

# GREEN voter guide

Election Day: Nov. 4, 2008

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

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<i>General Election</i> <i>November 4, 2008</i>	

## Berkeley City Council, District 4 Jesse Arreguin

The Green Party recommends Jesse Arreguin for City Council, District 4, Berkeley. There is no other candidate who matches his integrity, intelligence, ability to get things done, and understanding of the complex land-use and fiscal issues facing Berkeley today.

A few months ago Dona Spring, District 4 Councilmember and the longest reigning elected Green in California, died. The Berkeley City Council decided to fold the District 4 "replacement" into the general election, with all the other Berkeley Council, Rent Board, School Board, and Mayor's races. There was sound reasoning and logic behind this decision; the voters in District 4 should decide their own representation.

And Jesse Arreguin will represent them in the neighborhood-friendly, responsive, inclusive style that Dona Spring is known, respected, and remembered for. Jesse has served on ZAB, Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee, is the current Chair of the Rent Stabilization Board, and has been consistent on moderate, scaled, and sustainable development as well. No other candidate in

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## Oakland Measure NN—NO Police Services Expansion

At first glance it is very difficult, as we hear more and more about the increase in robberies and homicides in Oakland, to vote against an increase in police services. However, in 2004, the voters of Oakland passed Measure Y, a measure which funds more community police officers. A report which we read earlier this year was citing the success of Measure Y, along with the addition of a class of officers joining the Oakland Police Department (OPD), boosting their ranks to 778 officers. We hear the call for more police in Oakland, but as one of the top ten cities in California, Oakland already has one of the highest police-to-citizen ratios. So, we don't believe more police are the answer.

In addition, unlike Measure Y, Measure NN has no sunset clause, so this excise tax is going to be around a long time. Although the money is called an excise tax this is assessed according to property ownership. Not exactly what is needed when so many homeowners are struggling to hold onto their homes.

We feel the OPD needs to look internally for ways to make themselves more cost effective. For example, the police force work week is 4 days, with 10 hour shifts. This

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## Proposition 6—NO, NO, NO! Anti-Gang Penalties (Runner initiative)

Proposition 6 – aka "Safe Neighborhood Act" and "Runner Initiative" – would crack down on gangs, drugs, and youth, by (among other things) forcing all public housing residents to submit to criminal background checks, prosecuting "gang-related" youths from the age of 14 as adults, admitting hearsay evidence in court, and establishing harsher penalties and eliminating bail for violent crimes. Estimated cost? \$1 Billion in the first year alone. Source of funding? The state's General Fund – ie, money currently spent on schools, healthcare, and other non-punitive public services. Prop 6 is supported by the California State Sheriffs Association and the California District Attorneys Association.

The idea for Prop 6 was first introduced as a bill in the State Senate by Republican Caucus Chair George Runner, but failed to even make it out of committee. So Runner got billionaire Henry Nicholas the Third to donate \$1 million to get it on the November ballot as an initiative. However, crime-fighter Nicholas was himself arraigned last June on a 21-count indictment that included charges of pimping, drug trafficking, conspiracy, security fraud, and making death threats.

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## The Choice for President Why We Chose a Dual Endorsement

The ability of the Greens to evolve and respond to new electoral challenges with flexibility and innovation is key to the growth and survival of our party, traits which set us apart as a people-centered choice from the increasingly rigid, corporate controlled, and undemocratic two-party system.

This year in 2008—as in 2004—our mainstream choices are again so limited that we are not even allowed to vote against war if we wish to choose between one of the two corporate-funded candidates. While John McCain sees the war in Iraq as "necessary and just," Obama's plan is to simply shift troops from Iraq to Afghanistan ("the good war"). And with the addition of Joe Biden to the Obama ticket, Biden's favored strategy of partitioning Iraq into three states—which makes control of the oil more practical for the US—has resurfaced. Meanwhile, what many average Americans want (for the troops to come home, and for Bush/Cheney to be impeached) is, they are told, somehow impossible.

This year, as in 2004, thanks to the archaic electoral system in the US – involving the winner-take-all system and the undemocratic electoral college (see fairvote.org) – California Greens have a special role to play. Unlike many other Greens in the nation, California Greens have the luxury of the highly likely scenario that Obama will beat McCain in California in November. Given that lead, California voters can comfortably choose to vote for someone they respect—rather than voting simply out of fear or disgust, without fearing they will automatically install McCain/Palin.

The Alameda County Green Party has responded to this position by endorsing two presidential candidate campaigns, rather than just one. This year, at the Green Party National Convention (held in Chicago, Illinois), Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente were chosen as the presidential and vice-presidential candidates for the Green Party.

However, in California, Ralph Nader and his vice-presidential choice, Matt Gonzalez (running as Peace and Freedom Party candidates), continue to be highly popular

choices for Green voters. Both of these campaigns, McKinney/Clemente and Nader/Gonzalez, strongly embrace Green positions and both of these campaigns enjoy the support of many local Greens.

When faced with this issue of division in California, the Alameda County Green Party chose to look to our Green values – opposing a winner-take-all system, supporting a proportional representation system – and endorse both campaigns. We feel that each has unique and valuable ideas to contribute which we see as an opportunity to spread our support. For 2008, the Green Party of Alameda County can now say we endorse multiple viable candidates who embrace our values, two significant campaigns willing to take on the daunting task of standing up to the most powerful political corporate-funded machine, perhaps, in the history of the world, in a time of war. We feel this best represents our county and our party.

## President and Vice-President: Cynthia McKinney & Rosa Clemente

"... Entire cities are going into receivership while the Democratic leadership in Congress gives the Pentagon one half trillion dollars annually with no accountability, no strings attached." - Cynthia McKinney, 'How the Democrats Helped Bush Hijack the Country'

A brief comparison of some key congressional votes of Senator Obama and Representative McKinney provides an interesting example of her unique strengths as an individual, and the differences between the values the Greens represent, and the actions that centrist Democrats engage in, daily.

While Senator Obama voted in support of the PATRIOT Act, voted to confirm Condoleezza Rice, and voted to punish nations opposing the death penalty, Representative McKinney introduced the first motion of impeachment against Bush, voted for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces in Iraq, and called an International Tribunal on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While Senator Obama voted to approve the official allotment of 2004 Ohio electoral votes

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## President and Vice-President: Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzalez

"Obama talks like Martin Luther King but votes like Bush." - Matt Gonzalez

Although lifelong public citizen Ralph Nader and Bay Area favorite, former Green San Francisco Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, chose not to run as Greens, but rather as Peace & Freedom candidates in California this year, their positions on the issues put them squarely in line with our values—dialog not war, ending corporate personhood, moving to sustainable renewable energy, honoring diversity, and much more. Nader/Gonzalez have broad support in California and nationwide, as shown by Nader's capture of over 60% of votes in the California Green Party Primary in January of this year, the campaign's ability to gain ballot status in over 40 states around the country, and the popularity of events like the recent 4000 person Nader/Gonzalez rally in Denver during the DNC. The Alameda County Green Party is proud to endorse the Nader/Gonzalez campaign, along with McKinney/Clemente, and congratulate the Peace & Freedom party on their role in helping to bring this powerful and necessary team into the November 2008 presidential election dialog.

In what he described as "a political or moral epiphany," Matt Gonzalez, Nader's VP choice, switched from the Democratic to the Green Party in December of 2000 to become one of the first members of the Green Party to win elective office in San Francisco, as District 5 Supervisor. Later, in 2003, Gonzalez was elected President of the Board of Supervisors by his colleagues.

Many voters in the Bay Area know of Matt Gonzalez because in 2003 he also came within just a few percentage points of becoming the mayor of San Francisco when he campaigned for that seat against Gavin Newsom. He was the first Mexican-American, non-Democratic Party mayoral candidate in the City's history. At that time, only 3 per cent of San Francisco voters were registered with the Green Party, and Gonzalez, outspent 8-to-1, had to campaign against both Bill Clinton and Al Gore, who came to San Francisco to ensure the mayor's seat would remain in the hands of the their party, with Gavin Newsom.

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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 8,000 to Green households, and distribute another 10,000 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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/Announcements-GPAC>. (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](mailto:berkeleygreenparty@gmail.com); 510-644-2293; [www.berkeleygreens.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:suzannebaker@earthlink.net)

### Credits:

Our "unindicted Voter Guide co-conspirators" include: Jan Arnold, Victoria Ashley, Bill Balderston, Claudette Begin, Paul Burton (page layout wizard), Pamela Collett, Len Conly, Maxine Daniel, Sandra Decker, Jack Gerson, Dave Heller, Fred Hosea, Greg Jan, Preston Jordan, Perrine Kelly, Tom Kelly, Khurshid Khoja, Kim Linden, Art Lipow, Gretchen Lipow, Lauren Maass, Don Macleay, Bob Marsh, Patti Marsh,

Paul Merrick, John Morton, Wilson Riles, Michael Rubin, Philip Santos, Susan Schacher, John Selawsky, Larry Shoup, b soffer, Kent Sparling, Lisa Stephens, Aki Tanaka, Kate Tanaka, Richard Tolmach, Jesse Townley, Lindsay Vurek, Pam Webster, Nan Wishner, Pam Webb, Kriss Worthington, Rob Wrenn, 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 most of the races that won't appear on your ballot. Where we have comments on those races or candidates you will find them on our blog web site ([www.acgreens.wordpress.com](http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com)). 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!

## A Note About Bonds, Financing, Taxes and Fiscal Responsibility

The Green Party of Alameda County has always been hesitant to embrace bond financing. Our commitment to being fiscally responsible is as important as our commitment to being environmentally and socially responsible. Because people who buy bonds are almost exclusively the wealthy, as investors are paid back over the 20-30 year life of the bond, wealth is transferred from middle and low income taxpayers to rich bondholders. As noted in the Voter Guide in 1992, over 35,000 U.S. millionaires supplemented their income with tax exempt state and local bond checks averaging over \$2,500 per week (that's over \$130,000 per year tax free). They avoided paying federal and state taxes on over \$5 billion which must be made up by the rest of us. The Green Party of Alameda County calls on the public to join us in working to phase out this regressive and unfair subsidy of the rich and their investment bankers (who take millions of dollars off the top when the bonds are issued).

In spite of these realities, we often endorse bonds for socially and environmentally responsible projects WITH

RESERVATIONS. Why? Structural inequities in the tax system make responsible and progressive financing impossible. With the passage of taxpayer revolt "Prop 13" and related "Jarvis-Gann" legislation, for tax purposes property valuation can only rise 1% per year (unless half or more interest in the land is sold or the owner dies). This prevents retirees, the handicapped and others on fixed incomes from being taxed out of their homes with rising property values. We whole-heartedly agree with this effort to protect those with fixed incomes. Unfortunately, the bulk of the "tax relief" goes places the voters never intended it to go--to huge corporations that own most of the land in the state.

Gas and electric utilities, phone companies, oil companies, agribusiness, silicon valley conglomerates, and railroads never die, only "merge." Even though more than half of their stock may be traded every year, it never counts as a sale of their land, which will never be taxed at more than cost or 1972 values plus 1% per year. Let the corporations pay their fair share for the schools, for the veterans, for the environment, for the parks and open space. In order to do this we say, "Split the Tax Rolls": keep the tax protection as it is now for natural persons, remove the eternal tax break for the corporations. If the corporations were paying their share California would not have to resort to bond financing to pay for its needs.

### Green Party of Alameda County

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(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.*

## Berkeley City Council

### Berkeley City Council, District 4

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the field (Terry Doran, LA Wood, Asa Dodsworth, and N'Dji Jockin) comes close to Jesse's record, commitment, and grassroots, neighborhood support. Terry Doran, who some considered the favorite back at the beginning of August, has not garnered the support and enthusiasm that he expected. The President of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, Cathy Campbell, has endorsed Jesse Arreguin. Terry Doran is a former teacher in the Berkeley Unified School District. His legacy of work on the School Board, Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB), and Downtown Area Plan show a marked and consistent tilt toward developer's and large property holder's interests. He is exceedingly and unnecessarily long-winded: he tends to posture. We have serious concerns about his public record and handling of the Derby Street ballfield for the Berkeley Unified School District and many of his votes on ZAB. He has sided with the cell-phone tower corporations, with the large-scale developers, and time after time with Mayor Bates on development and land-use issues. He is not neighborhood nor community sensitive, and has never understood the balance necessary to maintain our neighborhoods and our neighborhood character, identities, and assets. Many of us find the thought of Terry Doran serving on the Berkeley City Council absolutely terrifying. Not only is there an alternative, but there is a great alternative in Jesse Arreguin.

Also on the ballot are three candidates whom we didn't endorse but are also better on the issues than Terry Doran. Asa Dodsworth ([www.asafor4.org](http://www.asafor4.org)) is a Zero Waste Commissioner, tree sit organizer, farmer, 9-year host of a "Food not Bombs" kitchen, Landmark Preservation activist, co-founder Environmental Youth Camp, and neighborhood organizer. N'Dji "Jay" Jockin ([www.jockin4berkeleycitycouncil.com](http://www.jockin4berkeleycitycouncil.com)) is an environmental strategist who would expand the property transfer tax to cover energy saving tankless water heaters. He would also create a bike-swap-safety program to move UC students from their cars onto bicycles. Finally, there's veteran environmentalist and political activist LA Wood ([www.4lawood.org](http://www.4lawood.org); and [www.berkeleycitizen.com](http://www.berkeleycitizen.com)). He's a journalist, a video producer (among other projects, he's immortalized the tree sitters on film), and a former Environmental Commissioner. His activism has proven that one person can still make a difference. However, we feel that Jesse Arreguin is definitely the best candidate to fill this seat, and since only one person will be able to win this critical election, we are strongly backing his candidacy.

Vote for, send money to, walk and phone for, support Jesse Arreguin for Berkeley City Council, District 4. Please contact his campaign via: [www.jessearreguin.com](http://www.jessearreguin.com), (510) 575-4959. This is the most important race in Berkeley this election cycle. Dona Spring will never be replaced, but at least we should have someone who understands the issues she was committed to, someone who will be a voice for neighborhoods and communities, and someone who can effectively deal with the complexities and subtleties of the many issues facing Berkeley and District 4 residents today. That candidate is Jesse Arreguin, hands down.

### Berkeley Mayor Write in Kahlil Jacobs-Fantauzzi for Mayor.

Kahlil Jacobs-Fantauzzi is a write-in candidate. He will not appear on your ballot. He has been on the Berkeley City Youth Commission and was one of the leaders in the struggle to keep KPFA progressive in 1999. In his short life (33 years) his experience as a political activist, a hip hop artist, a middle school teacher etc. is the kind of change Berkeley needs. As Greens we have been greatly dissatisfied with either official candidate's history in that office (see below). Kahlil's progressive qualifications far outweigh theirs. Instead of holding one's nose and voting for Bates or Dean, we strongly urge you to write in Kahlil Jacobs-Fantauzzi for Mayor. Your write-in vote will be counted and recorded.

Tom Bates has a commendable record on solar and other environmental initiatives. These seem sincere, if largely unproven at this point. This has to be balanced with what one can only characterize as a philosophy of bigger, faster, better in terms of development and rezoning. While Mayor, Bates has attempted to alter both the Gilman and Ashby zoning, and has consistently tried to alter the West Berkeley Area Plan, fortunately without much success to date. That could of course change with

another four years in office. He has an uncanny ability to muster five votes whenever he seems to need them, and especially on controversial issues, when it at first didn't appear he could garner five votes. He has not produced a sunshine ordinance, one of his campaign pledges of 2002 (that's six years ago, folks), has time and time again attempted to suppress, limit, or eliminate Commissions, has stacked Commissions and key Committees with his sure votes, has limited public discourse, and has encouraged large-scale, ad hoc development that is without true urban planning, actual services attached, or any comprehensive plan for family or affordable housing. He engineered the notorious "secret agreement" with UC Berkeley in 2005 that to this day has not been fully sunshined nor explained. He gathered support on Council for the LL initiative on the ballot this November which would drastically alter and weaken our effective and fair landmarks preservation ordinance. His mantra appears to be Build, baby, Build.

Shirley Dean is her own bundle of contradictions and flaws. She seems to be a better citizen than Mayor, having spent the past couple of years working on many issues that she never seemed to bother with in her years as Mayor (UC Berkeley issues, landmarks, environmental issues). In the words of one of her supporters "Dean's environmental goals include improving food recycling, encouraging voluntary backyard bird and butterfly habitat, and saving the watershed and woodlands of Strawberry Canyon from proposed massive development." This is hardly cutting-edge, effective city environmental policy in 2008; it actually sounds more like the goals of a neighborhood gardening collaborative. Shirley Dean, as citizen, did support and work for Measure J in 2006, to her credit. She has been outspoken about the Memorial Grove oak trees (something none of us has any authority or jurisdiction over, of course). She of course was never so outspoken nor activist friendly in her time as Mayor.

More importantly, Greens will never forget, nor probably ever entirely forgive, then Mayor Dean's public comments regarding Dona Spring's resolution after the U.S. invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. She showed, in those comments, her true divisive nature and tendencies. She has a long-standing feud with Councilmember Kriss Worthington and with many other progressives, and it seems to some of us that once she has characterized you as her "enemy" you never leave that list. Hers is a narrow and ultimately ineffective way to govern.

### Berkeley City Council, District 2 No Endorsement

Incumbent Darryl Moore is running against challenger Jon Crowder. We deadlocked and therefore we cannot make an endorsement. This write-up recognizes the support that Moore had at the endorsement meeting as well as some of the concerns.

Darryl Moore was endorsed by the Green Party in his successful 2000 run for Peralta Board, and his successful 2004 run for District 2 City Council. He has been a firm supporter of Green causes like Instant Runoff Voting, Public Financing, Green building standards, alternative fuels (his district boasts the incoming biofuel station at Ashby & Sacramento), and a strong Sunshine Ordinance. Many of the community initiatives his office takes on are wonderful, including the Rosa Parks back-to-school day.

The criticisms that pushed half of us to vote No Endorsement include his tendency to vote with Mayor Bates in favor of out-of-control development in West Berkeley and downtown, and his failure to take real leadership on the complex environmental issues facing Aquatic Park. We feel that he's not approaching his district's complex issues- poverty & gun violence- with enough vision.

His opponent, Jon Crowder, is an earnest community activist who needs more time to get a handle on the complexities facing the City Council before he can emerge as a serious contender for this seat.

### Berkeley City Council, District 3

#### Max Anderson, with reservations

While Max is running unopposed for re-election to the District 3 Council seat, we thought we should remind people of his articulate and principled stand opposing recruitment by the US Marines in Berkeley. He sponsored an ordinance to give Code Pink and other protesters a semi-permanent place outside the Marine's office in downtown Berkeley. He spoke eloquently of the role the Marines have played historically in invading and destroying poor countries worldwide, and defended Berkeley's right to resist war and the military's exploitation of our young people. He knows what he is talking about—he served four years in the Marine Corp, one of them in Viet Nam. When he spoke out, Max made most Berkeleyans very proud of our city's stand against recruitment and for peace and justice.

Max strongly opposed the state's dangerous plans to aerially spray toxic pesticides in response to the light brown apple moth, and he consistently supported public health and Berkeley's own Public Health Department. He was instrumental in passing Berkeley's ordinance to always use the Precautionary Principle in its policy making.

Our reservations have to do with Max's too easy acquiescence to Mayor Bates' super pro-development policies.

