may have been pressed for time, as he was in the midst of a legal battle to regain his place on the city ballot, a battle brought about by a challenge from Nadel supporters, at the same time our questionnaire was due. On the other hand, even our repeated attempts to elicit a response to this crucial question went unanswered. His refusal to assure us on his positions leaves us in doubt about them.

Nadel's second opponent is Sean Sullivan. Far from challenging the progressive credentials of Nadel or Hodge, Mr Sullivan is the chosen conservative candidate of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce. His only endorsement as of mid-April is from OAKPAC, the political arm of the Chamber of Commerce. He also has specific links to real estate developers, including Mike Ghielmetti, the Oak to Ninth project developer.

In general, Mr Sullivan's answers to our questionnaire reveal a narrower focus than either Nadel or Hodge. His primary issues are crime, growth, and food security. He has worked to get young adults away from unproductive lives on the streets, by raising money for Covenant House, a service organization with projects in 15 US cities and in other countries. He is a Board Member of Alameda County's FEMA, and Treasurer of the Oakland Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and Labor, a multi-ethnic LGBT business group founded by Peggy Moore.

Mr Sullivan's concept of "smart growth," as stated on his Smart Voter (smartvoter.org/2008/06/03/ca/alm/vote/sullivan_s/) webpage, seems to be rooted in currently popular economic ideas. "Through creation of market rate housing in our redevelopment areas," he says, "we will fast track desperately needed affordable housing." It is not clear from this phrasing if Mr Sullivan actually favors "inclusionary zoning" (in which developers of market rate housing are required to provide affordable housing as part of the package), but, given his "free market" endorsers, this seems improbable. More likely he means that some of the tax increments that come to the City when the value of property rises within a redevelopment area could be used for affordable housing. As Greens, we do not believe that this trickle-down approach to housing will serve the homeless, one of Mr Sullivan's professed goals.

Unlike Nadel or Hodge, Mr Sullivan's experience would seem to cover only a small portion of the areas a City Council member needs to be ready to handle. More importantly, despite some genuine public service in his background, Mr Sullivan's comments and endorsements indicate a strong pro-development, pro-growth, law-and-order approach to local government, which Greens do not share. Please DON'T vote for Sean Sullivan, but DO VOTE -- for either Greg Hodge or Nancy Nadel.

Oakland City Council, District 7 Don't vote for Larry Reid

We would be hard-pressed to find another City Council member as opposed to Green values as Larry Reid. Long a supporter of big developers and big box businesses, Reid rarely takes the side of the neighborhoods in his largely poor and minority District Seven. He likes condo conversions, transit villages like Ignacio's failed effort in Fruitvale, and gentrification in general. The retail chains he boasts about bringing to Oakland hire their employees mostly from areas outside the city, and send their profits there as well. He opposes any environmental restrictions that could possibly inhibit unfettered capitalism. He is not our man.

Big Box: Reid led the effort to smuggle a non-union Wal-Mart onto Hegenberger Road in Oakland's Port, in spite of municipal anti-big box legislation passed the year before. "Be proud of the fact that you work for Wal-Mart," said Reid to the 350 new employees at the store opening in 2005. Meanwhile, locally owned shops and union jobs continue to be scarce in the neighborhoods of his East Oakland district.

Labor: In August 1998, when 70 poorly paid, mostly immigrant workers walked out of California Waste Solutions, a west Oakland recycling facility sweatshop, they simply wanted the wages that had been guaranteed to them in a city contract seven years previously. But Council member Reid made excuses for CWS. Why? Since 1994, CWS owner David Duong and his family had contributed over \$25,000 to city election campaigns, with the Mayor (at \$6050) and Councilmember Reid (at \$5250) the largest beneficiaries. And Reid, the mayor and Duong all traveled together to Vietnam on a city trade mission.

Casinos: When an Indian tribe offered plans for a casino near Oakland International Airport in January 2005, the City Council voted to reject them, despite their pledge to pay the city \$30 million a year, because the Council was not sure if any economic benefits from the casino would offset the costs to Oakland in terms of increased crime, traffic and gambling addictions. Only Council members Reid and Brooks abstained from voting on the resolution opposing the casino on a 35-acre site off Hegenberger Road. Reid is known to be a strong proponent of casinos.

Environment: In July 2007 the Oakland City Council banned petroleum-based, non-biodegradable shopping bags in an effort to reduce the amount of waste Oakland

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CAN YOU HELP US WITH ANY OF THESE TASKS?

- Tabling at events
- Phone calls/phone tree
- Writing for our news-letter
- Analysis and/or writing for our Voter Guide
- Program planning and/or organizing for Green Sundays
- Initiating and leading involvement with a local activist effort
- Web page and other computer assistance
- Helping with coordination of tabling at events
- Helping with coordination of our Voter Guide

The Green Party needs your help in order for us to grow!

If you can help with any of the above tasks, please contact us at: (510) 644-2293, acgreenparty@yahoo.com
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Thank you very much!

Oakland Offices • Local Measures

City Council

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sends to landfills, and to prevent the plastic bags from polluting the environment. Larry Reid abstained from the otherwise unanimous vote, saying the measure had been rushed and needed further consideration. Reid said he was worried that the additional burden the measure imposes on groceries would discourage them from opening new locations in Oakland's flatlands.

Crime: The Council member for Police Beat 34X, second highest crime area in Oakland, is Larry Reid, who also chairs the city's Public Safety Committee. In the 12 years that Reid has been on the Council, crime and murder in particular have increased, especially in East Oakland.

War: In 1999, when SF Mayor Willie Brown refused to allow the US Marines to practice urban assault war games in his city, Reid joined with Jerry Brown to welcome them to Oakland. Could the Oakland Police military-style attack on unarmed protesters in the Port in April 2005 have been a result of the Marines' influence?

Campaign funds: By earlier this year, Reid had raised only \$950 for his City Council run, while Gilmore had raised \$4,185. But Reid said he planned to raise \$80,000 in the campaign, and would begin serious fundraising soon. "People that know me know that I will raise my money," he said. Hmmm, where will Reid find an extra \$80,000?

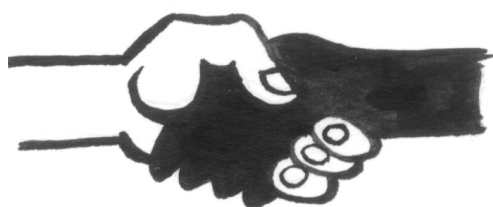
Endorsements: OakPAC, the city's largest Political Action Committee representing the business community, endorsed Sullivan, De La Fuente and Reid, as well as Killian in the at-large contest. But the Central Labor Council of Alameda County dealt a blow (finally!) to De La Fuente and Reid, whom the group has supported in past elections, by withholding endorsements in the Glenview-Fruitvale and Elmhurst-East Oakland contests.

Reid's opponent in this race, Executive Director of the Oakland Coalition of Congregations (OCC) Clifford Gilmore, unfortunately does not inspire great faith. His dad was Carter Gilmore, longtime Oakland City Council member, so this is the family business. Clifford Gilmore's record at OCC shows some accomplishments for neighborhood improvements and schools, but also hints at a narrow focus, limited accountability, and poor follow-through. Nevertheless, his responses to our questionnaire were reasonable enough, if short, and his comment that the Oak to Ninth project should "comply with the Estuary Plan previously adopted by the city," is somewhat encouraging. Gilmore is endorsed by Dan Siegel, former Oakland School Board president, Linda Handy, Peralta College Board Member, and many churches.

In any case, it is hard to see how Gilmore could possibly be any worse than Reid, so we urge District Seven voters to choose him over Reid on their ballots. Chances of defeating Reid are small, but a relatively large NO vote would send a message.

Oakland City Attorney
No endorsement

The Green Party did not endorse incumbent John Russo in the last election, focusing on his failure to respond to Oakland police's abusive treatment of antiwar protestors in the infamous port action of April 2003. In the meantime, John Russo has given us no reason to change our mind but further reason to oppose him. Alameda County Greens were active in the Oak-to-Ninth effort to stop the sale and development of a 63 acre parcel of waterfront land in the summer of 2006. This effort wound up in a referendum which collected 26,000 signatures to put the issue on the ballot. It was John Russo, at the prompting of the developer's attorney, who "invalidated" the petitions, thereby silencing and ignoring the voices of 26,000 Oaklanders. This anti-democratic act is further evidence that he does not reflect even the most basic Green values. For more detail and history of this issue go to www.abet-teroaktoninth.org. **Do not vote for John Russo.**



SOCIAL JUSTICE

School Board, Dist. 1

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her questionnaire responses bordered on teacher bashing in her generalizations. However, Ms. Reed is a very articulate critic of the Oakland Public Schools (and of the other schools she attended while growing up) from an unusual point of view. Ms. Reed has described herself as an intelligent person with learning disabilities. She has written a book, soon to be published, in which she details the unsupportive experiences she encountered. She would usually be described as a success story--she went to Laney College and was then admitted to U. C. Berkeley, graduated (with a B.A. in American Studies) and then attended Mills College where she earned a MFA. But it seems that she succeeded despite the school system rather than because of it. If she were elected to the School Board, her presence could change the conversation. In addition, Ms. Reed is a Green Party member. Some of us believe that she will give more consideration to our opinions, over time, in the areas where we do not currently agree.

Even though we have doubts as to whether London or Reed will be able to provide the leadership for the educator/labor/community alliance required to build the fight around finances and school structure/curriculum, either would be much better than Brian Rogers, who must be stopped. As a result, this is a very critical election for the future of public education in Oakland. We are therefore making a dual endorsement in this race, of Jody London and Tennessee Reed. Please cast your ballot in this important race, for either London, or for Reed.

Oakland School Board,
District 3
No endorsement

The two candidates here are not viable. Jumoke Hinton-Hodge is an advocate of charter schools, has general dislike of unions, and despite repeated contact, she did not return our questionnaire. She has, however, been strong on return to local control. Her opponent, Olugbemiga Oluwole, knows little about public education. He is a board member of Oakland Community Organizations, OCO. He is well meaning and may generally have decent class instincts (he works with parolees). With his background he could better serve us by running for the County Board of Education.