### Berkeley City Council, District 5

#### Sophie Hahn, with reservations

We were unified in our support of Sophie Hahn in her campaign against incumbent Laurie Capitelli. Capitelli has been a constant supporter of Mayor Bates' pro-development policies. He has also been concerned with comparatively minor issues like mosquito abatement & recycling "poachers" while the city has been facing major financial and social issues over the past 4 years. The district is only partly progressive, and is the home base of moderates like ex-Mayor and current Mayoral candidate Shirley Dean.

Sophie Hahn grew up in District 5, and is a graduate of Berkeley High, UC Berkeley, and Stanford. A lawyer and community organizer, Hahn will put her hands on experiences to good use on the City Council. She strongly supports Green initiatives like public financing, IRV, and a robust Sunshine Ordinance. Her proposals for shuttle buses to and from the Hills recognizes the distinct transportation issues facing Hills residents who are trying to reduce their personal automobile use. Her innovative ideas of a bicycle mall and massive expansion of bicycle security and monitored bicycle parking facilities will encourage more district residents to leave their cars at home. Hahn's other major Green initiative is a massive expansion of locally owned businesses and the "Shop Local" campaign that must accompany this environmentally and economically intelligent idea.

However, she is critical of the City's involvement in the recent Code Pink/Marine Recruiter controversy (although she opposes the Iraq War). This troubles us for two reasons. First, the Berkeley Green Party whole-heartedly applauds and endorses the City's support of Code Pink's important anti-military recruiter efforts. (That said, Hahn's critiques certainly echo those of many District 5 voters) Second, we are nervous that she would give in to pressure from Moderates and oppose the City's long and honorable history of speaking out on national and international issues.

Speaking of Moderates, she has been endorsed by former Mayor Shirley Dean. On the progressive side, she has been endorsed by City Councilmember Kriss Worthington, Richmond Councilmember Tony Thurmond, and former District 5 candidate and current Berkeley Green Party Secretary Jesse Townley.

Although we have the reservations expressed above, we urge you to vote for Sophie Hahn.

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## Berkeley City Council, Boards, Local Measures

### Berkeley City Council, District 6 Phoebe Anne Sorgen, with reservations

For the past five years, Phoebe Anne Sorgen has been Dona Spring's appointee to Berkeley's Peace and Justice Commission, and she walked precincts with Dona. Betty Olds, one of Berkeley's least progressive Council members, is retiring and has endorsed the candidacy of Phoebe's opponent, an aide to Betty Olds who is weaker on environmental and social justice issues than Betty has been.

Phoebe's victory in this not very progressive district would be a fine coup for sustainability and other Green values. District 6 registered voters include 6,621 Democrats, 310 Greens, 21 Peace and Freedom, 622 Republicans, and 1978 declined to state. Her victory will shift the balance of power from Berkeley's rightward, pro-developer trend. She prioritizes an environmentally and commercially sustainable city with a buy local campaign and eco-shuttles between neighborhoods and business districts.

While half of us voted to qualify our endorsement of Phoebe, because her experience does not yet cover the full range of a Council member's duties, she has been weighing in at City Council meetings for years on a wide variety of issues, has very experienced advisors, and will catch on fast to the more intricate nuts and bolts of city government. On the KPFA and Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists boards, she bridges divides to win consensus.

We know that she will represent her constituents' practical concerns conscientiously because she has proven herself to be a tireless worker. We know that she will come down on the Green side of issues, which after all is in everyone's best interest, because Phoebe Anne Sorgen has been a life-long environmentalist, walking the talk and influencing others to do so. Since 2002 she has driven an all-electric Gemcar. Others who cannot bike or carry groceries uphill have followed her lead.

The Green Party exists to offer an alternative to the corporate driven political system. Phoebe "gets" that. Thanks to her, with David Cobb's and others' advice, Berkeley became the first city to stand up to corporations having constitutional "rights" and personhood status. She wrote many other fine resolutions that the City adopted.

The Green Party is pleased to endorse Phoebe Anne Sorgen for the District 6 Council seat. For more information, or to help with her campaign, please leave a voicemail any time of day or night: 510-595-5575. Drop her a note at Box 2, Berkeley, CA 94701. Or visit her website: <http://www.phoebesorgen.net> and please encourage acquaintances who live in District 6 to vote for Phoebe Anne Sorgen.

### Berkeley School Board Only vote for John Selawsky

John is currently the President of the Berkeley School Board, running for a third term. We've seen that John has been a very effective and responsible Board member. He was first elected to the Board in November 2000, a time of financial difficulties for many school districts in California, and BUSD was on the verge of an Oakland-style state takeover. John was one of the key people who worked to get BUSD out of its fiscal crisis and under sound budgetary and operational management. He brings experience and skills to the Board which will be much needed in the current state fiscal emergency where our Governor is proposing massive cuts in state funding of public schools.

After helping to improve the district's budget John has gone on to work on many other projects, often being successful in bringing people together in finding solutions and possibilities. He works hard to find solutions that work. He defended Berkeley Unified's student assignment plan in the California Superior Court, pushed for the solarization of Washington Elementary School, co-founded the Safe Routes to Schools Committee in 2003 and worked with the LGBTQ community to include LGBTQ students and their families in Berkeley Unified's non-discrimination policy.

John was the board member who worked with the neighbors on Carleton St. who first offered the Curvy Derby alternative to closing Derby St and moving the farmers' market for the contentious Derby Street baseball field plan. He guided the Berkeley Adult School's move

to San Pablo Avenue, has worked extensively with other school and city officials to craft an agreement with the City regarding the Warm Water Pool and has been the strongest supporter on the board of BUSD's nutritious, fresh, and organic food program.

John's intends to continue to work on these various projects as well as continuing to address and close the achievement gap, especially at the middle schools, where he says the drop-off for many African-American and Latinos students becomes most critical.

John is still the only Berkeley School Board candidate ever to receive an endorsement from the Sierra Club, and they have endorsed him again in 2008. The Sierra Club said in 2004—"John Selawsky is the only Berkeley Unified School District Board candidate the Sierra Club has ever endorsed. John has an outstanding personal record as an environmentalist. In his first term on BUSD, he took leadership in converting the BUSD bus fleet to biodiesel fuelling, installing solar design panels at BHS, and improving environmental design standards for playgrounds and other structures."

We feel that, although the other three school board candidates have significant strengths in various areas, long time Green Party activist John Selawsky is the candidate with the widest field of experience and the one that best represents our Green values.

Why do we say "Vote John Selawsky Only"? Because, since the County Voter Registrar has refused since 2002 to implement Instant Runoff Voting (with Ranked choices for candidates) even though Berkeley voters passed a measure to authorize IRV by 71%, the best way to ensure John is re-elected is to vote just for him and for no other candidates. Ignore the ballot's notice to "vote for two" and just vote for John Selawsky.

### Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board "Progressive slate"—Nicole Drake, Jack Harrison, Judy Shelton, Jesse Townley, and Igor Tregub

The Berkeley Greens recommend the slate of five candidates chosen at the bi-annual Berkeley Rent Board convention, which is traditionally open to everyone and allows any Berkeley resident to participate in the voting process. Many registered Greens attended the August convention and listened to the vying candidates' presentations and answers to questions posed from the floor. Ballots were counted using Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) resulting in the selection of five candidates:

JACK HARRISON, the only incumbent seeking a second term on the Rent Board, wants your vote to work on the challenges facing the board in the next four years: Assisting tenant residents whose buildings go into foreclosure, strengthening the Rental Housing Safety ordinance and inspection, continuing to advocate for a Condo Ordinance which protects rental housing, working so that the total cost of seismic refitting of "soft story" buildings is not totally passed on to sitting.

JESSE TOWNLEY, an active member of the Alameda County Greens, is Executive Director of the non-profit Easy Does It, which provides Emergency Services to people with disabilities. As Councilmember Dona Spring's appointee to the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, Jesse will bring to the Rent Board disaster preparedness expertise derived from a tenant perspective. He will expand the greening of all rental units by pushing composting, recycling, and solar power. He will encourage the Berkeley FIRST solar program to target multi-unit building owners.

JUDY SHELTON, a 27-year Berkeley tenant, wants your vote so she can work on addressing the safety issue of "soft story" apartment buildings structures, and to find creative ways of informing tenants about the Rent Board. Judy's experience in outreach includes her work as volunteer coordinator of the recent "No on Prop 98" campaign and co-coordinator of community involvement in the Berkeley Honda strike.

NICOLE DRAKE, Legislative Aide to Berkeley City Councilmember Linda Maio, knows how important it is for tenants in Berkeley to understand their rights and how the Rent Board can assist. As a Co-Chair of the Housing Advisory Commission, she has helped make housing affordable and accessible for those who need it most. She is committed to "Greening the Rent Board," working

with apartment owners and dwellers on composting and graywater issues.

IGOR A. TREGUB, Dona Spring's appointee to the Labor Commission, asks for your vote, so he can work for stability, habitability, and equitability in Berkeley housing. As a former Cal student, Igor educated hundreds of people on their tenant rights and how Prop 98 would have affected them if it passed. He will work to expand tenant outreach and education through partnerships with the low-income, disabled, senior citizen, and student communities. He will press for an effective seismic retrofitting program that is not funded on the backs of tenants.

### Measure FF—YES, with standard bond reservations Library Bond

The Berkeley Public Library system is a local treasure, and now that the crown jewel of the system—the downtown Central Library—has been restored, it's time to work on the other 4 branches. This property tax raises \$26 million via a 30-year general obligation bond. The money would be limited to renovation, construction, seismic retrofit work, disabled access improvements, and addition of space for more library programs. The money would be overseen by the Board of Library Trustees, who are appointed by the City Council.

The library's operating budget, which is set by the City Council, only covers programs, staffing, books, and other lendable items. This money comes from the 1988 Library Tax. None of the library budget comes from the City's General Fund. There is simply no available money for major capital improvements like the ones which are badly needed by Berkeley's branch libraries. The West Berkeley branch is seismically unsafe, and all 4 branches need to expand their disabled accessibility and program space. The planned expansions would add a total of 7,500 square feet to the 4 libraries. The South Berkeley branch alone would expand from 5,000 to more than 8,000 square feet, allowing for the expansion of the beloved Tool Lending Library.

The tax would raise 1.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value per property, which means that an average homeowner would pay about \$27 a year over the life of the bond. While the Green Party is never gung ho about raising funds through bond measures, we urge a yes vote on Measure FF.

### Measure GG—YES Fire, Emergency Medical, and Disaster Preparedness Tax

This is the property tax that funds the services that even most anti-tax activists from BASTA say they wish the City would spend its money on: Fire protection and community disaster training. This measure was prompted by this year's round of Fire Station closures and 2 month suspension of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training—both due to overtime costs that exceeded the year's budget. No doubt the community uproar—mostly from the Berkeley hills—helped push this property tax measure onto the ballot.

Funds raised by this tax will ensure that there will be no more rotating firehouse closures, train all Berkeley Fire Department (BFD) firefighters to be paramedics, hire an in-house BFD trainer, ensure constant CERT training (free to community members), and fund more neighborhood disaster caches. These last are inexpensive supply caches that are given to neighborhoods who complete a certain level of CERT training and are extremely valuable post-disaster. Best of all, the funds raised by this measure can only be spent on fire and disaster prevention items. This means the City Council cannot raid this measure's proceeds for other budget items.

Vote yes on GG for common sense fire and disaster prevention for all Berkeleyans!

### Measure HH—YES Appropriation Limit Increase (GANN Limit Override)

The ballot description from 2004 is a great summation of why HH must be passed: "The State of California requires that all cities periodically ask voters for permission to spend tax revenue that was previously approved. Years ago, funding for the City's libraries, parks, and emergency

## Berkeley Local Measures

medical services were approved by more than two-thirds of Berkeley voters. However, to continue collecting and spending these funds, Berkeley voters must vote yes on Measure HH. It does not create a new tax or increase taxes by one penny. It only authorizes the City to continue using existing tax dollars to fund Berkeley's libraries, parks, and emergency medical services. If Measure HH does not pass, the City will lose millions of dollars in already approved tax revenue—forcing dramatic reductions in city services."

### Measure II—YES Redistricting Timelines

This housekeeping measure extends the time that the City Council has to adjust the boundaries of the 8 City Council districts from 1 year after the end of the census year to 3 years after the end of the census year. This would change the deadline of the upcoming redistricting from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2013. We all want the redistricting to be done quickly, but often there are delays from the Federal government, or from local government, that have meant that this important work is pushed off until the last minute and hurriedly completed. Realistically, this allows a careful, fair process to occur instead of a sloppy and possibly skewed one.

Since the redistricting deadline is in the city charter, any change to the deadline must be put to the voters as a charter amendment.

Vote yes on Measure II.

### Measure JJ—YES, with reservations

#### Berkeley Medical Marijuana

Measure JJ is a small step forward to protecting medical cannabis patients and clubs that serve them. Medical Cannabis should be a medical decision solely between doctors and patients. Unfortunately, even in states like California, which have voted to support medical cannabis, the DEA continues attacks on Clubs and patients. To counteract these extreme federal attacks cities and states must continue to develop practical policies to protect patients and caregivers.

JJ establishes a Peer Review Committee, attempts to give a bit of federal protection to designated Club representatives by giving them status as "Drug Control Officers", allows higher indoor plant limits for patients, and makes it easier for a Club to move within Berkeley, if it stays in an area permitting Retail Sales Use. The creation of a Peer Review Committee increases the likelihood of effectively addressing safety and operational standards if any new Club moves into Berkeley.

While JJ does not change Berkeley's very restrictive 3 Club limit, Greens have reservations about not requiring a public hearing for a Club location. However, since the current unworkable permitting process is confusing and probably will seriously delay Club relocation, Measure JJ offers more clarity, more reasonable oversight, and deserves our YES votes.

Measure JJ is supported by the Alameda County Democratic Party, BAE United Democratic Campaign, John George Democratic Club, and East Bay LGBT Democratic Club and MOST importantly by the Green Party of Alameda County!

### Measure KK— No endorsement Voter Approval of Transit Lanes (BRT)

This measure would require voter approval for any transit project that requires dedicated lanes in major streets in Berkeley. It's important to note that the measure is not specifically to approve or disapprove AC Transit's BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) plan for Berkeley. When you vote on KK, you are voting whether or not to require voting on BRT and/or other future transportation projects.

Proponents say that there is a strong precedent for voting on transit going back to 1964 when Berkeleyans voted to put BART underground through the city and to pay \$20M for the project. They believe it's more democratic to vote on a significant and expensive project with impacts on key city streets and nearby communities.

KK opponents say that if KK passes, it will effectively stop BRT, and that voting on transit is direct democracy, but not grass roots democracy.

Remember that if you vote Yes on KK you want voters

to approve BRT, whereas if you vote No, you do not want voter approval of BRT or other similar transit projects.

As for BRT itself, here are pro and con arguments:

*In favor of KK, and opposed to BRT*—Measure KK's proponents want to stop BRT as they say that the project is a "Trojan Horse" that will enable massive private development though subsidies and zoning changes under the rubric of "Transit-oriented Development zones". They believe BRT is a \$250M to \$400M boondoggle that will severely impact local merchants, professionals and residents, especially along Telegraph Avenue. They say the project will require cutting many street trees, and will utilize large, polluting diesel buses, perhaps the notorious Van Hool buses, not hybrid or electric buses. They assert that local bus stops will be removed between the BRT stations that are 1/4 to 1/2 mile apart, and that bicycle lanes would have to be eliminated.

AC Transit's literature states that BRT will save 5 minutes traveling from downtown Oakland to downtown Berkeley. BART already does this trip in 9 minutes vs. the 21 minutes projected for BRT. Others believe that BRT does not coordinate well with other transit, for example at MacArthur BART. Noted author and environmental activist Bill McKibben says that we should have FREE public transit, and this would be effective in getting many more people out of their cars. Perhaps the \$250M - \$400M would be better spent on subsidizing no cost bus trips.

*In favor of BRT, and opposed to KK*—Opponents of KK say that the most important reason to vote against KK is that it is an obstacle to implementing improvements in transit service in Berkeley and Oakland. They say that these improvements will attract new riders and that will translate directly into a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. In Berkeley, cars are the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions. They argue that one of the biggest problem bus systems face is rising operating costs resulting from slow travel speeds (10 mph or less) which are the direct result of sharing lanes with cars. They say that BRT with dedicated bus lanes means a 35% reduction in bus travel time, greatly improved reliability since buses that don't share lanes with cars can actually stay on schedule, and more frequent service without the bus bunching that plagues existing service on the Telegraph corridor. They say that BART stations are spaced too far apart to be useful for the thousands of shorter trips now made by bus, so quality bus service is essential. They also say that BRT stations will improve conditions for disabled people who use wheelchairs as well as for people with mobility problems by allowing level boarding (no steps or lifts when getting on) at BRT stations. It is alleged that in San Francisco, in New York, Paris and throughout the world, Green Party members have supported dedicated lanes for transit vehicles as a proven and effective strategy for improving transit service and for reducing automobile traffic and encouraging a shift from driving to transit use.

Measure KK opponents believe the measure is not about democracy; it's about killing BRT. They say KK has no support on the Berkeley City Council, which they believe is not surprising, because it would create delays and cost the city money. If Measure KK passes, it will require the City Council to make a choice between spending up to \$1.2 million for the plan and the election that Measure KK requires before BRT can be implemented or dropping support for Bus Rapid Transit, which the City has supported since 2001. KK proponents claim that the measure will cost the City nothing but, according to KK opponents, that's because they don't want the city to hold an election. "Simply Leave Our Streets Alone" (i.e. for our cars) they say in their ballot argument. Measure KK is opposed by the Sierra Club, the Bicycle-Friendly Berkeley Coalition, the Transportation and Land Use Coalition and by all the progressives on the Berkeley City Council, including Kriss Worthington and Max Anderson. (Note, however, that Kriss Worthington opposes BRT as presently planned.) Green Party member Dona Spring voted for BRT on Telegraph when the Council voted in 2001 to support BRT over light rail and over more limited improvements favored by those opposed to BRT.

KK opponents claim that supporters base their opposition to dedicated lanes for buses on cars-come-first arguments such as their claim in their ballot argument that BRT means "losing use of portions of our streets". According to KK opponents, those in favor of it think using the street means driving, but, KK opponents say that the streets belong to transit users and bicyclists too. KK Opponents say that with BRT, streets on a heavily-used bus route will be put to better use and bus riders will no

longer be second-class citizens. KK opponents believe that those in favor of it have made many false claims about BRT including that it will force local merchants out of business, mandate polluting diesel buses, require elimination of local service and that it won't reduce travel time, despite the fact that buses will no longer be stuck in mixed-flow travel lanes with cars and trucks. While over 25,000 people ride the buses on the BRT corridor today, those against BRT also make the claim that buses are often empty.

### Measure LL—NO, NO, NO! Referendum on Repealing Landmarks Preservation Ordinance

Last year developers cut a deal with a majority of the City Council to remove key protections from the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. Citizens responded with a referendum, signed in a few weeks by thousands of Berkeley voters, that put the Council action on the ballot. A "YES" vote endorses the developer deal. A "NO" vote rejects the watered down ordinance and keeps strong landmark protections in place.