Oakland School Board,
District 5
Noel Gallo

Noel Gallo is running unopposed. Though he can shift directions at times, he is the only person on the current Board with any independence -- he is alone in rejecting taking back part of the Board's powers without fiscal control and also in speaking about progressive taxation of corporations to deal with the deficit. He deserves our support.

Oakland School Board,
District 7
Alice Spearman, with
reservations

This District is problematic as well. While incumbent Alice Spearman can be difficult to work with, she is very knowledgeable about school finances and will stand up to anyone she thinks is detrimental to students and community involvement in the schools (including battling with even Oakland Community Organizations, OCO). She has problems with standardized testing and at times likes to play the insider, but compared to her two opponents, she is clearly the better choice. Doris Limbrick knows very little about public education (she ran a small church-based school) and Beverly Williams, linked to Acts Full Gospel Church, has community roots (including at Castlemont High School) but has little clarity on the issues.

Measure F - YES, with
reservations
County Unincorporated Areas
Utility Tax

Almost every time that local government puts a tax measure on the ballot, it's because they're caught between a "rock and a hard place." State law only gives local jurisdictions very limited options, and essentially none of these options are very progressive. Measure F is another such tax. It would extend the existing utility users tax for the unincorporated parts of Alameda County for 12 more years, and raise the tax rate from 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent.

The revenue which would be generated by Measure F is definitely needed, especially for such purposes as local libraries, drug abuse education, and school violence programs. Given that we don't really have another practical and legal option under state law, at the present time, and given that we do need the funds, we endorse a "Yes" vote for Measure F, but with the reservations expressed above. However, over the longer term, we must re-double our efforts to work for more progressive state and local tax policies. If you'd like more information about taxation in California, here are two useful websites: California Tax Reform Association, www.caltaxreform.org and California Budget Project, www.cbp.org

Measure H - YES, with
reservations
Alameda School District Parcel
Tax

This measure would levy a temporary, 4-year emergency tax of \$120 per residential parcel and 15 cents per square foot for commercial/industrial parcels for local Alameda schools, to offset the cuts being made to funds received from the state budget. With California's inequitable tax structure our students receive 46th in the nation per pupil spending and City of Alameda teachers are in the bottom quartile for salaries in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. This parcel tax will just make up the difference to maintain the present programs.

If we believe in supporting social causes, then we must include public education among our very first priorities. It is true that the way the monies are allocated to fund education in California do not work the way they should, even when there is not an economic crisis! We must work together to advocate tax reform. (And of course "uniform-amount" parcel taxes are not a very progressive form of taxation, hence our reservation). But, in the meanwhile, we need to do what it takes to keep our schools open and serviceable to the children who currently attend, and for those children who will be entering school in September. So, Alamedans, please vote YES on Measure H and support the Parcel Tax.

Measure J - YES
Oakland Telephone Tax
Modernization

The City of Oakland has had a telephone utility users tax since 1968. During the past 40 years, there have been several major changes in telephone technology. For the purposes of this tax, probably the most important change has been the shift to cell phones. Because of this change, in order for "land line" users to not be unfairly burdened with an increasing share of the tax, the law needs to be updated so that all telephone users can be taxed in an equal fashion. (Primarily, according to the address where the telephone bill is sent, as opposed to the city where the telephone calls are made from).

Measure J updates the existing telephone utility users tax without changing the current tax rate. While this tax is certainly not among the most progressive ways of funding needed City services, given the very limited choices presently available to city governments, given the urgent need to maintain funding for vital city services, and given that Measure J is not actually about whether this tax will continue or not, but only about whether to modernize the language of the law so that the tax can be applied in a more equal manner, we therefore endorse a "Yes" vote for Measure J.

In the meantime though, we do need to lobby for more progressive forms of taxation, and to make sure that our elected officials will do so as well. No ballot argument opposing Measure J was submitted, and the argument in favor was signed by individuals representing a very broad spectrum of interests, from the public library and the teacher's union to the fire and police departments.

Measure J does not affect the forms of taxation which Oakland uses to fund local city services, but it does make the application of one of those taxes fairer. Vote YES on Measure J.

County Offices

County School Board, Area 2 - No endorsement

Ernest Hardmon and Conchita Tucker are the two candidates for this seat. Hardmon returned our questionnaire, but we did not gain a favorable impression of him from his responses. And despite repeated inquiries, Tucker did not return our questionnaire, and we have not been able to assess her qualifications via any other sources. Consequently, we are not endorsing any candidates for the Area 2 seat.

County School Board, Area 3 - Ken Berrick

We are recommending **Ken Berrick** of the field of three candidates for this position on the Alameda County Board of Education. Ken is the director of the Seneca Center, a very successful school for troubled and in-trouble youth. The population of the Seneca Center includes kids who have been expelled from their own schools/districts, and kids who have a history of truancy and failure in other more conventional school settings. Berkeley Unified and other school districts refer kids to Seneca and utilize the Seneca staff's expertise in resolving issues that are often overwhelming in the lives of at-risk youth. Ken's answers to our questionnaire were complete, yet concise, and his experience with at-risk youth and as director of a model school for troubled youth would be an asset to the County Board.