Landmarking is good green policy. Existing buildings contain embodied energy and irreplaceable resources like old-growth timber that shouldn't be thrown in landfills. Landmarking also allows the community to protect its cultural and character defining resources while also accommodating new development and change. Without the current ordinance, Berkeley Iceland, a treasured institution, would have rapidly been torn down to make way for another block of generic condominiums or apartments. Imagine Berkeley without its brownshingle houses, without Victorian homes, without its livable neighborhood shopping districts, and historic public parks with features dating back to the New Deal; all those elements of our built landscape have been threatened in various ways over the past generation, and Berkeley's landmarks ordinance is one of the tools that has helped minimize losses.

Despite occasional high-profile controversy, Berkeley's existing landmark ordinance has been applied sensibly and appropriately over the years. For more than three decades an average of less than 10 properties a year have been designated landmarks in a city with tens of thousands of buildings. This year, only TWO properties have been landmarked in Berkeley; hardly an epidemic. One of those was the home where David Brower grew up, a national treasure that had been previously unresearched and unrecognized. If the watered down ordinance had been in place, the deck would be stacked against historic preservation; it would be possible for developers to get rapid permission to demolish structures such as the Brower family home before community members would have a chance to research, or even realize, what was being lost. Consultants, funded by the people wanting to tear down buildings, would be given a major role under measure LL to decide if a property is "historic." This is a classic case of making sure money, not community opinion or grassroots action, matters most.

Developers like to blame the landmarks ordinance for preventing development but, in fact, most recent developments in Berkeley have taken place without any landmark or historic preservation issues being raised. Scores of infill and commercial buildings have been constructed or remodeled in recent years with no objection—and often with support—from historic preservationists. And, when controversy does occasionally arise, every action by the landmarks commission is directly appealable to the City Council under the current ordinance.

Weakening landmarks protections is not just a local matter; all over the country the right-wing has united behind the "Wise Use" and property rights movements to attack not only historic properties and protections, but environmental regulations, zoning controls, rent control, and other public policy tools used to shape communities for the public good.

Don't believe the rhetoric that Berkeley's landmarks ordinance had to be radically weakened. The State Office of Historic Preservation said that Berkeley's existing ordinance was fine; it's viewed as a model throughout California. A few minor changes to bring certain provisions up to date would have been all that was necessary. Instead, the City Council majority chose to destroy the ordinance under the false pretense of "improving" it. Don't let their backroom deal stand. Please vote No on LL.

## Oakland Measure NN

*continued from page 1*

kind of scheduling requires 25% more officers to cover the shifts. Plus, OPD spends more than \$12 million dollars a year on overtime. Since 1999 OPD has exceeded their overtime budget by several million dollars every year. In fact, 62% of Oakland's unrestricted budget already goes to the fire and police departments.

As taxpayers we want "more bang for our bucks." We would like to see more resources go to counseling in the schools, mental health programs, housing the homeless, a job program for teens, and most of all, drug rehabilitation on demand without a long waiting list. We think there are a lot of systemic issues that need funding which will go far to reduce our own stress and anxiety, and reduce and prevent crime. We all want the city we live in to be a safe city, but we're not at all convinced that more police are going to make us safe.

**We encourage a "No" vote on Measure NN.**

## Oakland City Council, At-Large No Endorsement

In the June Primary, we endorsed Rebecca Kaplan, one of five candidates. In the runoff between Kaplan and Kerry Hamill, we cannot endorse either candidate.

Rebecca Kaplan has generally progressive positions on crime, police staffing, and Measures Y and Z. Her proposals on most of the issues reflect agreement with Green Party priorities. This is no surprise since she was a Green Party member until just after she started her Primary campaign. She has strengthened her proposals by adding an LGBT component to them. She supports increasing the degree to which Oakland's electricity supply is local, sustainable, and provides good jobs to the community, by a public power system if possible, or through Community Choice Aggregation. However, for a former candidate for the at-large seat and as a progressive activist, she evidences a surprising absence of understanding of the

current evolution of many of these issues. For Rebecca, generalities are not good enough.

Our biggest reservation has to do with her responses to our questions about housing, inclusionary zoning and development generally. The Green Party supports inclusionary zoning. IZ requires developers to make a percentage of housing units in new residential developments available to low-income and moderate-income households, and such policies are in place in over 100 jurisdictions in California. Greens have been part of Oakland's coalitions working around this issue. In response to our direct question about inclusionary zoning, Kaplan changed the subject. She talked at length about the foreclosure crisis, gray areas of condo conversions, and development notions in general such as "smart growth". We believe that it is possible to acknowledge the difficulties, conflicts and challenges of development questions, urban planning and fiscal priorities without having to back away from a CLEAR position as a supporter of inclusionary zoning.

It was a further cause for concern that OakPAC (representing the Chamber of Commerce) decided to endorse her, after their candidate in the Primary did not make the runoff, for reasons that we were unable to ascertain. Her own explanation of their choice is that they found her to be smart and hardworking, qualifications that we find valuable only when coupled with ethical and straightforward principles.

Her decision to leave the Green Party marks a clear disagreement in priorities with ours. 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 major corporate parties which is badly needed at all levels of government. Here in Oakland we have a monopoly of Democrats in local office. If Kaplan decided to change her party registration as a result of pressure (from whomever) it says little about her ability to stand up to the INEVITABLE pressure that she will receive as an elected official.

Kerry Hamill is a former staff member of Don Perata's and Elihu Harris' offices and currently serves on the Oakland school board. She also runs her own nonprofit focused on literacy. She is one of the elected officials from the legislative branch who gets involved in micromanaging 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 our questionnaire (during the Primary campaign) showed support for the status quo in urban development, and she didn't really address major issues such as Measure Y, police staffing problems, and the police union contract. She also declined to answer the additional questions that we asked her in preparation for making our decision about the runoff.

## Measure N—NO Outstanding Oakland Teachers Deception and Division Act

Measure N is intended to deepen the decimation of public education in Oakland: 15 percent of the revenue from Measure N would go to charter schools. Charter schools drain money away from public schools, and they are largely unregulated—thus, public funds are given to what are effectively private schools, which is why many call charter schools "backdoor vouchers." Oakland Unified School District already has by far the highest percentage of students in charter schools of any large urban school district in California (over 15%). The loss of students to charter schools in itself has already resulted in a loss of over \$50 million / year in state funding. Prior to the state takeover of OUSD in 2003, fewer than 4% of students went to charter schools. Thus, charter schools have been heavily promoted by State Superintendent of Instruction Jack O'Connell, who is taking one last shot before full governance of OUSD is returned to the school board and the citizens of Oakland.

Measure N is intended to divide. The remaining 85 percent of revenue from the tax would purportedly go to teacher salaries—but it provides NOTHING for other schoolworkers. This is one of the reasons why the Oakland teachers' union (Oakland Education Association—OEA) opposes Measure N, as does Alameda County Central

Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Cornu and the CLC's schoolworker committee.

The measure was put on the ballot by Jack O'Connell's appointee as State Administrator (Vincent Matthews)—over and against the opposition of the school board, which voted 6-1 to ask him to withdraw the proposal and instead convene a working group of all stakeholders to draft a more well-conceived measure for a future ballot (the board's vote is only advisory because we're in state receivership). The measure was introduced with virtually no notice—another instance of the state administration disregarding the interests of the citizens of Oakland.

Oakland voters just passed a parcel tax renewal (Measure G) earlier this year, and are probably going to be asked to pass another for additional police. Measure N, yet another regressive parcel tax, will soak homeowners of modest incomes who are already strapped in this downturn, while essentially giving a free pass to those who should foot the bill: corporations and the affluent.

OEA is in contract negotiations—its contract expired on June 30. OUSD/State Administration will try to use the defeat of this unacceptable parcel tax to blame the union for their refusal to meet its contract demands on compensation.

In a proposed multi-billion dollar bond measure for Los Angeles Unified School District, 10% would go to charter schools; in a recently passed parcel tax in San Francisco, 3.5% goes to charter schools. These figures are uncomfortably close to the percentage of students attending charter schools in these districts. In Oakland, just over 15% of students attend charter schools, and O'Connell proposes 15% of this new parcel tax go to charters. So these measures are part of a campaign that will claim that the voting public supports allocating local revenue to charter schools proportional to the number of students attending those schools, and teacher salaries are being used as a bait and switch tactic.

## Measure OO— No endorsement Kids First!: Children and Youth Act

Let us begin this discussion by distinguishing between the actual measure and its source, the Kids First Coalition. Oakland Kids First is a network that began in 1995, organized around addressing a variety of youth needs, including school-based cultural change led by students and peer mentoring as well as issues such as youth access to AC Transit and involving a core youth leadership group, REAL HARD. The initial impulse for the coalition was linked to passing a successful citywide measure (K) to set aside 2.5% of the annual city budget for youth development, generating more than \$72 million in new funding over 12 years.

Measure OO (Kids First!-the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth Act) is an extension of this set-aside, which will call for 1.5% of all grants to go to youth services (for two years, and thereafter, 2.5 % of the city's annual total revenue); it also calls for an additional increase in the annual amount the City spends on children and youth. The City Council, at a special meeting on August 4, placed the measure on the November ballot, after acknowledging a mass signature campaign by Kids First. This allowed the Council to avoid simply adopting it outright.

There are two major areas of concern. First and most critically is that it provides no revenue source beyond existing funds. Such set-asides can be useful in creating priorities in less turbulent times; the largest set-aside dealing with youth in California is, of course, Prop 98, designated for public education (K-14). The issue here is Oakland's fiscal crisis and the likelihood of major layoffs. While acknowledging that this was not created on the back of youth programs, such a measure must be combined with a call for local and state progressive taxation and a reordering of priorities.

Second, in dealing with grants, money will likely go to many non-profits, which raises two concerns. First is subcontracting to non-union programs and second is the lack of permanence in programs that could require ongoing interventions and could be easily ended after grant money disappears.

Because of the above concerns, and the unresolved issues of new revenues and the maintenance of city, unionized employment, we are not able to endorse Measure OO. Further, there should be discussion with the Kids First Coalition and the Central Labor Council.

## Help Richmond stand up to Chevron!

### Support Measure T

November's election in Richmond is unusually important for Greens.

Richmond voters have the chance to:

- Elect a City Council majority that can work in coalition with Green Party Mayor Gayle McLaughlin for green programs
- Stand up to Chevron
- Begin to attack the social problems in Richmond

Measure T provides resources to carry out the program. Success in Richmond can be a beacon for local Green Party politics.

See Mayor McLaughlin's newsletter at <http://content.enewslettersonline.com/12939/17825.html>

### Support these candidates for Richmond City Council

- Jovanka Beckles
- Jeff Ritterman
- Tom Butt

**Please help! Contact these campaigns:**

[www.aFairShareForRichmond.org](http://www.aFairShareForRichmond.org) 510-595-4661

[www.JovankaBeckles.org](http://www.JovankaBeckles.org) 510-496-2711

[www.JeffRitterman.com](http://www.JeffRitterman.com) 510-594-4332

[www.TomButt.com](http://www.TomButt.com) 510-237-2084

**Support your local Green Party.**

## Albany City Council, School Board

### Albany City Council Ellen Toomey, Robert Lieber Leo Panian, with reservations Nick Pilch, with reservations

Six candidates are running for three Albany City Council seats. Green Party questionnaires were sent to all six. One candidate declined to participate. A committee of five Albany Greens formulated the endorsement recommendations below.

The recommendations that follow indicate the number of committee members supporting each type of endorsement when the committee did not reach consensus.

Ellen Toomey: Endorsement;

Robert Lieber: Endorsement (2 committee members); endorsement with reservations (3 committee members);

Leo Panian Endorsement (2 committee members); endorsement with reservations (1 committee member);

Nick Pilch: Endorsement (2 committee members); endorsement with reservations (1 committee member);

Farid Javandel: No endorsement (4 committee members); endorsement with reservations (1 committee member). See below for comments on each candidate.

Ellen Toomey—The Green Party unanimously endorses Ellen Toomey for her history of activism in working to preserve the Gill Tract, reduce pesticide use around schools, and co-founding SchoolCARE (an organization that raises supplemental community funding for Albany schools). Her advocacy for the Gill Tract includes engaging the Albany Unified School District in the effort to create a working organic farm with educational programming, which would contribute to sustainable food production in the region. She has expressed concern about the University of California's proposal for a Whole Foods supermarket on UC land in Albany, citing Whole Food's non-union business and anti-union practices and its poor track record on buying local organic produce. She has a demonstrated ability for formulating creative, innovative, sustainable solutions while including varying viewpoints and dealing with public pressure, indicating a commitment to the Green value of grassroots democracy. These activities demonstrate commitment to Green Party values of ecological wisdom, sustainability, social justice and equal opportunity, and community-based economics. Toomey's commitment to the Green value of non-violence is evident in her yoga teaching of adults and teens, and as a small business owner she participates personally in community-based economics.

Robert Lieber—All of the endorsement committee members favored endorsing Lieber, three with reservations.

In support of endorsement, the committee cited Lieber's proactive Green leadership on the City Council during his first term, actively opposing development of a mall on the Albany waterfront, initiating creation of a city Social and Economic Justice Commission, spearheading a ban on styrofoam use, standing up as regional leader opposing aerial spraying of the Bay Area with pesticides for the light brown apple moth and persuading many other local government officials and agencies to join in opposing the pesticide program, actively supporting adoption of integrated pest management and public art ordinances in Albany, and introducing numerous resolutions on state and national issues, including resolutions supporting universal health care, opposing the war in Iraq, and supporting creation of a federal Department of Peace. These accomplishments are consistent with Green Party values of ecological wisdom, sustainability, social justice, and personal and global responsibility. Those who supported endorsing without reservations respect Lieber's activist leadership and his willingness to stand up for what he feels is right, and recognize this quality is responsible for his numerous accomplishments during his term on council.

Those members with reservations were concerned about Lieber's performance with regard to building consensus, engaging diverse viewpoints, and integrating the input of city commissions and committees. Some concerns have been raised about Lieber's public support of a Whole Foods in Albany, due to Whole Foods' corporation's unjust labor practices in actively promoting non-unionization of workers, the lack of a viable living wage for workers, and the disconnect of locating a sizable grocery store next to what could be a future farm without any relationship between the two (Whole Foods sources almost exclusively from large suppliers). Activists have been working for years to preserve the Gill Tract, and future negotiations with UC to uphold green values will require strength and

commitment to advocate for this vision. It is unclear if Lieber's previous public support of Whole Foods would mean a sacrifice in vision, although given his strengths in office, this remains to be seen.

Leo Panian—Three of five committee members favored endorsing Panian, one with reservations.

Those favoring endorsement of Panian cited his consistent support of green policies and practices in his votes as a Commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Commission including the city's green building ordinance, incorporation of pedestrian-friendly elements in developments, careful regulation of wireless antenna sites to protect community values and safety, leadership potential in his ability to quickly grasp issues and seek creative solutions that incorporate green values, and his career commitment to green building as an engineer in an architectural engineering firm known for its innovative and seismically sound green buildings.

The member who supported endorsement with reservations of Panian cited concern that that his leadership potential is not clear on the Gill Tract. The members who did not recommend endorsing Panian noted that in addition to the above he does not have a track record of actively initiating projects in the community, and they questioned the derivation of and thought behind some of his questionnaire responses, which are posted at: [www.acgreens.wordpress.com](http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com)

Nick Pilch—Three of five committee members favored endorsing Pilch, one with reservations.

The members favoring endorsement of Pilch cited his co-founding and ongoing leadership of Albany Strollers and Rollers (which supports human-scale transit improvements in the city), his stated commitment to inclusion of diverse viewpoints and valuing of consensus, and his votes of support for policies consistent with green values that came before the Parks and Recreation Commission during his tenure on that body, including the city's new Integrated Pest Management ordinance, the formation of a Tree Task Force, and inclusion of the Gill Tract in regional planning for open space.

The member who supported endorsement of Pilch with reservations cited that although he appears enthusiastic about the Gill Tract farm proposal, he has not demonstrated understanding of the food security and sustainability possibilities, and his leadership potential is unknown with regard to integrating stakeholders' interests at UC Village/Gill Tract and resisting public pressure and to negotiate for the best possible Green outcome for food sustainability and environmental health. The members who did not recommend endorsing Pilch noted that in addition to the above, he has not initiated projects other than those related to transit.

Farid Javandel—Four of the five endorsement committee members recommended no endorsement of Farid Javandel. One committee member recommended endorsement with reservations, citing Javandel's record of support for sustainable issues related to open space, food security, and human-scale transit, and his tactfulness and diplomacy, which are well-received and well-perceived by a wide range of community members. This committee member's reservations stem from the performance of some Javandel committee and commission appointees whose voting record has been in opposition to creative, sustainable solutions for the future and in support of the status quo or of non-action on key issues. While selection of these appointees could be seen as commitment to diversity of opinion and grassroots democracy, it has not advanced Green Party values.

Key issues of concern in the campaign:

The endorsement committee emphasizes that among the issues imminently facing the community is the proposed development at UC Village because of the Gill Tract site's potential for contributing significantly to food security and environmental health in the region. The sustainability potential of having a grocery store with a direct link to a full scale working farm on a main transit line at that property is unique, ideal, and should not be bargained away under any circumstances. The UC proposal including a Whole Foods should not be accepted as a fixed outcome given Whole Foods' negative track record described above. The Green Party believes that this project deserves attention equal to that given the Albany waterfront, which has been the focus of most recent conservation efforts.

The Green Party is hopeful that the candidates elected will be capable of the leadership necessary in the corporate climate in which we exist, to see that our way of life is not sustainable and that another vision is possible right here in our own back yard.

Key issue of concern in the endorsement process:

The endorsement committee wished to endorse only three candidates because three seats are open and Albany's current "at large" plurality system of voting penalizes groups that support more candidates than there are seats by splitting the vote. This injects strategic considerations into the endorsement process when more potentially endorsable candidates than seats are available. As is clear in the writeup above, the committee was split on whether the third endorsement should go to Panian or Pilch, which unfortunately means the Green vote may well be split. While we welcome a situation in which there are more candidates than seats who subscribe to Green Party values and hope it becomes much more common in the future, it also raises the question of how the Green Party will address such dilemmas.

The Albany City Council candidates' responses to the Green Party questionnaire can be viewed at: [www.acgreens.wordpress.com](http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com)

### Albany Board of Education Pat Low Ron Rosenbaum, with reservations

Three candidates are running for two seats on the Albany Board of Education. Green Party questionnaires were sent to all three. One candidate declined to participate.

Pat Low: The Green Party endorses candidate Pat Low for her support of a decentralized, grassroots approach to teaching and learning (small group cooperative learning) that is conducive to equal opportunity for varied learning styles and participation of students of diverse backgrounds. Her focus on educating students to function well working with others collaboratively and on encouraging community involvement and service in education are consistent with Green Party values of personal and global responsibility and non-violence (personally, communally, and globally). Her support for competitive teacher salaries is consistent with Green Party values of feminism and economic justice; she enhances this with research-tested measures to meaningfully reward teachers. Dr. Low intends to reach out to the parent community through the PTA email lists on topics such as the District's budget, which proactively engages the Green Party values of grassroots democracy and decentralization. With her experience in secondary school teaching and her doctorate in education, Dr. Low would bring relevant background to service on the board. She was quick to admit that she needed to better understand the missions of the U.S. Green Building Council and Green School Initiative as well as the options for further greening the Albany pool project and seemed opened to learning in these areas. We are looking to Pat Low for increased awareness and a strong direction toward sustainable, healthy, and energy-efficient school facilities. Our only hesitation was her recommendation that the school district needs to "turn to the private sector" to help make up for gaps in funding for children with disabilities, which conflicts with the Green value of decentralization and community based economics.