John Bernard is currently Superintendent of the Newark Unified School District. He is retiring at the end of this school year, and is running for the District 3 County Board seat. He ran against Sheila Jordan, County Superintendent of Schools, in the last election for that seat, and lost. Mr. Bernard's answers to our questionnaire were not as detailed as Mr. Berrick's, and he didn't fully address some of the questions.

Celsa Snead is the Executive Director of the Mentoring Center in Oakland, which serves youth who are engaged in various levels of the juvenile justice system. The only experience with the public schools which she mentioned to us was being a consultant to the Oakland School Board President, but she didn't provide any details about that. Her answers to our questionnaire were generally good, but not very detailed. As an example, as one of her two main priorities, she simply listed ensuring that more resources are spent in the classroom, but she provided no information on how that might be accomplished.

Vote for Ken Berrick.

County Supervisor, District 4 No endorsement

In the one-party county that Alameda has become, the public rarely gets to see incumbent Democrats called upon to publicly answer for their official behavior. Again in 2008, we see most of the county supervisors running unopposed for their upcoming terms, where they can continue to collect their salaries, make lucrative contracts and appointments, solidify political connections, and wait to be tapped by the machine for a slot in the California state legislature or executive branch.

Half of supervisorial District Four's 130,000 voters are in East Oakland, and the rest in the Oakland Hills, Castro Valley, and other unincorporated areas. Nate Miley, the current supervisor now up for his third term, was preceded by Mary King, who held her seat from 1988 until she retired in 2000. But unlike Scott Haggerty in District 1 or Keith Carson in District 5, Miley has a challenger this time, a political unknown named Steve White. Although we did not have time to interview White before our publishing deadline, he did turn in a Green Party questionnaire.

Miley has made some good contributions as Supervisor. He successfully promoted Measure A that brought additional funding to Alameda's health care system (via a sales tax increase), has advocated administrative measures to prevent violence, helped organize seniors and worked to bring county services to Castro Valley. To his credit, he joined with Keith Carson to vote against the county's purchase of Sequoia electronic voting machines in 2006 (they lost). He is "skeptical" of the Children's Hospital bond measure attempts, and would "absolutely not" support eminent domain to allow them to take neighborhood houses

for a new building. But we do have some serious concerns with Supervisor Miley's candidacy.

Budgeting: Miley correctly points out that the most serious issue on the County's agenda is finding the money necessary to maintain and improve county services. While identifying problems like the failing economy, state funding cuts and mandates, and the rising demand for services, he offers no new ideas for solving the fiscal crunch. Nor does he seem to be aware that peak oil, climate change, water shortages, and financial collapse threaten Alameda County at least as much as earthquakes and the state budget process. Supervisors with a lack of Green vision and a penchant for bureaucratic complacency will be problematic for Alameda in the coming years.

Medical Clinics: Although Miley sponsored Measure A, he cannot figure out where to find the money to retrofit Highland Hospital, reopen Oakland's Central Clinic, and restore other medical facilities. Throwing one's hands up may be a new option for Supervisors, but will not replace creative fund raising and expense reductions that might be more effective. Relocalization of organic family farms and green industrial production, instituting a local currency, reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, and looking for new methods of corporate taxation are some promising ideas for supporting public services without going to the state or federal agencies.

RoV and Voting: Miley praises the county's Registrar of Voters, even though the RoV sponsored the flawed Sequoia voting machine purchase, is strongly opposed to hand-counted ballots, twice sent letters to voters with erroneous voting information, and subcontracted the mailings to an out of state non-profit. As for the county abandoning electronic voting machines altogether, Miley "would balance any decision with the practical implications, reasonable data, and the cost associated with those solutions; Cost has to be considered a major factor with the county facing continued deficits, unless there is a guarantee of reimbursement from the state." So Miley seems to be saying, Democracy is a nice idea, yes, but only if we can afford it.

Pesticide Spraying: Perhaps the most frightening comment from Miley, a member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, was on the question of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's impending aerial spraying of the county to eradicate the LBAM. Asked how he would protect the public health, Miley answered, "I would want to make sure all appropriate options have been explored and that it has been definitively determined that the Light Brown Apple Moth poses such a serious danger to agriculture. I definitely want to protect the public health but not destroy the economic viability of California's agricultural industry." Considering the overwhelming public outcry on this issue, the potentially severe public health implications of the spray, and the fact that the City Councils of both Berkeley and Oakland have passed ordinances categorically opposing the spraying, we cannot help worrying about Miley's vague response.

Nepotism: Miley raised \$71,000 in campaign contributions last year, according to his most recent financial statement, but he is not spending all of it on this year's re-election campaign. Miley's county staffers earned salaries from these funds as his campaign workers or consultants, and his son Chris, who works for United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, an elderly citizen non-profit, netted \$2,500. Miley, in addition to his job as county supervisor, is United Seniors' executive director. Chris Miley is the agency's project coordinator.

Miley's opponent Steve White, on the other hand, is more of a whistleblower than a candidate. He failed to appear at the League of Women Voters debate and left the field entirely to Miley, nor has he made his biography or political history available. All we know of him is that he is a retired boat refurbisher who lives in Castro Valley, as well as his comments to news stories and blogs over the past year on issues related to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and administration, and his responses to our Green Party questionnaire. But these are very interesting in themselves, and merit our attention.

"I am running," White says, "because I believe the County government is too insular and not open to public scrutiny. The Board of Supervisors does not broadcast their meetings, and does not encourage public comment. You have to wait through an entire meeting to speak at the very end."

He goes on: "The worst problems the County has are overcrowding, transportation, and the threat of turning into a mini LA. I would try to halt this so-called growth. I think all new construction should take place in city centers, where transportation, sewage, power, etc, are already available. Besides a moratorium on building in outlying areas, I would try to make the cities more livable. I am also very concerned that our schools have a bad paradigm. They do very little to enhance the lives of kids who are not

college bound. This should be changed, and intensive trade programs should be offered in high school, as they are in many European countries. Obviously this last problem is nationwide, but as a local government official I would try to make things better here. Lastly, the budget crisis needs to be addressed by greatly cutting the top-heavy County bureaucracy and substantially cutting the pension programs which are far too generous, and which practically invite the senior experienced people to quit so they can double dip by taking similar jobs with other local government entities (while drawing their pensions)."

On Nepotism and Corruption: "I researched and web-published the story that Nadia Lockyer, wife of then-Attorney General Bill Lockyer, was hired as Executive Director of the Alameda County Family Justice Center, in what looks like a rigged, barely legal selection process. I have no friends to take care of, don't care if I am hated, shop in thrift stores, and try to keep my cars on the road as long as possible. So, unlike the Supervisors currently in power, I would not be trying to make their main constituency, the overpaid County management-level employees, happy. I would seek to greatly lower the number of managers, and reduce their pay at the same time."

On Accessibility: "I would try to get good energetic staff, and respond to all complaints quickly. Also, I believe the County should allow anyone to put their emails and letters on a County sponsored (but not controlled) web page, so anyone interested can see if others had the same complaints. I believe there is a big problem people have in finding each other. I would put my email on the web page and write back to all complainants within two days."

On Transportation: "We wasted \$9 billion on the new east span of the Bay Bridge, when the old one could have been redone and served just as well for many years, and the cove at Treasure Island, a very pretty quiet place to anchor for a weekend in nice weather, would not have been ruined. \$9 billion in a sane world would have built a lot of light rail, which could be put on existing highway right-of-ways. I believe all this can be done; the problem is that the discussion has been limited to only those things which will benefit established constituencies, for the most part."

On Elections and Voting: "I honestly do not know much about the current Registrar or the voting machine controversy. This I would say, without intention to offend: I am the only person running against any incumbent on the Board of Supervisors. There was no candidate against the Sheriff or the DA in the off year elections. We did see a real contest in the Oakland Mayor's race, but now the winner has become unpopular. I think as far as County politics are concerned, the voting machines are not the problem; the complete control by the political machine is what needs to be challenged by fresh blood. The voting machines seem to be a meta-issue, at least one step removed from the reality that no one bothers to run. We need decent candidates before worrying too much about voting machines, at least on the County level. I commend anyone who is trying to prevent bad machines or systems from being implemented, but that is not the problem on the local level."

On Emergency Services: "We know the Oakland Hills fire was horribly mishandled by both the City of Berkeley and City of Oakland. It's hard to think the County could possibly have done any worse. I witnessed that fire and saw that the CDF fire fighting planes did not arrive until many hours had passed, and it later came out that the City had turned down their help repeatedly. Effective contingency plans, and effective command are obviously crucial. I would check into this and try to get County plans in place."

Hearing political truths innocently spoken is always a refreshing and inspiring experience, and White's comments do that. He says clearly that his candidacy is a protest: "I am very unlikely to win, and my true purpose is to bring issues to the attention of the citizens." Nate Miley is assured of victory in this race, and we can probably muddle through another four years with him and his cohort on the county Board. We can't endorse White, primarily because he's not serious about his campaign, and also because we don't know enough about him. If, however, you feel like sending a revolutionary message to the complacent political establishment, a vote for White is just the ticket. In conclusion, taking all of the above into account, we make no endorsement in this race.

County Supervisor, District 5 No endorsement

Incumbent supervisor Keith Carson is once again running unopposed. While he's done a reasonably good job in the past, we feel that over the past several years he hasn't

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Green Party County Council

County Supervisor

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really made use of his office to be an outspoken leader for progressive change. After all, he does represent the most consistently radical part of Alameda County (Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and North and West Oakland).

We were also disappointed with Carson's support for this past February's Measure A, a \$300 million dollar subsidy for Children's Hospital, which we opposed. Finally, we think that he should be doing much more to repair the inept Registrar of Voters department, which sponsored the flawed Sequoia voting machine purchase, which wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars on several mailings to voters that contained confusing and erroneous information, and which has dragged its feet regarding the implementation of Instant Runoff Voting even though both Berkeley (2004) and Oakland (2006) mandated its use years ago.