Ron Rosenbaum: The Green Party endorses Ron Rosenbaum with reservations. Although his focus on keeping the school district "fiscally strong" and hiring "the best and brightest teachers" are not objectionable, he provided no specific information about how he would support making those things happen, and his other recommendations and positions were largely general. His support of giving priority to providing a place in the district for children of Albany teachers who live outside of Albany shows admirable commitment to social and economic justice for an under paid and under recognized profession. With his many years of experience as a teacher, counselor, and principal at various schools in the East Bay (most recently principal at Albany High School), Mr. Rosenbaum would bring a wealth of background to service on the school board. The Green Party endorses him with the reservation that we hope he moves in the direction of more direct school/community sustainability and involvement.

*continued on page 8*

### **Measure Y—YES** **Directly-Elected Mayor (Charter Sections 2.01, etc.)**

Albany Measure Y changes the city charter so that the voters would directly elect the city mayor for a 4-year term, starting in 2012. Mayors would be subject to a limit of two terms (eight years). The ballot measure also provides for election of the mayor by majority vote and enables this by the use of Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) when the county makes IRV available (which is almost certain prior to the 2012 election).

The Green Party endorses this ballot measure on the basis that it is consistent with key party values of decentralization of power and equal representation. A directly elected mayor would be eligible to sit on powerful regional boards for which the current one-year rotating council elected mayor is not eligible, including the boards that oversee regional air quality, transit, and bay conservation issues. This would give Albany a voice on these significant regional issues of great importance to promoting Green values related to ecological wisdom and sustainability. The option for Albany to have a voice on these boards broadens the power sharing in regional governance.

Choosing a mayor directly is also consistent with the Green Party value of grassroots democracy; Albany residents would be able vote on the agendas proposed by the mayoral candidates, giving a mandate to the candidate's vision for the city that voters wish to see carried out. A four-year term and a mandate from the voters gives the mayor the opportunity to enact the voters wishes; it is difficult to carry out a program during the one-year term that Albany mayors typically serve under the rotating, council-appointed system that is now in place, which means that, by default, the continuity of power resides more in the hands of city staff than in the representatives elected by the people.

### **Measure Z—YES** **Appointee Interim Terms (Charter Section 3.23)**

This ballot measure would create a 45-day interim term following general municipal elections for Albany's commissioners, committee members, task force members, and similar appointees. Currently, the City Charter specifies that appointee terms end with each general municipal election. This creates a gap between the date of the general municipal election and the date when the newly elected City Council members can make appointments. During that gap, the City's commissions, committees, task forces, and similar bodies cannot legitimately function. However, in current practice, many appointees continue to serve following an election until they are reappointed or replaced, in contravention of the Charter.

Green Party support for this ballot measure is based on the values of decentralization. Albany's appointed bodies provide an avenue for broader participation, discussion and decision making by Albany's citizens. The disruption of these bodies' function and/or legitimacy for two months every two years is not conducive to ongoing decentralized decision making. This measure will rectify this problem.

### **Measure AA—YES** **Contract Bids (Charter Section 4.03)**

This ballot measure revises the City charter to allow the City Council to set appropriate limits for contract values that trigger formal bidding.

The current system requires the City to abide by a contract cost threshold that is set by the State government, and as such places regulations over the bidding process for City projects under State rather than local jurisdiction. Furthermore, the State has allowed its regulations to become out of date, with the result that even many minor repairs now exceed the cost threshold for conducting a formal bid process. Green Party support for this ballot measure is based on the fact that it furthers the Green Party value of decentralization, and places efficient, practical fiscal control at the community level.

### **Measure BB—YES** **Council Compensation (Charter Sections 2.01 & 2.08)**

This ballot measure makes the compensation for Albany City Council members subject to state law regarding compensation of elected city officials; state law sets compensation based on the size of the city. Compensation would increase from the current \$5 per meeting (with a cap of no more than \$25 per month) to approximately \$300 per month.

Green Party support for this ballot measure is based on the fact that it provides for greater opportunity for candidates from a wide range of economic circumstances – and thus likely a wide range of backgrounds – to seek local office in Albany. The current system with its token pay favors candidates who are wealthy, retired, or both, as the most likely to have the time to run for office and the financial ability to support themselves while serving. Thus, this ballot measure is consistent with Green Party values supporting grassroots democracy, decentralization, and diversity. Because the average income of women is statistically lower than that of men, particularly white men, this ballot measure would be very likely to serve the Green Party goal of supporting feminism and gender equity. The amount of pay provided is not sufficient to argue that this ballot measure supports the Green Party value of economic justice, paying a "living wage" for work done, but it is an improvement over the current system, which, as noted in the ballot argument for this measure, does not even pay enough to cover the cost of child care while a council member attends a meeting.

### **Measure CC—YES** **Meeting Start Times (Charter Section 2.04)**

This ballot measure revises the City charter to allow the City Council to set its meeting time rather than being bound to a specific meeting time as is the case with the current charter language which specifies council meeting time as 8 PM.

City council meetings currently begin at 8:00 pm, and frequently run for three to four hours; by allowing the Council to set earlier meeting start times, the measure stands to improve access and participation from members

of the community for whom later meetings are difficult to attend. Green Party support for this ballot measure is based on the fact that it provides for greater public participation in local Government.

### **Measure DD—NO** **Property Transfer Tax Increase (Code Chapter 4-5)**

This measure would increase the "real property transfer tax" rate from \$11.50 to \$14.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, an approximately 26% increase. This tax is levied when "real property" changes owners. "Real property" is both real estate and corporations or partnerships in Albany.

Green Party opposition to this measure is based on social justice and sustainability. Neither the current City Code, nor this proposed amendment, contains a low-income exemption for this tax. This could have readily been included, as it has been for other parcel taxes. This measure would make Albany's transfer tax the third highest of all cities in the State. Only Berkeley and Oakland would have higher rates. Albany's transfer tax is already more than 20 times the median rate for the State's cities, and the fourth highest in the state. This current high rate, and the proposed even higher rate, works against Albany's efforts to create affordable housing for those with low income, and further erodes the accessibility of Albany for those with moderate income. Granted, this tax is levied only once per transfer and is typically split between buyer and seller, and so is better than the annual imposition of parcel taxes and bond repayments. This should not excuse the regressive nature of this flat-rate tax or its proposed increase, though. The proposed increase is also emblematic of an imbalance in Albany's finances, which is increasingly relying on regressive flat parcel taxes, bond repayments, and this fixed-rate transfer tax.

### **Measure EE—YES, with reservations** **Paramedic, Fire (etc.) Tax Increase (Code Chapter 4-8)**

This measure would allow the City Council to increase the current \$18.00 per parcel "Paramedic Advanced Life Support Fire Engines and Ambulance Special Tax" by up to 4% per year indefinitely at the discretion of the City Council. This tax supports emergency medical services, specifically staffing of fire engines with emergency paramedics to ensure rapid response to all emergency medical calls. The tax was first instated in 2001 without a provision for an inflation adjustment and has not increased since. The argument for this measure states that it allows the Albany Fire Department (AFD) paramedics to respond to more than one medical incident at a time particularly when the city ambulance is engaged on another call, and supports maintaining the AFD's three and half minute average response time to medical emergency calls. The measure also increases AFD's capabilities in the event of a disaster, such as an earthquake.

Green Party support for this measure is based on sustainability and social justice, while our reservations are based on social justice. The measure contributes to sustainability by literally providing for the sustenance of life during medical emergencies. It supports socially just emergency medical services available to all Albany residents without regard for income, unlike so many health services in our society. Nevertheless, neither the current code for this tax, nor this measure, provides a low-income exemption, making the tax itself socially unjust. Given that lives are in the balance, the Green Party supports a vote for this measure with reservations.



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# City of Alameda

## City Council

### Only Vote for Doug deHaan

Doug deHaan is well-informed, he has a public service background, and he is diligent and informed on issues before the Council. He's the most independent member of the Council—he's independent of developers and the local political machine, and is deeply concerned about Alameda, where he has lived all of his life. He has a critical stance on the theater/parking structure complex, on which the Council, sitting as the redevelopment board, spent over \$35 million, thereby adding to our bonded indebtedness of nearly \$300 million, which the city must pay back, reducing the tax base of our city. We strongly recommend deHaan, for the good of Alameda.

For the second open seat, we do not support any of the other candidates, so only vote for Doug deHaan, which also increases his chances of winning re-election.

## School Board

### Janet Gibson, Niel Tam

### Ron Mooney, with reservations

Janet Gibson is a retired special education teacher. She is an incumbent member of the Board and is accessible to both parents and teachers. She is a long-time resident of the community, with deep concern about our schools. She is an advocate for students and teachers, and stands for quality education in Alameda. She supports improved Board procedures to increase parent and citizen access and enhance open governance. We strongly recommend her for re-election.

Niel Tam is a retired teacher and principal with a fine reputation in the community. He will hold town-hall meetings on education, which will improve parent access to educational policy making. He is deeply rooted in the under-represented west side community. He is committed to improving education in Alameda. We strongly recommend him.

Ron Mooney is a local businessman who is involved in schools, and who volunteers time and money. We recommend him less strongly than Janet Gibson or Niel Tam, but we prefer him over the remaining candidates. Therefore we are endorsing him with reservations.

## Healthcare District

### (Uncontested: Not on the Ballot)

There are four seats open on the Healthcare District Board (two of which are four-year seats, and two of which are two-year seats) and there are four candidates running for those four seats (two each for the two different term lengths). Therefore, these seats are considered to be "uncontested", and this office will not appear on your ballot; with all four candidates now being "automatically elected". However, we did want to inform you that one of those candidates, Dr. Robert Deutsch, is a Green Party member (who of course now becomes the first Green in Alameda County to win a seat in this November's election).

Dr. Deutsch has pledged to help make the financially shaky Alameda Hospital viable and seek, when necessary, strategic alliances, to maintain all needed hospital services to best serve the community of Alameda. He has been a primary care physician in Alameda for many years. We congratulate him on winning this election and hope he will succeed with the difficult task ahead of ensuring financial stability for the Hospital.

## Measure P—NO

### Raising Real Estate Transfer Tax

The City Attorney's analysis of Measure P states: "Real property located within the City of Alameda has been subject to the real estate transfer tax since 1967. This tax applies only when real property is sold and is paid into the City's general fund, which is allocated by the City Council through the annual budget for general city services."

Unlike some other areas of the Bay Area, Alameda has widespread home-ownership and its citizens have worked to keep it a livable place for families, which means they even vote to raise taxes on themselves, when necessary. Because of this, coming to Alameda is like entering a small town in the Midwest—the streets are lined with sidewalks and shady trees, the speed limit is 25 mph on the entire island, the Victorians are well maintained, and the small downtown is full of life.

Unfortunately, in recent years, developers have succeeded in courting local officials and the voice of residents

has increasingly been silenced. With this shift has come increasing mismanagement and debt.

Rather than being deeply in debt for bonds for redevelopment, the City of Alameda ought to have a surplus of income from Alameda Point—instead, \$10 million dollars goes to the coffers of the Redevelopment Agency where it is spent at the sole discretion of that agency, unavailable to the general fund. Alameda Power, although well-intentioned and a genuine city asset, also ought to produce a large surplus for the city and the schools, but does not, and instead, has cost the taxpayers millions.

And of course, the proposed transfer tax (raising the existing tax of \$5.40 to \$12.00, per \$1000 of real estate value) will primarily only make the already unaffordable homes of Alameda even further out of the reach for average Bay Area residents, and is an unreliable source of funds, given the fluctuations in the real estate market.

Debt and development run amok are symptoms of serious and costly mismanagement by city officials. Given the current battles going on around development and taxation already, rather than try to solve our problems by raising taxes again, maybe the City should examine what went wrong so far to get us where we are.

We recommend you vote NO of Measure P.

## Measure Q—NO Removal of "Obsolescent" Charter Language

Measure Q claims to justify "cleaning up" (eliminating) language in the City Charter because it is "obsolete" and "unclear", but like Measure S, it provides no independent analysis of the changes, much less even any opposing arguments, meaning that this is another measure amounting to "just trust us," and little more.

Some of the changes seem straightforward. For example, deleting an outdated sentence that refers to a term of office "as of June 2 1992" that shall be shortened "approximately four to five months to 8:00 o'clock pm . . . following the November 3, 1992, general municipal election", would appear reasonable. But there are many changes, not just a few, and they are varied changes, not just one type.

Importantly, the Charter is a legal document and the changes involve legal language, and most of us are not lawyers. Without an independent citizens hearing regarding the use of this justification, the potential consequences of removing parts of the Charter will remain largely unknown apart from what the City Attorney and staff tell us. This is a concern. We note that one of the changes, for example, would appear to open the door to banning citizen votes on redevelopment.

Frankly, those of us in Alameda who have sat at City Council meetings until the early morning hours (with participants spread into overflow rooms to watch proceedings on video until they are called), only to have our voices repeatedly ignored in favor of developers, don't have a high level of confidence in the ability of city officials to be impartial. A recent letter to the editor in the local paper suggested eliminating the City Planning Department since they function as only a mouthpiece for the developers anyway. Indeed, the pressure to develop the Island appears to be so strong that elected officials are willing to risk their careers here for the sake of developing properties.

Thus, until we know what the consequences would be of this removal of all of the "obsolescent" language, we urge you to vote NO.

## Measure R—YES

### All Contracts To Be In Writing

Running a city by verbal agreement and having unauthorized people signing contracts makes for a lot of confusion and disputes. Measure R is a solid step towards eliminating these bad practices and will most likely save the city a lot of time and money disputing those sorts of contracts. Yes on Measure R.

## Measure S—NO

### Removal of Competitive Bidding in Emergencies

The City Attorney's analysis of Measure S states: "This measure would amend the City of Alameda City Charter to allow City staff to hire contractors and purchase materials immediately in emergencies, with Council approval after the fact. The Charter now requires a competitive bidding process for public projects when the cost is likely to be more than an amount that is set by

state law [\$75,000]. The Charter now allows City staff to construct a project without competitive bidding if the Council meets first and at least four of the five Council members agree there is a great necessity or emergency. The measure [S] would allow staff to start activities for the protection of the public and property, before a Council meeting is conducted."

Unfortunately, City staff are not elected officials. Measure S effectively allows un-elected officials to brush aside state limits on costs for public projects—costs that would then be passed on to taxpayers—before taxpayer representatives can even convene. Thus, the measure calls for a significant curtailment of basic democratic rights of Alameda residents.

The argument in favor of Measure S describes a sample emergency as a burst water pipe that cannot wait for a Council meeting to be fixed. But no actual figures are provided to show that these changes are necessary, or that these changes have a history to suggest they are justified. We agree that emergencies should be handled right away. But without an examination of real life examples of real costs from the apparent delay of the Council to meet—most elected bodies are capable of meeting for emergency sessions—this type of change can encourage excessive spending with little or no basis.

What's worse, these types of changes open the door to "emergency rule government," which is as bad at the municipal level as it is at the Presidential level. As we all have had to learn, many of the most basic components of a democracy are eroded under the guise of "security" and "emergency" and that erosion must be constantly guarded against. The Green Party supports democratic decision-making over the concentration of decision-making powers into the hands of the few.

We urge you to vote NO on Measure S.

## Measure T—YES

### Business Hours of City Offices

This measure gives the City Council broader powers to modify city business hours. The current law only allows them to increase hours from the standard 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It makes sense in many circumstances to be able to vary these guidelines and in tough economic times, there may be a need to shrink regular business hours. There is some concern that this power could be abused. For example, some city employees may have radical cuts in hours and pay, or the hours to pay a parking ticket might become too constricted. Overall, assuming the City Council acts judiciously, it makes sense to grant this authority.

Vote Yes on Measure T.

## Measures U, V, & W—No Endorsement (Auditor Requirements, Treasurer Requirements, and Public Utilities Board)

Because we felt that Measures U, V, & W were less critical than the other City of Alameda measures, we took a position of "No endorsement" on them. Normally, we include descriptions of the effects of a measure, regardless of our position on it, but because we did not have enough volunteers to review these measures, we were not able to include more detailed information in this case. We encourage you to consider volunteering with the Voter Guide effort to help bridge these gaps and keep voters as informed as possible—just send us an email or drop us a line.

## Measure X—NO

### Removal of Historical Advisory Board Members

The Historical Advisory Board (HAB) makes decisions that affect what houses can be demolished and what needs to be preserved. These decisions can have big consequences for developers who want to build in areas that have historical buildings in their way. It is important that HAB remain free from political pressures. The members of the board only serve 4-year terms as it is, and they are already subject to removal "for termination of residency, malfeasance, or moral turpitude." This measure seeks to remove the former quote from the existing law so that the City Council may remove a HAB Board Member at their own discretion. Developers wield a lot of power and influence. The current criteria is a sufficient law and it is best left alone to keep the HAB as independent from political pressure as possible. Vote No on Measure X.

### President and Vice-President: Cynthia McKinney & Rosa Clemente

*continued from page 1*

in support of Bush (and later opposed efforts by McKinney to impeach Bush), Representative McKinney voted against the official allotment. And in a recent blow to progressive Democrats, Obama even voted to support the wiretapping bill (FISA bill) granting immunity to telecoms like AT&T (for allowing illegal spying on Americans). McKinney opposed it, and has fought constantly to expose and defeat such civil rights violations.

While serving six terms as a US Representative from Georgia as a Democrat—over a decade in Congress—Cynthia McKinney took the lead on international issues, the environment, the rights and well-being of Katrina victims, and the 9/11 attacks. Endorsed by peace mom Cindy Sheehan, McKinney not only had the courage to vote her conscience in the US Congress (standing alone to directly question Bush officials like Donald Rumsfeld in public hearings), but also, as a true progressive, has had the courage to join the Green Party and then to choose a woman as her running mate—a historic move that created the first ever all-women of color presidential ticket. Her work has been synonymous with Green Party values throughout that career—exposing truths, opposing war, and fighting for social justice.

Cynthia's vice-presidential running mate selection on the "Peace Slate"—Rosa Clemente—is an Afro-Puerto Rican, New York City-based, Hip Hop community activist, organizer and journalist. In a July interview, she described why she ran:

"I choose to do this, not for me, but for my generation, my community and my daughter. I don't see the Green Party as an alternative; I see it as an imperative. I trust that my Vice Presidential run will inspire all people, but especially young people of color, to recognize that we have more than two choices. Together, we can build the future we've been dreaming of."

Clemente's powerful speeches and radio interviews, touching on the issues of youth and people of color, from someone who understands the issues best, have excited young voters and are energizing and invigorating Greens nationwide.

Perhaps to best understand Cynthia McKinney, it is worth a look at her own words. Here is part of her "Acceptance Remarks" given at the Green Party Convention in Chicago, on July 12th, 2008 to select the party's presidential candidate. These remarks were widely spread around the internet and garnered a slew of mainstream media stories:

"And just like the women and men at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 who declared their independence from the Old Order, I celebrated my birthday last year by doing something I had done a dozen times in my head, but had never done publicly: I declared my independence from every bomb dropped, every threat leveled, every civil liberties rollback, every child killed, every veteran maimed, every man tortured, and the national leadership that let this happen.

"At that pro-peace rally in front of the Pentagon, I noted that nowhere on the Democratic Party's Congressional Agenda for their first 100 days in the majority was any mention at all of a livable wage, the right of return for Katrina survivors, repealing the Patriot Acts, the Secret Evidence Act, the Military Commissions Act, or bringing our troops home now.

"Nowhere on the Congressional Democrats' agenda was an investigation into the Pentagon's 'loss' of \$2.3 trillion that Rumsfeld admitted to just before September 11th. And nowhere was there any plan to get that money back for jobs, health care, education, and for veterans. Not even repeal of the Bush tax cuts that have helped to usher in, according to some, levels of income inequality not experienced in this country since the Great Depression. And instead of Articles of Impeachment to hold the criminals accountable, impeachment was taken 'off the table.'

"And so, taking these words directly from our own Declaration of Independence, and from the Seneca Falls document 'it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance to it.'"

The Green Party of Alameda County strongly supports a vote for the McKinney/Clemente team for president.

For more information, please see: <http://votetruth08.com>. To volunteer, please phone Sandra Decker at 650-303-1176.

### President and Vice-President: Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzalez

*continued from page 1*

Gonzalez finished his term on the Board of Supervisors in 2005 and has continued his work as a San Francisco civil rights lawyer. In February of 2008, Gonzalez wrote a widely published essay, 'The Obama Craze: Count Me Out' (<http://www.counterpunch.org/gonzalez02292008.html>), which exposed the disturbing reality of Obama's voting record, a record unknown to most Americans. Gonzalez underscored the numerous votes putting establishment interests over average Americans, stating:

"Obama has a way of ducking hard votes or explaining away his bad votes by trying to blame poorly-written statutes. Case in point: an amendment he voted on as part of a recent bankruptcy bill before the US Senate would have capped credit card interest rates at 30 percent. Inexplicably, Obama voted against it, although it would have been the beginning of setting these predatory lending rates under federal control. Even Senator Hillary Clinton supported it. . . . Why wouldn't Obama have voted to create the first federal ceiling on predatory credit card interest rates, particularly as he calls himself a champion of the poor and middle classes? Perhaps he was signaling to the corporate establishment that they need not fear him."

This year, the Nader/Gonzalez focus is twofold: fighting the blockades created by the corporate parties to keep all third parties off of ballots nationwide, and exposing the corporate duopoly as they claim to represent the people but act in the benefit of corporations instead. A fundamental benefit that Nader/Gonzalez brings to the presidential campaign dialog is their unique ability to cut through the thick rhetoric and glitz to expose realities. For example, in a Democracy Now interview with Nader, he presents the critical facts about the Democrats left out of the national mainstream media dialog:

"Imagine the Democrats—in 2004, they were prohibited from criticizing Bush at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, and now, in 2008, they don't want to raise the issue of criminal recidivism in the White House, the most impeachable presidency and vice presidency in our history—torture, incarcerating people without charges, the criminal war of aggression in Iraq, spying on millions of Americans without judicial approval. That's a five-year jail term. That's a first-class felony. So the Democrats are really abandoning the rule of law, abandoning the Constitution and its impeachment provisions. And they ought to be taken into account. But, you know, Dennis [Kucinich] got virtually—he got nothing in the platform. They won't give him a comma in the Democratic national platform..."

As of late August, Nader/Gonzalez will qualify for the ballot in 45 states, even more states than Ralph had access to in 2000. Polls have found Nader/Gonzalez capturing between 4–8% of the vote, phenomenal for (non-billionaire) Independents in such a significant election. In another Democracy Now interview, Nader said: "In states like New Mexico, Colorado, Minnesota, we're coming in at 6, 7, 8%. NBC national news, ABC national news, CBS national news—total blackout since February 24th. And we're still doing that well. So we could turn it into a three-way race, if we were really on those three presidential debates, or if Google or Yahoo! or veterans' groups, who all wanted to sponsor their own debates and deliver millions of viewers would get the cooperation of Obama and McCain. It's really interesting to see a difference here. McCain offered ten town meetings to Obama. Obama said no. Google wants a—let's see, a September 18th debate in New Orleans. McCain said OK, Obama said no. A veterans' group coalition out of Fort Hood, Texas, they wanted a debate. McCain said OK, Obama says no. Isn't that amazing?"

This 2008 presidential election presents voters with a rare and surprising opportunity: to be able to choose between more than one candidate who stands for peace. We strongly support a vote for the Nader/Gonzalez team for president.

For more information see: [www.vote.nader.org](http://www.vote.nader.org). To volunteer, please phone the Nader/Gonzalez/Peace and Freedom office at 510-705-8864.

### GREEN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008: FAQ

Q: Is Ralph Nader a Green Party candidate for president?

A: No, Ralph Nader and vice-presidential candidate Matt Gonzalez (former president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors) are running as Peace & Freedom candidates in California, and Independents in most other states. Presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney and vice-presidential candidate Rosa Clemente are the official 2008 Green Party candidates and are the first ever all-women of color presidential ticket.

Q: Will it hurt the Green Party if I vote for Ralph Nader?

A: The Green Party needs a certain number of votes to qualify to be on the ballot in the state of California for future elections. But strictly speaking, voting for anyone other than McKinney/Clemente has no effect on the viability of the Green Party in California because only votes in gubernatorial election years, and votes for any statewide office, count toward the 2% minimum needed to maintain the party ballot line. As of mid-September, 2008, McKinney/Clemente has ballot access in 35 states, with write-in status in about 5 more, while Nader/Gonzalez will have ballot access in 45 states (using 5 different party designations, i.e., Populist, Independent, Natural Law, etc.). However, regardless of whom you vote for, registering as a Green makes a powerful political statement, and helps other parties take Green issues and Green voters seriously. If you can't decide whom to vote for, first register Green (deadline for voter registration is October 20, 2008), then decide.

Q: So . . . aren't Nader and McKinney competing for the progressive vote?

A: Two progressive presidential choices is a win-win situation. To quote Ralph Nader: ". . . we are allies joined in a common struggle to tap the huge and growing numbers of millions of unsatisfied voters who want to vote for something better than the lesser of two evils. The more progressive voices and choices, the more widespread will be the definition of freedom as participation in power." In an example of the support each campaign has shown for each other, the Nader/Gonzalez campaign put on a tremendous 4,000-person DNC Super Rally and invited both Cynthia and Rosa to appear. There, Rosa's speech on Hip Hop brought the house down. Ultimately, what we are seeking is to increase the total numbers of voters willing to choose to stop voting for the Duopoly, for war, and instead, to join us in voting for peace.

Q: I like Cynthia McKinney, but I'm concerned that "9/11 conspiracy theories" will discredit the Green Party.

A: Those profiting from war would like nothing better than for Americans to feel "embarrassed" to question the official version of the September 11th attacks. The denigrating label of "conspiracy theorist" serves the same function as the denigrating label of "spoiler"—a meaningless hot-button propagandistic tag, repeated constantly in corporate media to instill a negative association for average Americans. Cynthia is joined by Nader/Gonzalez, the Jersey Girls, the Green Party of the US, and many others who call for a new and independent investigation into the attacks.

Q: Who is Rosa Clemente?

A: Rosa Clemente is a community organizer, journalist and Hip-Hop activist, born and raised in the South Bronx. She is a graduate of the University of Albany—SUNY and Cornell University, and her academic work focused on research of national US liberation struggles. In 2001 she was a youth representative in South Africa at 'The UN World Conference against Racism,' and in 2002, was named by Red Eye Magazine as one of the top 50 Hip Hop Activists to look out for. In 2003, Rosa helped form and coordinate the first ever National Hip Hop Political Convention, drawing over 3000 activists, and in 2005, she traveled to areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina to cover the developments there as an independent journalist. Her news reports were played on independent radio stations all over the world, including Air America, NPR, Pacifica Radio, Democracy Now, and Hard Knock Radio.

## Federal and State Offices

### U.S. Representative, District 9

#### No endorsement

Barbara Lee has been a highly visible 'progressive Democrat' in Congress from Alameda County since she took the retiring Ron Dellums' seat in 1998. She has spoken out on many important liberal issues, particularly in opposition to the Iraq War. She was the only Congressperson to vote against the resolution passed in September, 2001, that granted Bush the authority to use "all necessary and appropriate force" against anyone associated with the terrorist attacks of September 11. She votes progressive on most healthcare, housing, education, jobs, and peace issues. A good Democrat, she also brings home the Federal monies for local projects.

The main problem with progressive Democrats is that no matter how progressive they are, they are still Democrats – beholden not to their constituents, not to their beliefs, but to the Democratic Party machine, which controls their access to corporate funding, the media, and party support. This machine control has led Barbara Lee to endorse Henry Chang, arguably the most conservative member of the Oakland City Council, and Jerry Brown, Oakland's disappointing Mayor. While speaking in favor of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) nationally, she has refused her support for IRV in Berkeley and for Just Cause Oakland.

She also has shown no support for the Greens, refusing to endorse highly qualified Greens for local offices. She endorsed the pro-war, pro-empire Democrat Kerry. For these reasons, and despite her often progressive stance nationally on issues important to people of color, we continue to be unable to endorse her for Congress.

In the highly liberal 9th District, we expect her to win easily against her opponents Charles Hargrave, Republican, and James Eyer, Libertarian.

### U.S. Representative, District 10 Eugene Ruyle

In the 10th CD, which includes Livermore in Alameda County, as well as parts of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, we are supporting Gene Ruyle of the Peace and Freedom Party. The Green Party does not have a candidate in this district, and Gene supports the Platform of the Green Party (which is not that different from the Peace and Freedom Party Platform).

Gene decided to run in the 10th CD because Ellen Tauscher is the most conservative Democrat in the Bay Area. Tauscher does not support single payer health care, immediate withdrawal from Iraq, abolition of nuclear weapons, nor impeachment of the Bush regime, nor does her Republican opponent, Nick Gerber.

Gene calls his campaign "A Congressional Campaign for Peace in 2008."

Gene is a veteran who served in the US Marine Corps from 1957-1960. "I see my campaign as educational, designed to raise issues of peace, justice, and sustainability within the electoral process, issues which are unlikely to be raised otherwise. I am running on the Platform of the Peace and Freedom Party, but I also support the Ten Key Values of the Green Movement. I see myself as socialist, feminist, environmentalist, anti-racist, and anti-imperialist. I participated in the WTO protests in Seattle and want to bring the spirit of Seattle and the global peace and justice movement into the 2008 elections.

"Congressional candidates are required to live in the state they plan to represent, but not necessarily the district. I live in Oakland, but do not want to run in the 9th CD against Barbara Lee, who I consider one of the few decent members of Congress. I support the independent candidacy of Cindy Sheehan against House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and therefore do not want to run in the 8th CD in San Francisco. I also support the Peace & Freedom candidacy of my friend, William Callison, in the 7th District (Richmond, Martinez, Concord) currently occupied by George Miller. Many people consider Miller to be progressive and anti-war, but he continues to fund the war and has never challenged U.S. imperialism nor the corporate dominated two-party system, and the same is true of Ellen Tauscher.

"I was born and raised in Concord, California and graduated from Mt. Diablo High and UC, Berkeley. I earned an MA from Yale and a PhD from Columbia University. I retired from Cal State Long Beach in December 2006 after a 35 year career teaching Anthropology and

Marxism. I helped found the Peace Studies Program at CSULB, was active in the Peter Carr Peace Center and our faculty union, and worked closely with the Native American community in their struggle to save Puvungna, the sacred creation center on the Cal State Long Beach campus." For more information see [peaceandfreedom.org](http://peaceandfreedom.org).

### State Senate, District 9 Marsha Feinland

The local Democrats have chosen Loni Hancock to move into the State Senate. We do not endorse Democrats in partisan races, even relatively decent Democrats who support Single Payer Health Care, like Loni Hancock. The most devastating policies affecting the world's people and the environment are carried out by Demopublicans at the national level, but local politicians who are part of the Democratic Party have aligned themselves with those policies. (Please refer to the writeup concerning Nancy Skinner, running for Assembly Seat 14, for more on our general point of view about local Democrats running in partisan races.)

Marsha taught in our public schools for twenty-five years. She says "Neither parents, students nor teachers want the constant testing which has taken the place of real education. The Business Roundtable promotes strict standards and school district takeovers to avoid providing funding or dealing with racial and economic inequality."

Marsha served as a Rent Board Commissioner in Berkeley and worked to pass the Just Cause for Eviction ordinance in Oakland. "Housing is a necessity which we must provide for all. We must protect people who live in foreclosed properties instead of bailing out the banks." Marsha agrees with us that we "need to place strict limits on all pollution now, to safeguard health and prevent climate disaster. The state legislature promotes a 'cap and trade' policy which lets corporations buy and sell the right to pollute. Our right to breathe and the future of our planet require real regulation."

Marsha believes "We have enough wealth to provide quality housing, health care and education to everyone in California. Most of us care about each other and want to protect our environment. But we are governed by people who want tax breaks and maximum profits for big business." Marsha supports Oakland teachers who are demanding that the Port of Oakland help pay for the schools and Richmond residents who want Chevron to stop polluting and pay more taxes.

Marsha is a long-time active member of the Peace and Freedom Party. Her commitment to "Tax the rich and spend on housing, education, health care and public transit" will not be affected by corporate funding.

### State Assembly, District 14 No endorsement

There is only one candidate running, Nancy Skinner, a Democrat from Berkeley. She has an excellent record as an environmentalist, especially her work on carbon and climate change, where she was a founder of non-profits The Climate Group and ICLEI. Nancy served as a Berkeley City Councilmember for two terms and also served on the board of the East Bay Parks District for two years. If she's independent enough to break away from her mentors, Loni Hancock and Tom Bates, she will probably be a good representative for this progressive district, even though she is a part of the Demopublican Party machine.

We do not endorse Democrats, even potentially decent ones like Ms. Skinner, because we believe their Party works to suppress true democracy. For example, what is interesting about the 14th Assembly District "election" is that there are zero others running for this seat. The seat is considered so safe for the winner of the so-called "Democratic" Party primary, that no one is willing to challenge her. Can any of us believe we live in a democratic society when only one Party has any chance of winning in virtually all State jurisdictions, when 98+% of incumbents are re-elected every two years, where an independent candidate needs to get many thousands of signatures to run at all for statewide office, and where campaign war-chests of hundreds of thousands of corporate/developer dollars have become mandatory for any serious candidate?

### State Assembly, District 16 No Endorsement

California's 16th Assembly District seat, which serves most of Oakland, Piedmont, and Alameda, was held by Wilma Chan until 2006, and is currently held by Sandre' Swanson, who is favored to win his second term this November. Swanson ([www.sandreswanson.org](http://www.sandreswanson.org)) is a well-known progressive candidate who accumulated 30 years working for others in local electoral politics before deciding to run for office himself. From Laney College Student Body President in 1970, to working for Wilson Riles on Shirley Chisholm's 1972 Presidential campaign, then as Congressman Ron Dellums' district staffer from 1973 to 1998, with stints as Lionel Wilson's campaign manager in 1976, member (later chair) of the Oakland Civil Service Commission, Northern California Coordinator for the 1990 Nelson Mandela Freedom Tour (with Bill Graham), and finally in 1998 as Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Chief of Staff, Swanson's official political credentials are exemplary.

In Swanson's first run for the 16th District Assembly seat, he beat the deceitful Oakland City Attorney John Russo in a hotly contested Democratic Party primary. He has been endorsed by, among others, the California Teachers Association; California Nurses Association; California Labor Federation; Alameda County Central Labor Council; the Sierra Club; OakPac; the OEA; California State Council, SEIU; AFSCME; California Federation of Teachers; Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Council, and the California League of Conservation Voters. During his first term in the Assembly Swanson authored some 38 bills; the first (AB 45 - 2007) was to return the Oakland School District from state to local control. This was followed by other bills, primarily to protect workers, youth, the poor, and the disabled. Truly ecumenical, Swanson adapted a Chinese name during his campaign to appeal to the Chinese Americans in his district, and was also the first public official to endorse the Green Party-sponsored Oakland City ID Card, which will provide help for Oakland's undocumented Latino community. As he will have only token opposition this time from Republican James Faison, his re-election to the liberal 16th District seat is assured.

Alas, the Green Party of Alameda County cannot endorse Sandre' Swanson. Like Wilson Riles before him, Swanson does his politics as a Democrat, but unlike Riles, who switched to the Green Party after his 2002 Oakland Mayoral run, Swanson continues to stick to a party that is clearly owned and controlled by the same corporate/financial/military elite that runs the Republicans, and has dominated US domestic and foreign policy in increasingly visible ways since the Clinton era. One only has to look at the abominable record of the Democratic Congress under Bush to see how far that party will go in duplicity and betrayal in order to serve America's imperialist rulers. No matter how progressive a Democratic politician might want to be, he or she must ultimately accept the will of the party leaders on imperialist issues, or be removed. That is why endorsing Democratic candidates in partisan races is unacceptable to the Green Party, and why the GPAC continues to work for electoral reforms such as public campaign financing, instant runoff voting, and proportional representation, as the best means of returning democratic choice to the people of our county, state, and country.

### Support Cindy Sheehan for Congress

Why are we calling your attention to a San Francisco Congressional contest? Cindy Sheehan gave the anti-war movement new life when it was at a low ebb. Cindy's challenge has an importance far beyond one congressional district. Cindy's challenge reminds us of the failure of the Democratic Party to end the war in Iraq or to make much difference in things people care about since capturing control of the Congress two years ago. Even though Cindy Sheehan is running as an independent, she reminds us of the need for a truly independent and oppositional party.

Please consider giving some time and/or money to Cindy Sheehan. Her campaign website is [cindyforcongress.org](http://cindyforcongress.org); her campaign office is located at 1260 Mission St., San Francisco and the office phone is 415-621-5027.

## Superior Court Judge, Seat 9 Dennis Hayashi

Dennis Hayashi and Phil Daly are in a runoff election. We endorse Dennis Hayashi. 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 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.

Phil Daly's legal experience mainly consists of being an Alameda County Deputy District Attorney for 22 years. In that capacity, he has prosecuted hundreds of people charged with felonies. His endorsements include such "mainstream" politicians as State Senator Don Perata and former Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer, and the Police Officers Associations of Oakland, Berkeley, Hayward, and Union City. (Hayashi's endorsements, on the other hand, are generally more progressive, including the Sierra Club, SEIU local 1021, the California Nurses Association, and politicians such as Berkeley City Councilmember Kriss Worthington.) Daly is part of the "establishment," having served on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee for 18 years (between 1974 and 1996). We find no reason to prefer Daly, and are pleased to endorse Dennis Hayashi.

## A C Transit Board, At-Large Joyce Roy

Chris Peeples, the incumbent, has been an At-Large Director for over eleven years, and currently serves as the Board President. We endorsed him for re-election in November 2004. Since then, challenger Joyce Roy's vigorous, detailed, and effective criticism of the Van Hool buses, extensively covered by the *East Bay Express*, has led to some interesting revelations. Although Peeples is a widely respected Board member, Roy is clearly qualified to serve on the Board. In view of her dedicated work on behalf of riders and drivers and fiscal integrity, this year we are endorsing Joyce Roy.

Peeples' questionnaire answers list many achievements, for example, the effort to provide free transit to lower-income youth and the current low-cost 31-day youth pass. AC Transit does Environmental Justice "analyses on all of our major decisions to insure that our actions have the greatest possible benefit for and least detriment to disadvantaged communities."