Our local elected officials need to be pushing hard for the major changes we need to move society in a more positive and progressive direction. For the reasons cited above, we are not able to give Carson our endorsement, and we will be watching to see if he can bounce back and become a pro-active leader, which we so sorely need in these complex and difficult times.

Superior Court Judge, Seat 9

Dual endorsement: Dennis Hayashi or Victoria Kolakowski

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Foundation, Child Care Law Center, and San Francisco Coro Foundation. Other important memberships include the California Commission on the Prevention of Hate Violence, the White House Commission on Asian Americans, and the White House Working Group on Affirmative Action.

Vicky Kolakowski's responses to our questionnaire were impressive and generally progressive. If elected, Kolakowski would be the first transgendered judge on the Superior Court in Alameda County, and her background shows an exemplary commitment to both LGBT rights and reforming and regulating utilities and energy markets on behalf of ratepayers. Kolakowski has spent the majority of her career as a patent attorney working in-house and as an administrative law judge on the California Public Utilities Commission. As such, Kolakowski has had more limited courtroom experience than Dennis Hayashi, and her legal practice has been more narrowly and primarily focused on utility regulation.

However, she brings something unique and very important to the bench. We agree with her that (as she states in her answers to our questionnaire): "Electing a transgender person to be a superior court judge would be transformative. Most members of my community have some interaction with the legal system, either on the civil side with birth certificate changes, etc. or on the criminal side, as sex workers. Yet many police officers and district attorneys have little positive interaction with the transgender community... "I believe that interacting with a transgender person on the bench would help the other judges, court staff, police, district attorneys and the private bench to see people like me as respectable professionals and even colleagues, and not as 'freaks' ".

While we agree with many of candidate Reid's positions on the criminal justice system, there were important details missing from his responses to our candidate questionnaire, such that we were unable to fully assess his courtroom experience and professional background. We reviewed candidate Daly's responses as well, and were unable to endorse him. Please vote for Dennis Hayashi or Victoria Kolakowski.

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY County Council Candidates

Vote for up to nine of the ten candidates.

County Councilors are elected to make decisions for the Green Party of Alameda County (GPAC). It makes official endorsements, decides on spending and fundraising, appoints representatives to state and national Green Party conventions, etc. Below are short statements of the candidates for County Council. The Council does not endorse candidates in this race, but provides this space for candidates to inform you of their positions. We encourage you to vote in this important race -- the winners will determine the direction of the GPAC for the next two years.

County Council meetings are open to the public, and are generally held the second Sunday of the month. All in attendance have full participation, including decision making. The only exception to this is if a vote is required (we attempt to reach consensus, and usually do) only elected Councilors have a vote. Our current meeting location is the Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph, Oakland (one block north of Alcatraz), 6:45 pm.

Individuals interested in following and/or participating in Council proceedings may join the Council e-mail list, read archives of discussion, and view documents via the web site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CountyCouncil/>

Council members are elected at large, in compliance with Alameda County regulations.

Janet Arnold

The problems facing the world's people and environment are still as serious as ever. I've been active in the movements for peace and social change since the 1960's, and in the Green Party especially since 2000. There are many tools in the activists' toolbox, and electoral action independent of the corporate parties is an important one. Our candidates give people a way to vote for the changes we wish to see in the world. I've served two terms on your County Council, where I help to produce and distribute the Voter Guide, assist our Secretary and Treasurer, and otherwise try to be useful. I'm also active in the Oakland Greens and available to serve as a delegate to the Green Party of California and the Green Party of the U.S. Vote for any nine of us--we have a full slate of dedicated, active, cooperative candidates.

Victoria Ashley

I have been on the Alameda Green Party County Council since 2004 and active in the Green Party in the Bay Area since 2000. I feel that some of my strongest contributions are my Voter Guide write-ups, which require both research and experience in local issues. I have degrees in architecture and psychology and am currently working as a psychology researcher. I also work as a volunteer research consultant with the website www.911research.wtc7.net and help update local Green websites as well. Most recently I have been active in working against the planned aerial pesticide spray campaign for the Bay Area, and in getting Greens organized to help prevent and resist that campaign.

Maxine Daniel

I've been an advocate for racial equality, civil rights, environmental & social justice, women's rights, gender equality, in one form or another all my life. As a lesbian and woman of color it would have been difficult not to be in the fight. I became politically active in the late 1960's.

I was impressed with the platform of the Green Party and registered Green in 1992. I have been registered Green

ever since, except for a period of three to four months to help another party regain their ballot status.

Since 1992, I have done tabling, an occasional workshop, attended a rally/march and, like the average Green, sent a check when there was a call for help. I started attending Green Sunday in 2005 and gradually extended my participation. Aside from helping with the daily activities of the party it is my wish to help the Green Party grow in numbers, in participation from our registered Greens and to help grow our funds to field our Green candidates.