Peeples refers to the "antiunion and anti-public sector attitude that we must fight all the time." For example, there was a recent Federal Transit Administration "attempt to prohibit transit agencies from providing supplemental school service so that schools would contract with private

providers of "yellow bus" school service." (The local school districts can't afford to pay private school bus companies to provide the service that AC Transit now provides.) Peeples says air pollution has been reduced, due to some equipment that was developed locally and was tested, installed, and maintained by AC Transit's union mechanics. However, in reading Peeples' answers to our questionnaire, it was sometimes hard to tell when some of his achievements happened, and also hard to tell whether he was taking credit for improvements (such as the major reduction in air pollution) that were mandated by State law. As of this writing (mid-September), the union (ATU 192) had not yet made an endorsement decision in this race.

Roy is well qualified to serve on the AC Transit Board. She has been active on regional transportation issues for many years. For example, she served as the Chair of the Regional Transportation Committee of the League of Women Voters, Bay Area, from 1996 to 2004. Roy does not own a car and is a frequent bus rider. When she ran for AC Transit Board (Ward 2) in November 2000, we endorsed her in a race in which we also endorsed Greg Harper (see writeup for Ward 2). Roy is well known (at least to Oakland Greens) for her lawsuit against the Oak to Ninth proposed development and her participation in the "Better Oak to Ninth" referendum effort of 2006-2007.

Roy is running primarily because Peeples supports the Van Hool buses and Roy represents the many drivers and passengers who find Van Hools hard to drive, uncomfortable and dangerous, especially for older and disabled riders. In her persistent effort to understand how such problematic buses could have been purchased, Roy brought larger issues to light—issues about the "special relationship" between AC Transit and the Van Hool company, and about the General Manager and some of his expenditures. The voter may accept Peeples' description of the changes Van Hool has recently made to the bus design (to put more seats at floor level, for example), and still credit Roy with being the public-minded citizen activist who persuaded independent local journalists to tell the story that pressured the District to insist on improvements.

We are especially critical of Peeples because he appears to have involved AC transit staff in providing evidence used in a court case filed against Roy's ballot statement by "a longtime supporter of Peeples, William Rowen of Alameda...." In the lawsuit, Rowen complained that parts of Roy's statement were false or misleading, and asked a judge to strike the offending passages. But the case would have never gotten off the ground were it not for Peeples. Rowen's Oakland-based attorney David Stein admitted that the AC Transit board president helped obtain a pivotal series of sworn statements from agency staff that Rowen used to make his case against Roy. In addition, Peeples helped get a sworn statement from a Van Hool employee from Belgium. In the end, the sworn statements tipped the scales for Rowen and Peeples and against Roy, who is running a grassroots campaign and defended herself in court." Source: *East Bay Express*. (For the entire article see the *East Bay Express* article "Agency Brass Fights Candidate" by Robert Gammon, dated 9/10/08.)

Peeples supports Rick Fernandez, the current General Manager at AC Transit, in large part because according to Peeples, Fernandez improved the maintenance department from an understaffed facility which could not keep the buses running, to an award-winning facility with well-trained mechanics who keep the buses on the streets in good working order. Peeples also credits Fernandez with finding ways to use Federal funds for bus maintenance. In contrast, Roy says "The General Manager's all consuming interest is buying more buses that people hate and selling off the older buses that people like. The board had a hard time convincing him that increasing ridership should be AC Transit's main goal.

"I support firing him and the General Counsel immediately."

Vote for Joyce Roy for the AC Transit Board's At-Large seat.

## AC Transit, Ward 2 Greg Harper, with reservations

Greg Harper, "an East Bay attorney and a former Emeryville mayor, was elected in November 2000 and re-elected in 2004 to represent Ward 2, including portions of Berkeley, Oakland, and Emeryville" (per the AC Transit website). In 2000 we endorsed both Greg Harper and Joyce Roy (see At-Large writeup). In 2004 we endorsed a chal-

lenger to Greg. This year we are endorsing Greg, who has been on the correct side of most recent issues. However, since he did previously participate as an incumbent when the Board made some questionable decisions, we have decided to endorse with reservations.

Greg's answers to our questionnaire show his commitment to sustained ridership growth, which we agree is the "metric" that matters most. Greg has become more critical of General Manager Rick Fernandez on issues like the GM's support for additional 60-foot Van Hool buses and the GM's recent proposal for 15% fare increases. (The 30-foot Van Hools seem to be better liked by the passengers.)

Greg supports Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) but qualifies that by recognizing that it matters whether "Berkeley residents and businesses realize that cars cannot continue as the transportation mode for most people, and that the City must increase density if it wants to be an environmentally sensitive City." If Berkeley voters stop dedicated lanes for BRT in Berkeley, Greg would still try to implement BRT in Oakland and San Leandro "if it makes sense."

James Muhammad is challenging Greg, but he did not return our questionnaire. In 2006 James ran for an At-Large seat; we endorsed incumbent (and then-Green) Rebecca Kaplan. In 2004 he ran against Chris Peeples for the other At-Large seat. At that time we felt he had good ideas but did not seem qualified for the Board position. So we understand why he would not bother responding to our questionnaire this year, but we still have no basis for preferring him. Vote for Greg Harper.

## Measure VV—YES, with reservations AC Transit Special Parcel Tax

AC Transit is facing increases in fuel costs and cuts in state funding, and seeks an increase in local funding to prevent service cuts or fare increases. Measure VV asks voters to authorize an annual special parcel tax of \$96 per year per parcel of taxable land for a period of 10 years, from July 2009 through June 2019. (Currently the District collects \$48 per parcel per year, authorized through 2013.) This money will be used for operation and maintenance of bus service. A 2/3 approval is needed. A community oversight committee will report to and advise the District about how the money is spent.

Proponents include the chair of the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter Transportation Committee and the Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area. The ballot argument opposing this tax points out that AC Transit has spent a lot of money in recent years buying expensive Van Hool buses which many drivers and passengers find unsatisfactory.

Our "reservations" stem from the unfair nature of this tax. Per-parcel taxes mean owners of modest homes pay as much as wealthier homeowners, which would not be our preference. We would prefer a tax rate based on square footage or property value, to tax owners of larger, more valuable homes at a higher rate. We would also prefer taxing commercial property at a higher rate than homes. We feel that low-income homeowners should be exempt from this parcel tax.

However, this is a small tax increase, and is a better option than raising fares or cutting service. We do not feel that a vote for VV represents a blanket endorsement of every decision AC Transit has made in recent years. Maintaining bus service is more important than ever as we try to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Vote YES on Measure VV, and look for ways to work for a more progressive tax system.

## BART Board, Ward 3 Bob Franklin (for the record)

Bob Franklin is the incumbent, there is no challenger, and his name will not be on the ballot. We are including this brief article for your information, both about Franklin and about BART generally. We appreciate Franklin filling out our questionnaire (and responding quickly to a follow-up question) even though he faces no challenge to his re-election plans. His answers are informative. For example, the reader learns that BART has "passed a \$600 million balanced budget every year," and that "BART ridership is at an all-time high of 372,000 passengers per day with a 95% on-time performance." One of Franklin's goals is to "secure \$2-\$3 billion in funding to replace and renovate BART's aging fleet," which "currently has 669 cars, some dating back to 1972." ("To buy a new car costs about \$3 million.")

## Special Districts

District 3 includes Kensington, the Berkeley hills, Piedmont, most of the Oakland area above 580, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo. Franklin was elected to this seat in 2004 (we endorsed both him and then-incumbent Roy Nakadegawa). Franklin is endorsed by six of his eight Board colleagues, not including Lynette Sweet.

Franklin sees the possible BART extension to San Jose as a decision that belongs to the voters of Santa Clara County. He does not favor extending BART to Livermore, favoring a Bus Rapid Transit plan instead, while other candidates (both candidates running in District 5, and Marshall Walker III, running in District 7) favor BART to Livermore. Concerning the 10-mile Brentwood extension proposal, Franklin wants to see what the cities along the route have planned "to make sure there is sufficient ridership to justify the extension."

### BART Board, Ward 5 No endorsement

Zoyd Luce, the incumbent, served one term representing District 5 and did not seek re-election. District 5 is "East County," Castro Valley, Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore, plus a small piece of Contra Costa County (San Ramon and Dublin). John McPartland and Linda Jeffery Sailors are running for the open seat.

McPartland has been "a Safety Specialist with BART for 6 years" and is a retired Fire Chief with "over 30 years of experience in emergency management and disaster preparedness planning." This is his first campaign for public office. He clearly believes in BART's central mission, "to continually strive to provide the most efficient, cost effective, and attractively convenient service to entice the expanding Bay Area population to use mass transit as a better alternative to putting more cars on the road." He is just starting to seek endorsements and had none to report as of late August. McPartland offered a refreshing code of ethics: "I will not lie, cheat, steal, nor will I allow others to do so." Throughout his answers to our questionnaire, he shows an awareness of the need for regional coordination and he has concrete suggestions for improving coordination between BART and other transit providers.

McPartland favors extending BART service "consistent with public needs and fiscal resources," according to his answers to our questionnaire. However, according to his website (<http://johnmcpartland.com/>) he is running for office to "Extend service to Livermore!" BART extensions are extremely expensive and we do not support the plan to extend BART service to Livermore, so we cannot endorse McPartland.

Linda Jeffery Sailors was formerly Mayor of Dublin, where she "helped bring BART to Castro Valley, Dublin, and Pleasanton." She says that the top priority of the BART Board is "the provision of train service to those taxpayers who have been paying for it since 1962," an opinion that is hard to disagree with. Sailors wants to work on moving toward a universal fare card system (allowing more convenient trips for people using more than one transit system). She expects the BART extension to San Jose to be built. She thinks the extension of BART to Livermore is the only way to relieve traffic congestion on I-580, and her "campaign is being funded by local concerned citizens who want to see BART to Livermore." Sailors has the endorsement of the mayors of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon, and Danville, plus many others. Sailors is clearly competent and experienced, but is too committed to the specific wish to extend BART to Livermore. We cannot endorse Sailors.

### BART Board, Ward 7 No Endorsement

Lynette Sweet currently represents District 7, which includes West Oakland, Emeryville, West Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, and the eastern part of San Francisco. An achievement she is proud of is that "while serving as President of the BART Board in 2007, [she] hired the first female General Manager in BART's 35-year history by initiating a nation wide search...[which] brought in candidates that spanned the diversity spectrum.... This same search brought on the wrath of many of my colleagues because of the wide spectrum of qualified ethnic candidates." So far she is not endorsed by any of her BART Board colleagues. Her endorsements include a mixture of mainstream politicians like Senator Diane Feinstein and Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, and others friendlier to Greens, such as Berkeley City Councilmembers Kriss Worthington and Max Anderson.

Her challenger, Marshall Walker III, was an Urban

Planner for the City of Richmond for 35 years and served (among other things) as a member of the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Citizens Advisory Committee, and the California State Bar Access to Justice Commission. He was an elected leader in his union (SEIU 390/790) for three decades, represented his union at the SF, Alameda, and Contra Costa Central Labor Councils, and was in the SEIU Western Regional African American Caucus.

Unfortunately he favors "extending BART services throughout the entire Bay Area," including BART extensions to San Jose, Livermore, Brentwood, and beyond Richmond, to "Crockett, Vallejo, and points north, according to the original plans in the 1970's." He is vague about where the money would come from for these extensions.

Both candidates certainly have admirable qualities and achievements but neither said anything especially compelling that would inspire us to endorse them. We slightly prefer the incumbent, Lynette Sweet, for her role in standing up for diversity in the BART administration.

### East Bay MUD

EBMUD is the largest water district in California with an elected Board of Directors. With the East Bay facing another water shortage, one would think that water, and the water board elections, would be a "hot topic". Nevertheless, with the exception of the 1994 election when an "environmental majority" on the board was defeated by a massive developer-funded campaign, EBMUD elections are usually quiet, and often uncontested. This November, however, there are two contested East Bay MUD electoral contests in Alameda County. In Ward 6 (East Oakland area) incumbent William "Bill" Patterson is facing challenger Bob Feinbaum. In Ward 5 (West Oakland, Alameda and East Oakland down to San Leandro along the estuary), incumbent Doug Linney is facing challenger Susi Ostlund.

### Ward 6—Bob Feinbaum, with reservations

Taking the Patterson-Feinbaum contest first, incumbent Bill Patterson has often tried to pursue a "middle course" on the EBMUD Board between the "east of the hills" faction of John Coleman, Katy Foulkes, and Frank Mellon, that favors allowing more water use and more dam building/enlarging to support that use, and the "west of the hills" group (Andy Cohen and Doug Linney, sometimes joined by Lesa McIntosh) that promotes conservation and less environmentally damaging ways of getting more water. Patterson has sometimes sided with the "more water" side, sometimes with the "more conservation" side. (Of course these are generalizations that gloss over more complex issues.)

Consistent with his "middle course" position, Patterson favors expanding dams and reservoirs, but is leery of large water transfers from agricultural districts, in part because he says they might hurt the Delta. He also supports groundwater storage, wastewater recycling, and desalination.

Patterson believes the District's current conservation program is adequate, and doesn't support changing the rate structure to further promote conservation. He's open to allowing customers east of the hills more water in recognition of their warmer climate and larger lots. He's OK with basing drought rationing on past use, so long as past conservation and hardship situations are taken into account.

On other issues, he's open to having the District involved in power generation and distribution, providing the cities involved take the lead. He supports and would like to expand the District's affirmative action programs and is opposed to outsourcing District jobs to private contractors.

Bob Feinbaum -- On water supply, Feinbaum, like Patterson, recognized the need for what he calls "new water." Unlike Patterson, he favors water transfers and doesn't favor reservoir enlargement or desalination. However, he's conditionally OK with groundwater storage and increasing wastewater recycling.

He thinks the District needs to beef up its water conservation program, including larger rebates for water-efficient toilets and appliances, encouraging "grey water" use, and bringing recycled water into more parts of the District. He's opposed to allowing more water for east of the hills users and would like to add a higher fourth tier to the current rate structure for "water hogs". He's opposed to basing rationing on past use because it punishes prior conservation.

Like Patterson, he supports considering having

EBMUD involved in power generation/distribution, supports the District's affirmative action programs, and opposes outsourcing District jobs.

Overall, these two candidates don't differ dramatically, but overall Feinbaum shows more sensitivity to environmental issues and more interested in moving the District in a "greener" direction. Patterson has been on the board long enough to have made a mark, but he hasn't. It's time to let someone else try.

### Ward 5—Doug Linney

The Linney-Ostlund contest is an easier choice. Doug Linney has been one of the Board's leaders in promoting pro-environment thinking and planning. That's not surprising since he used to be a leader in the California League of Conservation Voters. He is adamantly opposed to expanding reservoirs because of the environmental damage that would be involved. He's open to groundwater storage, and to water transfers, if they're done carefully to avoid environmental damage. Mostly, he'd like to promote conservation to reduce the need for more water. Susi Ostlund's answers on water supply questions showed far less knowledge. She seems willing to just rely on the soon-to-be-completed Sacramento River source for future supplies, and liked desalination best as a future supply source, hoping its costs can be driven down by more research.

Linney supports beefing up the District's conservation program a lot, while Ostlund's idea is primarily to do better at finding and fixing leaks in the distribution system. Ostlund's answers to questions about rates and rationing showed she was unhappy with how things are, but gave little indication of what she'd propose instead. Linney also recognized problems with the current rate structure and rationing plan, but feels they were the best that could be done, given limited time and a politically divided board. He'd like to revisit both issues next year.

Given their overall responses, Linney shows far more understanding of what's right and wrong with the District, and how to fix it.

### East Bay Park District, Ward 1 Norman La Force, with reservations

The Green Party sent questionnaires to all Ward 1 candidates and made follow-up contacts to insure that all candidates had an opportunity to respond.

The Green Party endorses, with some reservations, Norman La Force for the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Ward 1 seat. This endorsement is based on his decades-long environmental advocacy and commitment to preserving and expanding parks and open space and balancing wildlife habitat protection and restoration with recreational facilities. These efforts are in keeping with Green Party values supporting ecological wisdom and sustainability.

Mr. La Force is committed to preserving the East Bay Shoreline and realizing the East Shore Park and has advocated for protection and restoration of urban creeks and waterways.

He also advocated the EBRPD resource management and habitat enhancement program and grasslands monitoring designed to collect information about the impact of cattle grazing on EBRPD lands. He favors making EBRPD meetings more accessible to the public both in time and by locating them near public transit, consistent with Green Party valuing of grassroots democracy.

The only things missing from Mr. La Force's record as an environmental advocate are an explicit commitment to reforming the park district's herbicide/pesticide policies to eliminate the negative health and environmental impacts of pesticide/herbicide use on park property, and, in the past he has opposed reforming the district's cattle grazing policy. It remains to be seen whether he is willing to eliminate or significantly reduce grazing within the parks.

*continued on page 14*



## Measure WW—YES, with standard bond reservations

### Extension of Existing East Bay Park District Bond

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) operates 65 regional parks on 98,000 acres and 1,100 miles of trails in the greater East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa counties).

Measure WW on the Ballot for November 2008, if passed, would authorize total bond sales of \$500 million. This will continue or reauthorize for 20 years the existing 0.01% per year per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for property owners in the Park District. This amounts to \$50 per year for a \$500,000 home.

Of the monies, 75% is for Park acquisitions and capital projects, 7% is for reserves for future needs, and 25% goes to cities, special park and recreation districts and county service areas.

A detailed breakdown of how the \$500 million will be allocated can be found at: [www.ebparks.org/files/Bond\\_Measure\\_WW\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_081508a.pdf](http://www.ebparks.org/files/Bond_Measure_WW_Fact_Sheet_081508a.pdf)

Given the dense urban environment that exists in the East Bay, the EBRPD provides much-needed open space access to people of all economic classes, so being able to continue this service is endorsed by the Green Party, and the bond costs are a moderate tax rate on property owners.

The caveats are that the EBRPD is a large agency that has many of the same bureaucracy problems that exists in large cities in the East Bay, which sometimes leads to mismanagement of the public resource. In the case of the EBRPD, a couple of recurring problems that go against Green Party sustainable ecology practices are: the park system's use of herbicides and the renting to cattle ranchers of park land for grazing.

Denying the bond is not the way to correct those problems. The way to correct the problems is to elect a park board which will actively govern the management of the park and use best sustainable ecological practices.

One additional caveat is the Green Party concern about bonds as financing mechanisms: please see our article on page 2.

## Peralta Community College

The Peralta Community Colleges—Laney, Merritt, College of Alameda, and Berkeley City College (formerly Vista) -- play a critical role in educating young and older adults, most of whom are working people and people of color.

Four seats on the Peralta Board of Trustees are up for election, but only one Peralta race will actually be on the November ballot. This is because three incumbents are running unopposed, and the Peralta Board has opted not to pay the Alameda County Voter Registration office election fee (tens of thousands of dollars) for single-candidate races. The three incumbents, elected in 2004, are Bill Withrow (Area 1—Alameda, part of Oakland), Nicky Gonzalez Yuen (Area 4—Berkeley flatlands, Emeryville, Albany), Cy Gulassa (Area 6—Rockridge, North Oakland, Montclair, Berkeley Hills). These incumbents have been endorsed by the Peralta Federation of Teachers PAC and the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

In the past, the Board has been very divided. These days, things are more civil and progressive. The above mentioned incumbents, along with Abel Guillen, (elected in 2006 in Area 7—downtown Oakland, West Oakland, and near North Oakland) have formed a working board majority that has, among other things, initiated the greening of Peralta with a sustainability program for the entire District. They have also negotiated reduced price AC transit bus passes that will save full-time students hundreds of dollars in transportation costs.

### Peralta Board, Area 2—Marlon McWilson

Marlon McWilson is challenging incumbent Marcie Hodge. Both candidates returned Green questionnaires. We endorse Marlon McWilson for Peralta Board Area 2.

Marcie Hodge has served on the Peralta Board since 2004. Greens did not endorse her in 2004, finding her questionnaire not well-developed. In her 2008 questionnaire, Hodge writes, "I bring a strong voice to the board and I am known for speaking for issues that many will not voice their frank opinions on." The truth is she says

very little at Board meetings and rarely attends Board committee meetings that all the other Trustees participate in. At one point her behavior was so over-the-line that the Board formally censured her.

Marlon McWilson's questionnaire responses were thoughtful and more thorough than Hodge's. He has an understanding about Board/administration roles, shared governance, and parity issues for part-time faculty. His resume outlines his experience working with youth, college students, teachers, and administrators at the University of California, Oakland School District, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula. He is also known for helping to arrange holiday homeless food programs.

McWilson wrote, "Our students deserve and need a committed representative who will do the required work. Area 2 deserves a representative who is active and engaged in the community and attentive to Board responsibilities. During my opponent's tenure on the board she has not been at all visible or engaged in Area 2 or the PCCD district at-large. I believe that a change is in order and I pledge to keep our students at the forefront and as the foundation of my decision making." He calls for improved connections between the Peralta Colleges, 4 year educational institutions, the workplace, and the community.

Endorsements: Marlon McWilson is endorsed by the Alameda County Central Labor Council; Peralta Trustees Abel Guillen Linda Handy, Bill Riley, and Nicky Gonzalez Yuen; John George Democratic Club; Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club; Desley Brooks, Oakland City Council Member; Kathy Neal, 16th Assembly District Vice Chair, Alameda County Democratic Party; Darlene Brooks, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee and Peralta Federation of Teachers PAC. He also has support from several education, recreation, and faith-based individuals. Marcie Hodge is endorsed by Trustee Bill Withrow.

As of this writing, the Peralta Chapter of the Service Employees International Union Local 1021 has not yet made their endorsement.



# HELP WANTED

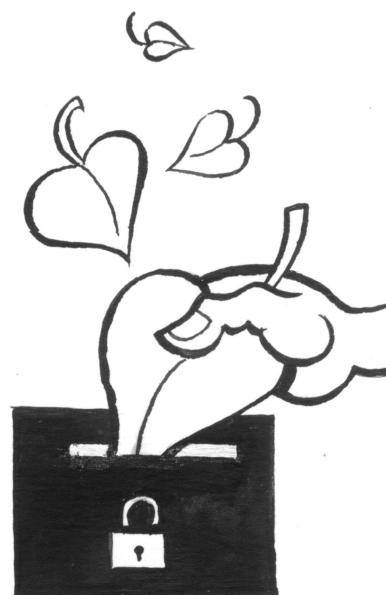
...to build the Green Party!

## CAN YOU HELP US WITH ANY OF THESE TASKS?

- Tabling at events
- Phone calls/phone tree
- Writing for our newsletter
- 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](mailto:acgreenparty@yahoo.com)  
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Thank you very much.



GRASSROOTS  
DEMOCRACY



## State Propositions

### Proposition 6—NO, NO, NO!

*continued from page 1*

There is no question that gang-related crime is a growing problem in the urban areas of California. But Prop 6 is clearly a ploy by knee-jerk reactionaries to take what little money is left for public services and use it to further club the poor and disenfranchised into greater submission. The Green Party agrees with Steven Walker of Minorities in Law Enforcement when he says Prop 6 fails to show how it will make our neighborhoods safer, but will “overwhelm a prison system that is largely occupied by African-American and Latino males by targeting these particular demographics.”

What do other public officials think?

Barbara Lee, Congresswoman: “The so-called Safe Neighborhood Act will not lead to safer streets, less crime, or a reduction in drug dealing in our community.”

Wayne Tucker, Oakland Police Chief: “We are opposed to it as it stands because it may have a negative impact on the residents of our community.”

Sandre Swanson, Oakland State Assemblyman: “This initiative ... will force us to throw children into prisons and throw away our ability to rehabilitate, educate and divert them from crime.”

Jakada Imani, Ella Baker Center: “Effective public safety results from employment and a strong economy, which is based on a strong school system.”

Marty Hittelman, California Federation of Teachers: “This initiative is a disaster for California in a year of budget crisis.”

Also opposed: Richmond Mayor (and Green Party member) Gayle McLaughlin, Ron Dellums, Gloria Romero, Dolores Huerta, CA Teachers Assoc., ILWU, SEIU, ACLU, ACORN, American Friends Service Committee, Childrens Defense Fund, EBASE, GPCCC, Urban Habitat, and many more.

Join the GPAC and the rest of progressive California in voting NO on this ineffective, costly, and racist approach to public safety.

### Proposition 1A—No, with regrets High Speed Rail Bond

We all believe in attractive alternatives to driving, especially sleek electric trains designed in Europe, but the promises in Proposition 1A are simply too good to be true. Prop 1A would issue about \$10 billion in bonds (costing taxpayers about \$25 billion including interest) for a high-speed rail construction project between San Francisco and Anaheim and for repairs and modernization of existing equipment and facilities.

The cogent reason for taxpayers to oppose the high-speed rail project is that it is a public works fraud scheme specifically designed to appeal to gullible California environmentalists. If we vote for Proposition 1A, the only guarantee is that billions of dollars will be spent on planning, engineering, land acquisition, demolition, and construction of part of a guide-way. Trains may never run, as the \$10 billion bond is only a small fraction of the total amount required! The idea is apparently to start a very big hole in the ground, then come back and ask for \$30 to \$50 billion more from taxpayers. Federal funding for this project is as imaginary as private investment. The firm which has been prime contractor for all work authorized to date by the High Speed Rail Authority is Parsons-Brinckerhoff, notorious for choosing the wrong concrete epoxy for the tunnel in Boston's way-out-of-control Big Dig that bal-

#### On Voting "No, With Regrets"

Those who have seen our Voter Guides in the past have seen our opinions range from “Yes, Yes, Yes” through “Yes” to “Yes, With Reservations” to “No” and “No, No, No.” This election we were faced with several measures that seemed to be proposing something we want to support, such as High Speed Rail or renewable energy, and yet the specific provisions of the measure were such that we could not support it. The recommendation “No, with regrets” evokes Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, who remarked, after a defeat, “Lamentablemente, por ahora, los objetivos que nos planteamos no fueron logrados...” (Unfortunately, for now, the objectives that we have set for ourselves have not been achieved...)

looned in cost from \$2 billion to \$22 billion. They think Californians are far enough away that they didn't notice. The Rail Authority is guilty of overpromising on ridership, energy, and pollution benefits. It bases these benefits on a prediction that 117 million passengers will use this service annually. No European train is that popular. As a reality check, France's most popular high-speed train, the TGV-Southeast, carried only 18 million passengers in its 10th year on a route that already had 12 million annual train passengers before high speed service started. It is simply unbelievable that California trains could outperform European routes with more population. The Authority claims that the project will have no operating deficit, but the Legislative Analyst says the operating cost would be about \$1 billion annually, and suggests that some portion of this would have to be subsidized (likely in the hundreds of millions annually). Where would the money for this subsidy come from? Probably by draining state public transit funds that currently underwrite buses and trains. The Rail Authority has been actively hyping the Merced County real estate market with statements about the “new California gold rush” and its selection of the Pacheco Route, a repeat of the UC Merced land scam with the same participants. Current language bans a Los Banos station, but the legislature has overturned past such restrictions and Schwarzenegger backer Angelo Tsakopoulos and his investor corporations have purchased 3500 acres of land within three miles of the proposed stop. What does he know that we don't? Supporters of 1A emphasize the downside of NOT building HSR ... California's population is growing, which will mean constant pressure for more highways and expansions of airports, which means environmental destruction locally and added greenhouse gas emissions. But, recent changes to the initiative spread the \$10B more broadly among counties to make it more palatable to State legislators who just placed this measure on the ballot in late August. That sounds exactly like a boondoggle to us, with the “pork” spread out as widely as possible! If this measure passes, we may NEVER get high speed rail due to the predictably huge cost overruns this project will inevitably create. We regret that Prop. 1A is so bad, because we really do want high speed rail like Europe and Japan. Join many serious rail supporters and vote NO on Prop. 1A.

### Proposition 2 -- Yes Treatment of Farm Animals

Proposition two, Californians for Humane Farms, will provide basic protection to farm animals by preventing three of the most cruel forms of confinement in the practice of animal agribusiness, namely, veal crates, battery cages, and gestation crates. On the face of it, such reforms are needed to curtail in a modest way the inhumane treatment of animals simply because they are ethically wrong. Abusive practices create health risks for the human population who consume the animals by fostering conditions that lead to the spread of disease. Factory farms that cut corners have an adverse impact on the family farmers who do not and threaten to drive them out of business. Objectionable treatment of animals contaminates waterways, lakes, groundwater, soil and air. The proposition provides until 2015 for factory farms to shift to more humane practices.

Those who oppose the measure are business interests who have a record of dishonest scare tactics and who rely on “experts” who are aligned with industry. The opponents of Prop 2 are funded by profit driven industry interests. They claim that the measure will cost the consumer but their own economist admits that it will cost less than one penny per egg. They fail to address the fact that Prop 2 protects calves and pigs as well. They make equally absurd claims about the proposition creating, rather than eliminating, health and safety issues. These arguments have no merit.

Supporters of Prop 2 include Consumer Federation of America, Ca Veterinary Medical Association, Humane Society of US, Union of Concerned Scientists, Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, Sierra Club, Ca Clean Water Action and more.

We consider this a complete no-brainer – vote yes on Prop 2.

### Proposition 3 – No \$2 Billion Children's Hospital Bond

If this passes, \$980 million (almost one billion dollars), in bonds will be sold by the state to be paid back with interest over 30 years from the general fund, to expand

capacity in California's Children's Hospitals. The total cost is expected to be about \$2 billion in taxpayer funds. At first glance, who could be against improving and expanding hospitals for children? Looking deeper however, it is evident that Prop 3 has serious problems.

First, this is essentially the same measure as Proposition 61 on the 2004 ballot, which passed giving \$750 million to the same hospitals. Only \$403 million (53.7%) of that money has been used. Shouldn't the prior fund be depleted before asking the taxpayers to fund another round?

Second, it is unclear if this taxpayer money is being used in the public interest. Eighty percent of the money will go to private hospitals (the other 20% goes to University of California facilities). Just looking at one of these private institutions, Children's Hospital of Oakland, one finds that the President/CEO was paid \$673,000 in compensation in 2006, and the Chief Operation Officer was paid \$420,000 that year. This indicates that the taxpayers are subsidizing obscenely high salaries, millions and millions, for top executives, and that likely little or no public oversight exists for how these public funds are spent.

Third, this campaign represents an abuse of the Initiative process. These private hospitals, crying poor, actually have substantial assets and are using them to get additional public subsidies. Children's Hospital of Oakland alone, for example, is shown as having \$208.9 million in assets in 2006. Moreover, these institutions have hired Richie Ross, the high priced Sacramento political consultant, to run their slick campaign to tap into the taxpayers to fund their private hospitals.

Fourth, if the taxpayers are going to fund the expansion of privately owned hospitals, the taxpayers should get a share of the ownership and control of these institutions, (including board seats and watchdog positions), something, (of course), not part of this proposition. Finally, it is far past time that we have democratic discussion, debate and action about how to fix our broken health care system, which leaves almost 50 million people without health care in this country. A single payer health care system for all, similar to the Medicare system, should be central to this discussion, which must include how to fund and improve our stressed public hospitals. Alameda County voters will soon be asked to pay for construction of a new county hospital. This is likely a much better use of our scarce tax dollars. Prop 3 simply perpetuates the existing and unfair privately dominated medical system. VOTE NO.

### Proposition 4 -- No Parental Notification for Under-18 Abortions

This proposition is essentially the same as two previously defeated California propositions, with the same (male) sponsors. Despite the previous defeats, polls show that voters may approve this measure, which would be disastrous for teenagers and another rollback of the rights of girls and women to choose when they will give birth. The proposition would institute constitutional language requiring any provider to notify parents regardless of the situation in the home and without provision for rape or incest. A scared pregnant teen who can't tell her parents isn't going to navigate a crowded court system and reveal intimate details about her life to an unfamiliar judge, the only alternative provided and one with certain delays built-in. The 48-hour delay requirement even when a parent approves is an additional barrier, especially for those who have to travel some distance to reach services. Counselors and providers are already fewer in number and geographically scattered as a result of previous anti-choice campaigns. These anti-choice activists have also worked against teenagers' access to sex education and contraceptives despite their proven impact of lowering the number of unwanted pregnancies and abortions.

Statistics show that most teenagers do speak with their parents but those who cannot are especially vulnerable and are more likely to act in a desperate manner. Studies have shown no improvement in child/parent communication in states where similar provisions are in effect. Opposition to this proposition includes a broad array of healthcare and education providers to young people, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, California Nurses Association, California Academy of Family Physicians, California Medical Association, California Association of School Counselors, and California Teachers Association because they recognize how harmful this amendment to the California constitution would be. Teenagers would be frightened away from appropriate counseling and the services they need and would be likely to engage in desperate measures.

### Proposition 5 -- Yes Nonviolent Offenders Sentencing and Rehabilitation

Summary: California Proposition 5 ([www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_j.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm)) is the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act (NORA), sponsored as part of a nationwide campaign for prison reform, by The Drug Policy Alliance, the Soros Open Society Institute and the Campaign for New Drug Policies. The proposed legislation will constitute a fundamental reform of California's failed criminal justice policies that waste billions of dollars on avoidable prison construction and ineffective incarceration of non-violent drug offenders. NORA aims to correct overcrowding and related issues at the State's prisons by making drug rehabilitation a top priority. Under NORA, selected non-violent prisoners and parolees would be diverted to addiction treatment programs, and additional resources would be put towards rehabilitation services for at-risk youth. Proponents state that Proposition 5 enhances rehabilitation efforts that were started under Proposition 36 and that it offers greater accountability than the 2000 voter-approved legislation. In addition, Proposition 5 will keep violent offenders in prison. The sponsors' claim that Proposition 5 will save the State money is confirmed by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

#### Main Provisions of Proposition 5:

- Requires California to expand and increase funding and oversight for individualized treatment and rehabilitation programs for nonviolent drug offenders and parolees.
- Reduces criminal consequences of nonviolent drug offenses by mandating three-tiered probation with treatment and by providing for case dismissal and/or sealing of records after probation.
- Limits court's authority to incarcerate offenders who violate probation or parole.
- Shortens parole for most drug offenses, including sales, and for nonviolent property crimes.
- Creates numerous divisions, boards, commissions, and reporting requirements regarding drug treatment and rehabilitation.
- Changes certain marijuana misdemeanors to infractions.

#### Fiscal impact analysis

According to the State of California, the initiative would lead to:

- "Increased State costs that could exceed \$1 billion annually primarily for expanding drug treatment and rehabilitation programs for offenders in State prisons, on parole, and in the community."
- "Savings to the State that could exceed \$1 billion annually due primarily to reduced prison and parole operating costs."
- "Net savings on a one-time basis on capital outlay costs for prison facilities that could exceed \$2.5 billion."
- "Unknown net fiscal effect on expenditures for county operations and capital outlay."

**ARGUMENTS FOR** - The California State Legislature should have comprehensively addressed the issue of prison reform and drug rehabilitation long ago, but has not. Part of the current fiscal crisis in California relates to the growth in prison construction, prison staffing, and related expenses for prolonged incarceration of non-violent, mainly drug-related offenses. California's prisons are seriously overcrowded and often have debilitating effects on non-violent inmates, who may end up adopting more advanced, anti-social and violent criminal habits in order to survive in the prison environment.

The Legislative Analyst estimates a potential savings of \$2.5 billion in one time capital outlay. There is no overall estimate on the additional savings resulting from rehabilitated lives, when inmates become productive members of their communities, nor of a probable decrease in drug abuse and drug-related crimes.

Supporters of Proposition 5: California Society of Addiction Medicine, the Mental Health Association in California, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the League of Women Voters of California, the California Democratic Party, George Soros (Open Society Initiative), The Drug Policy Alliance Network, [apps.facebook.com/causes/98665](https://www.facebook.com/causes/98665)

**ARGUMENTS AGAINST** - Opponents argue that Prop 5 will increase crime and taxes, but no data are provided to back up these assertions. They claim that Proposition 5 equals "Get out of jail early for drug offenders... this is the ultimate do-gooder legislation. Full of dangerous precedents that will enable drug offenders to commit additional property crimes with impunity. More divisions, commissions, boards for paid political appointees to dominate. Further decriminalizes marijuana." Opponents state that Prop 5 will increase crime by releasing "criminals" into communities. (In actuality, Proposition 5 will allow judges to determine which nonviolent offenders get diverted to treatment. NORA is intended to separate violent from nonviolent offenders. Candidates for treatment must have no history of violent or serious crime or have not committed a crime for the previous five years in addition to having served the appropriate time for previous crimes. NORA offers incentives to complete treatment as well as consequences for not doing so.) Opponents also argue that NORA will increase costs to California's taxpayers by \$1 billion dollars.

Some refer to it as the "Drug Dealer Bill of Rights," arguing that this proposition would allow violent criminals to claim that drugs made them commit the crime and therefore they would avoid prison time. The No on Prop. 5 opponents are also challenging the constitutionality of the initiative, saying that it takes away power from the legislative and executive branches of government.

Opposition to Proposition 5: People Against the Proposition 5 Deception. Endorsed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), California Police Chiefs Association, California District Attorneys Association, California State Sheriffs Association

**RECOMMENDATION:** NORA is a smart, humane approach to engaging with nonviolent drug offenders and addicts. It is also a sane solution to easing overcrowding in our prisons. The Green Party recommends YES on Proposition 5 as a step towards much needed prison reform and inmate rehabilitation.

(The Prop 5 write-up includes information from Ballotpedia, a free, collaborative, online encyclopedia that focuses on information related to ballots: [http://www.ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php?title=California\\_2008\\_ballot\\_measures](http://www.ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php?title=California_2008_ballot_measures))

### Proposition 7 -- No, with regrets Renewable Energy Requirements for Utilities

Proposition 7 has tremendous appeal on its face because it seems to force the big utilities to "do the right thing" — to finally stop blocking the way to the renewable energy future. It is regrettable that this first major ballot initiative to address the transition to renewable energy may, instead, severely disrupt California's progress toward that critical goal. How? By establishing rules and new powers that amount to a monopoly for industrial-scale solar projects in the deserts of California. Proposition 7 will sideline emerging micro-generation technologies such as rooftop photovoltaic systems, small-scale wind turbines, solar roofing tiles, ground source heat pumps, and fuel cell storage systems.

Proposition 7 correctly underscores the urgency of the problems of global warming, climate change, and pollution, and adopts new targets for California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) -- a quota system which stipulates what percentages of retail sales of electricity in California must come from renewable sources by target dates. Proposition 7's RPS targets of 40 percent by 2020 and 50 percent by 2025 considerably accelerate the current RPS targets. However, the method it imposes to achieve that goal is deeply flawed: Proposition 7's requirements of 30-megawatt sized facilities and 20-year contracts, and its limiting of public and judicial review, serve to further centralize control of energy in the hands of a few easily-corruptible entities.