My work background is in mental health and since moving to the East Bay in 1998 I have worked for non-profit organizations as an advocate of the elderly on issues regarding aging in place and health care for the uninsured. I am currently a consultant for environmental health products.

Conor Dixon

I am an active member of the Alameda County and Berkeley Greens. I worked as a volunteer coordinator on Aimee Allison's 2006 election campaign and currently lead the organizing of the monthly Berkeley Green Mondays events at Anna's Jazz island in downtown Berkeley. This is held on the third Monday of every month. Please see www.berkeleygreens.org. Please come.

I was also, until very recently, on the coordinating committee of the California Green Party. I work as a programmer, sometimes on non-profit or socially conscious web sites, including the aforementioned www.berkeleygreens.org, and the suspiciously similar-looking www.acgreens.org. I strongly believe that we need to reach out to people who agree with Green policies and start to get them actively involved in turning this mess around.

Greg Jan

I've helped to coordinate much of our county Green Party work over the years, including the process for our Voter Guide endorsements, write-ups, and fundraising. I've also helped with organizing most of our County Council candidates to get on the ballot, and I'd be happy to see any combination of them be elected. However, I especially would like those running for the first time to be elected: Maxine Daniel, Conor Dixon and Akio Tanaka.

After we finish distributing the Voter Guides and working on various June election campaigns (such as props 98/99), I strongly encourage all of you to volunteer for one or more of our county tasks, whether it be tabling, our newsletter, fundraising, our next voter guide, assisting the County Council with coordination work, etc. As an all-volunteer organization we need your assistance, even if it's just once every month or two -- whatever you can spare. (Please telephone us at (510) 644-2293). Thank you!

Bob Marsh

As one of your Berkeley representatives on the County Council, I have served as the council's Treasurer for 7 years. I've also worked to keep the Green Party credible during a very difficult few years as a state and national party delegate. If elected I plan to concentrate my green activism on working with the County Council and the newly re-formed Berkeley Green Party. Thanks for supporting your local Green Party!

Patti Marsh

I registered with the Green Party in 1992 and have been an active member since 1996. I have been an elected member of the County Council for three terms, now serv-

ing as secretary, and am active on our outreach committee. In recent years our county Green Party has expanded its infrastructure with the establishment of a newsletter, a website and our popular Green Sunday programs. My goal is for us to continue to increase the number of active greens in our county in order to become more effective in reaching out to our communities. The Green Party has great values and a strong platform but the key to our success is YOU. Please consider joining us at Green Sunday and Council meetings, at phone bank evenings and mailing parties, tabling in our neighborhoods or working on our newsletter and voter guides. Whatever your interests and skills, there is a place for you. We have a strong slate of County Council candidates who will all be working hard in the coming years to help the Green Party grow.

Wilson Riles

There are few things more important to me in life than political activism. Life, children and spouse, immediate family, extended family, and friends is about the order of those things that come before. The next, my love of my community is expressed in political activism; it is what I have to give. And it is given in agape, brotherly and sisterly love. The best vehicle for that activism is the Green Party. As Greens know, the Party embodies in its 10 key values the distilled essence of the learning of generations and thousands of years of human history: sustainability and future focus, personal and global responsibility, embrace diversity, feminism, community-based economics, decentralization, nonviolence, ecological wisdom, social justice, and grassroots democracy.

I ask you to give me the chance to do my best to help actualize these 10 key values in our party and our community in Alameda County.

Wilson Riles served on the Oakland City Council from 1979 to 1992 and ran for Mayor in 2002.

Akio Tanaka

I believe that capitalism and sustainable environment are mutually exclusive. However, currently corporate money has hijacked our political system and our airwaves. We need public financing of the elections and the rise of community radio and TV. Since the Democratic Party feeds off the same corporate trough as the Republicans, I would like to join the Green Party County Council to work for electoral reform.

Kate Tanaka

Everyday, we are assaulted with the absurdities of our world and the incompetence and corruption of those who run it. Why is it so difficult to build a movement to counter these forces? Obviously, the answer is not simple. Since running for this office two years ago I became involved in a land development battle (Oak to Ninth) from which I learned quite a lot. As Green Party representative to the committee dedicated to stopping the development, I saw how the Green Party is perceived and I was reminded that working side by side with people who have common goals builds trust. Now, I am targeting activist engagement with individuals from far ranging groups. I hope to enlarge this practice into a Green Party policy. My immediate goal is to work on establishing a Municipal ID here in East Bay. This project will allow meaningful interaction with the immigrant community. It will be a chance to establish the Green Party as sincere champions of justice.

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Let's help America's most famous peace activist in her campaign against the highest-ranking Democratic Party enabler of the current endless war agenda!

**Join us for a fund-raising barbeque in Alameda • Sunday, May 18, 2008, 1-4 pm
 Cindy will speak at 2 pm • \$20 donation (or more, if you can do it)**

For RSVP and details, call Mike Rubin (510) 436-3722. Visit www.cindyforcongress.org for more about Cindy's campaign.

Green Voter Card

Clip and bring with you to the polls
 (and photocopy for your friends?!).

Superior Court Judge

Seat 9 -- Dual endorsement: Dennis Hayashi
 or Victoria Kolakowski (See write-up)

County Supervisor

District 4 -- No endorsement, see write-up
 District 5 -- No endorsement, see write-up

County School Board

Area 2 -- No endorsement, see write-up
 Area 3 -- Ken Berrick

Oakland City Council

At-large -- Rebecca Kaplan, with reservations
 District 1 -- No endorsement, see write-up
 District 3 -- Don't vote for Sean Sullivan
 District 5 -- Mario Juarez
 District 7 -- Don't vote for Larry Reid

Oakland City Attorney

No endorsement, see write-up

Oakland School Board

District 1 -- Dual endorsement: Jody London or
 Tennessee Reed
 District 3 -- No endorsement, see write-up
 District 5 -- Noel Gallo
 District 7 -- Alice Spearman, with reservations

Local Measures

F -- County Unincorporated Areas Utility Tax -- Yes,
 with reservations
 H -- Alameda School District Parcel Tax -- Yes, with
 reservations
 J -- Oakland Telephone Tax Modernization -- Yes

State Propositions:

Eminent Domain and Government Acquisition
 and Regulation of Private Property:
 98 -- No, No, No!
 99 -- Yes, Yes, Yes!

County Committee

Green Party County Council: See statements inside.

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GREEN

voter guide

A publication of the Green Party of Alameda County, an af-
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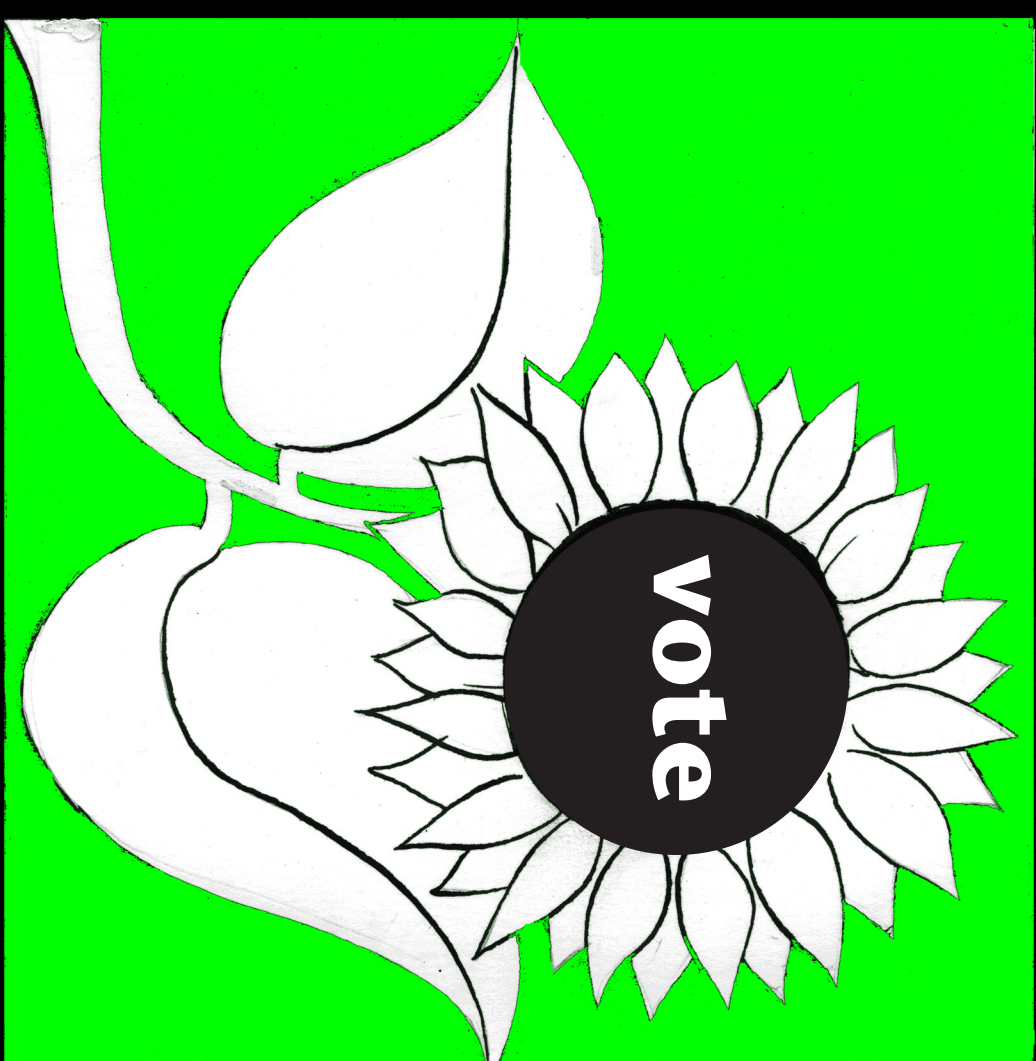
*Primary Election
 June 3, 2008*



social justice • ecological wisdom • feminism



decentralization • community based economics



global responsibility • grass roots democracy



nonviolence • future focus • respect for diversity



for the thinking voter