Sue Kateley, Executive Director of the California Solar Energy Industries Association (CSEIA), has stated: "Proposition 7 contains language that could devastate small renewable energy providers in California and force them out of the market. ... This would likely drive California's small solar, wind and renewable power providers out of business, eliminating a major source of clean energy and thousands of jobs."

The language Kateley refers to is, in part, the Proposition's definition of facilities that will count toward the RPS and receive the contracts: " 'Solar and clean energy plant' means any electrical generating facility ... with a generating capacity of 30 megawatts or more, ... (Proposition 7, page 24)". Ralph Cavanaugh, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, explains:

"For reasons that I still don't understand, and the campaign has never explained, they changed the definition of 'eligible renewable resource' under the California Renewable Energy Mandate... They added the phrase 'solar and clean energy,' which is the initiative brand. Solar

and clean energy plants are defined as '30 megawatts or greater.'"

Currently the development of the solar industry stands at a cross-roads: Will renewable energy be generated at remote utility-scale solar facilities and shipped to consumers over expensive, vulnerable power lines, or will it be generated locally on rooftops everywhere, with the grid serving merely a load-balancing role?

There are simple mechanisms that can address the same problems that Proposition 7 claims to, and they begin by leveling the playing field. For example, under current net metering rules, micro power generators — such as homeowners and businesses with rooftop solar panels — can zero out their bills, but receive no compensation for electricity they supply to the grid beyond the amount they use (free power for the big utilities).

Assemblyman Jared Huffman's (D, San Rafael) bill, AB1920, in its original form, addressed this inequity by requiring utilities to pay micro power generators for the surplus power they provide to the grid. This same solution has fueled the explosive growth of distributed renewable energy in Germany. Even under the adverse conditions of California's net metering, the state's distributed renewable market has grown at an average rate of about 30% per year since 2001.

Unfortunately, while deeply-flawed initiatives like Proposition 7 (whose publicly-disclosed funding comes entirely from Arizona billionaire Peter Serling and Sacramento lobbyist and former Feinstein appointee Jim Gonzalez) receive the public spotlight, efforts like AB 1920 are silently gutted by powerful interests such as the Public Utilities Commission and PG&E.

Some specific provisions that opponents underscore about Prop 7:

- Creates an artificial monopoly for large-scale desert energy plants requiring costly long-distance transmission lines, at the expense of distributed micro-power generation.
- Requires utilities to sign 20-year contracts with alternative fuel providers, limiting participation by smaller firms.
- Effectively eliminates co-generation facilities' low-cost power from the mix.
- Reduces fines by 80% for utilities that fail to meet the renewable energy requirements, and leaves the levying of fines up to the discretion of a five-member commission.
- Allows utilities to count signed contracts with producers towards their renewable energy goals, even before they bring the power online (if ever).
- Forces local governments to finish the permit process within 100 days due to fast-track approvals for renewable plants, reducing local input on plant and transmission line siting.

Opponents of Prop 7 have been disingenuously described by Prop 7 advocates as being in the pockets of California's three big utilities, but clearly opponents such as the Union of Concerned Scientists and the California Green Party are not dependent on the utilities' largesse. That these utilities will contribute more than \$20 million to a No on Prop 7 campaign has no bearing on the fact that a broad and growing spectrum of organizations who have examined Proposition 7 agree that it is not the solution, including scores of cities, religious groups, political groups, environmental groups, and renewable technology companies.

In conclusion, the renewable energy portfolio targets of Proposition 7 are extremely unlikely to be met under its exclusionary policies, which reward only centralized industrial-scale production methods. The same targets can better be met on a level playing field that embraces, rather than excludes, the rich diversity of emerging renewable energy solutions.

For more information, see: <http://CaliforniaPHOTON.com/prop7>

### Proposition 8 -- No, No, No! Same-Sex Marriage Ban

This is another attempt to divest the citizens of California of their rights. One group at a time. The Supreme Court of California has upheld the California Constitution that guarantees the same freedoms and rights to everyone. Yet this initiative is an outright attempt to change the Constitution to make access to these rights unavailable to same sex couples by denying them the freedom to marry. The people of California do not want to change the Constitution to institutionalized discrimination and unequal treatment under the law.



## State Propositions

In this political climate when we are losing many of our constitutional rights... we shudder at the thought of tampering with the rights of anybody. When we start singling out special groups to make the law not apply to, we think we are in serious trouble. "Our Californian Constitution guarantees the same freedoms and rights to everyone"... why would we want to change it? Voting "No" on Prop 8 upholds the Supreme Court decision; cast a vote for the Constitution of California - it is the right thing to do.

We think every citizen should consider this a personal attack on the rights of all of us. One of the Green Party's 10 Key Values is that of social justice and equal opportunity. We believe that every person should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society. All peoples committed to equal rights, equal opportunity and a respect for diversity will find Prop 8 offensive.

There are certain resources that are only afforded to couples in the legal entity of marriage. Loving and committed couples should be able to access these rights - rights that allow all couples to work together to provide for each other, to make decisions in crisis and everyday life. Only the legal system of marriage can convey the full protection of these rights.

This isn't about religion, this isn't about straight or gay, this is about all committed couples having equal protection under the law. Domestic Partnerships are not equal. Vote No on Prop. 8

### Proposition 9 -- No Victims' Rights, Reduction of Parole Hearings

What this Proposition does: Proposition 9 proposes additions and amendments to the California Constitution and to the California Penal Code, relating to the rights of victims of crime. Most of the changes being requested greatly expand victim's rights that were passed in 1982 in a proposition titled The Victim's Bill of Rights. It would make the first priority of the Board of Parole Hearings to protect victim's rights in the parole process. Prop. 9 greatly limits prisoners' rights to due process, legal representation and parole consideration.

The Arguments: Proposition 9 is more about revenge than Victim's Rights. The authors/funders represent the parents of a daughter who was murdered 25 years ago by her boyfriend who is still in prison. They have become angry that they do not have more power over parole laws. This bill would give them that power and much more impact on legal decisions around parole, even while they have no legal training or any consistent contact with the man who killed their daughter, i.e. to know if he is likely to commit another crime. The ideas they are trying to put into State of California Constitutional Law do not represent good law. The legal system is about a balance of rights in the search for justice. Prop. 9 would greatly imbalance these rights.

There is frequent mention in this measure about victim's rights to safety being "eroded by inadequate resources" that lean strongly towards building new jails to house criminals whose right to parole hearings will be greatly reduced by this measure and thus lead to longer sentences. The proposition would postpone future parole hearings for up to fifteen years unless the board finds (when it denies the person parole) clear and convincing evidence that the person would not require more than ten more years of incarceration. It further states that "An inefficient, overcrowded, and arcane criminal justice system has failed to build adequate jails and prisons..." (California has one of the highest per capita jail populations in the nation and less than 1% of those convicted of second degree murder or manslaughter have been released early at parole hearings). The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office says that the cost of Prop. 9 could potentially "amount to hundreds of millions of dollars annually." It also points out that "the state does not now generally release inmates early from prison."

Another claim in Prop. 9 is that all citizens want more punishment for criminals. "Victims of crime have a collectively shared right to expect that persons convicted of committing criminal acts are sufficiently punished...". With a 70% rate of recidivism, punishment does not seem to be working. Many victims prefer reconciliation and forgiveness which would benefit both parties far more than punishment and save the state billions of dollars. Further, the ACLU has documented hundreds of wrongful incarceration cases with the most frequent mistake being that of misidentification of the person who committed the crime by the victim and witnesses. One D.A. admitted

to pressuring a witness to identify a particular man who was then found guilty and spent over 10 years in prison before the mistake was discovered. This man was denied parole several times. Imagine being denied a next parole hearing for 15 years!

Though Prop. 9 speaks about restitution and punishment, it does not mention reconciliation as a right...the right to forgive. The Truth and Reconciliation hearings of South Africa provided an avenue for people (1998-2000) who committed horrific murders during Apartheid to meet with families of the victims and ask for forgiveness. When forgiveness was desired by both the murderers and the families, amazing healing took place and people could move on with their lives. This practice should also reduce future crimes as the mental health of both sides has the opportunity to improve immeasurably (refer to the book "No Future without Forgiveness" by Desmond Tutu).

#### Recommendations

Arguments in the voter guide against this proposition have been written by Sheila A. Bedi, Executive Director, Justice Policy Institute and Allan Breed, former director of the California Dept. of Corrections. Their conclusion: "Vote NO on Prop 9. It's unnecessary. It's expensive. It's bad law."

Also against Prop. 9: by Jeanne Woodford, former Warden, San Quentin State Prison and Rev. John Freese-mann, Board President, California Church IMPACT who conclude that "Instead of streamlining government, Prop. 9 creates serious duplication of existing laws...places pages of complex law into our Constitution. And once in the Constitution, if the laws don't work, and need to be changed or modernized in any way, it would require a 75% vote of the Legislature. That's a threshold even higher than required to pass the state budget."

The groups that wrote an argument in favor of Prop. 9 include Justice for Homicide Victims, Justice for Murdered Children, and The National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children. They believe that "Prop. 9 levels the playing field, guaranteeing crime victims the right to justice and due process, ending further victimization of innocent people by a system that frequently neglects, ignores and forever punishes them." This sounds like a perfect description of what criminals also face. In fact, as has been already stated, the demands of this measure greatly imbalance the rights by removing the right to legal defense when parole is denied. The groups mentioned above in this paragraph seem to be going to extraordinary measures to make sure there is not a level playing field. No on 9.

### Proposition 10 -- No Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy Bond

Though it began as a progressive, populist idea by California Gov. Hiram Johnson in 1911, the state initiative process has recently become a rich man's game. CA billionaire and indicted sex offender Henry Nicholas III is sponsoring the gang-busting, prison-stuffing Prop 6, and Arizona multibillionaire Peter Sperling, 799th-richest person in the world, has personally put Prop 7 ("Big Solar") on the ballot. Now 80-year old multibillionaire and former Texas oil magnate T. Boone Pickens, world's 369th-richest person and currently into wind farms, has been revealed as the major funder for Prop 10 ("Little Solar") through his Clean Energy Fuels Corporation, which has kicked in over \$3 million. Clean Energy was formerly known as Pickens Fuels Corporation, and makes its money selling natural gas to cars and trucks as a transport fuel.

Proposition 10, also known as the California Alternative Fuels Initiative, authorizes the state to issue \$5 billion bonds - reaching almost \$10 billion when finally repaid from the state's General Fund in 30 years - to promote "alternative fuels" use, research, and education. The majority of funds would be allocated as cash payments of up to \$50,000 each to purchasers of "alternative fuel" vehicles.

So are high-rolling corporate capitalists suddenly becoming altruistic environmentalists? Not likely. Even the Wall Street Journal (7/29) refers to it as "the stealthy Prop 10." Here is why: Though it is being promoted as a clean energy, anti-pollution measure, in reality Prop 10 heavily promotes the use of another rapidly declining, greenhouse gas-emitting, fossil fuel - natural gas. While the promoters talk about "alternative fuel vehicles", the language of the proposition excludes most electric and hybrid vehicles, giving the lion's share of funds to truckers switching from diesel to natural gas. It even encourages building dangerous and expensive LNG ports in California to import foreign liquefied natural gas as local supplies

run out.

Dang, these Texans are sharp. Once the \$50,000 rebates to buyers of natural gas vehicles kick in, the price of the fuel will skyrocket, causing a jump in electricity generating costs in California. But Pickens will be there to sell our utilities his electricity- generating wind turbines and save the day! Not that reducing particulate-laden diesel exhaust and increasing wind power is bad, it's not. Wind is a great renewable energy resource that we should be using more of. But should California divert \$325 million a year from its shrinking General Fund to help truckers buy Pickens' gas, in order to encourage PG&E to invest in wind energy? Duh! Shades of Enron! There has got to be a non-corporate way to save the world...

Greens! Vote No on 10! And demand a real, renewable, economical, alternative energy plan from your Legislature, or else help get one on the ballot in 2010!

### Proposition 11 -- No Redistricting

Proposition 11 is a constitutional amendment designed to remove the authority for setting district boundaries (for Assembly, State Senate, and Board of Equalization Districts) from the Legislature, and to create an alternative process for determining those Districts. (Prop 11 leaves the District setting for Federal Congressional seats in the hands of the Legislature.) The Proposition sets up a 14-member "Citizens Redistricting Commission", composed of 5 members from each of the two largest political parties, and 4 members (we'll call them "others") who could come from other parties or be voters who decline to state a party preference. For approval of any Redistricting proposal it would take at least three votes from the largest and second-largest parties' members and three from the "other" pool.

The arguments for removing Redistricting from the legislature are well known. The current system protects incumbents, and by implication, works against any "third party" or independent candidate, maintaining the political status quo. However, the advantage of the current system, in our opinion, is its transparency. If the voters are dissatisfied with the status quo, they know who to blame. Drawing electoral districts is a profoundly political act. Creating a Redistricting process with unelected, unknown, faceless people, chosen by a Kafka-esque process, is moving away from accountability.

The Green Party favors a more democratic way to deal with accountability. We favor proportional representation, already in use in many countries. In broad outline, under this system, the make-up of the legislature would be in proportion to the votes received by each party. People would be free to vote for the candidates and parties they really want instead of constantly having to vote for the "lesser evil". Less important but still worth mentioning is that Prop 11 continues to under represent third parties and independents. Therefore, we recommend a NO vote on Prop 11.

### Proposition 12 -- Yes (with standard bond reservations) Veterans' Bond

It is very difficult to endorse a Bond Measure in the light of the State's continued budget crisis. However, this Bond measure is a continuation of Veterans' Bond Act for the Cal-Vet Home Loan Program started in 1922. The Veterans' Bond measure of 2008 authorizes the selling of bonds to extend services to more veterans.

This program is already extended to all California Veterans including veterans who have served more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan. While we feel strongly opposed to voting for a bond measure, we also feel that we should assist our veterans.

One of the arguments against prop. 12 is that "enlistees should receive higher pay and better benefits from the federal government". We agree! However, in the face of continued efforts by the current administration to cut veterans benefits and with the hundreds of millions of dollars going to private security firms and mercenary armies, we don't think that is likely. The shameful wages and an unjust war has put an undue hardship on our veterans and their families. Many have lost homes in the fall-out of the housing meltdown.

No matter what your opinion about the war, we do believe that our veterans are deserving of our help. Even with reservations about bonds, we encourage a yes vote on Prop. 12.



# ALAMEDA COUNTY GREEN NEWS

“Overgrow the government”

Fall 2008

## PETER CAMEJO PRESENTÉ

Peter Miguel Camejo, 68, three-time Green candidate for California governor, passed away on September 13 of lymphoma. Peter leaves a legacy of activism for peace, immigrant rights, social justice, and the environment that will not be forgotten by those who knew him.

Peter's activism was always based on strong convictions and leavened by contradiction and controversy. He was a first-generation American, whose mother and father were members of the Venezuelan upper class. Peter became politically radical during the civil rights movement, marching at Selma with Martin Luther King, and during the Vietnam War. His anti-war activism at UC Berkeley, where he was elected to the student council, eventually led to his expulsion in 1967 for “using an unauthorized microphone.” In 1976 he ran for President for the first time as a candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, and was expelled in 1980 as a result of his disagreements with the SWP on issues of internal democracy.

Inexplicably to many of his friends, Peter then went to work for Merrill Lynch, training as a stockbroker in the heart of the capitalist establishment. Yet he took his progressive impulses with him, creating the Eco-Logical Trust at Merrill Lynch, the first environmentally screened fund at a major firm, and later co-founded Progressive Assets Management in Oakland, which specializes in socially responsible investments.

As an environmentalist, Peter was a board member of Earth Share, promoting solar energy, and helped form the Envi-



ronmental Justice Fund to unite environmentalists of color. During and after the Contra War in Nicaragua, Peter helped promote fair trade sesame farming in Nicaragua, which is now one of the world's largest of exporters of sesame seed. In support of lesbian and gay rights, Peter created an IRA to help fund the San Francisco Aids Foundation. Another venture was the Council for

Responsible Public Investment to assist the California Health Department's anti-tobacco divestment work. Peter's books included *Racism, Revolution, Reaction, 1861-1877: the Rise and Fall of Radical Reconstruction*, *California Under Corporate Rule*, and *The SRI Advantage: Why Socially Responsible Investing has Outperformed Financially*. He finished his memoirs just before he died.

When Peter lived in the City of Alameda in the 1990s, he founded the Progressive Alliance of Alameda County. Although ultimately unsuccessful, many local activists remember the Progressive Alliance and see it as a potential model for social change in the county.

Peter first ran for Governor on the Green Party ticket in 2002. Those who ran with him on the Green slate that year—the first full slate of Green Party candidates—remember a tight, cooperative, model campaign that advanced the Green Party, bringing it and its candidates to the attention of many who knew nothing about the party. Peter polled a respectable (for a third party candidate) 5.3 percent of the vote, ultimately losing to Gray Davis.

During the controversial Recall Election of Gov. Gray Davis in 2003, Peter

again ran for governor as a Green, but his doing so created internal controversies within the Green Party that were difficult to heal. Many of us, however, remember his debate with the other candidates, including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Arianna Huffington. The general opinion, even among the local media, was that Peter won that debate. He was a riveting, passionate speaker, who knew his subject matter like no one else on that podium.

The 2004 election was a difficult one for the Green Party. Peter's name was on the Green Party ballot in the primary election as our presidential candidate. He won in California with 75.9 percent of the Green vote, but did not commit to running for the presidency. Instead, he allied himself with Ralph Nader, who had been the Green Party's presidential candidate in the two prior elections, in their campaign for the one-two spot on the Reform Party ballot. Going into the 2004 Green Party convention, it appeared that the vast majority of Greens would again support Nader for president, but many Green Party cadre were upset about Peter's about face and Nader's naming Peter at the last minute as his running mate. The upshot was that the Green Party chose David Cobb as its candidate and Nader/Camejo ran on the Reform Party ticket against the Green candidate. Internal disagreements, especially in California, where Nader was very popular, have continued to split the Party. Peter did, however, run again for California governor as the Green candidate in 2006.

For Greens, Peter Camejo was both an admired activist and sometimes a lightning rod for controversy. But, as Mike Wyman, the Green Party's 2006 Attorney General candidate, has said, he will be most remembered as “a man of great passion and boundless compassion for the poor, uninsured workers and for immigrant workers in their struggle for justice and legalization.” What better memorial could any of us have?

- Suzanne Baker

### THE GREEN PARTY'S TEN KEY VALUES

Ecological Wisdom  
Grassroots Democracy  
Social Justice  
Nonviolence  
Decentralization  
Community-Based Economics  
Feminism  
Respect for Diversity  
Global Responsibility  
Sustainability



## Single Payer Health Care Bill Returns to Governor's Desk

On Monday September 8, four buses went to Sacramento to deliver over 50,000 thousand post cards asking for Single Payer/Universal health care. You probably signed one of them when you saw *Sicko* last summer. A rally was held in front of the Capitol and Representative Sheila Kuehl spoke to the crowd, as did many others in the health care movement. We then paraded past the governor's first floor office.

In the past year, both the State Senate and Assembly have again passed SB840 Single Payer Health Care, after Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the same legislation in 2006. SB840 went to his desk again in September. He cannot use the budget as an excuse NOT to sign the bill, since it would save the state about \$9 billion in the first two years.

This bill gets rid of parasitic health insurance companies that exist ONLY to make money for top executives and stockholders. These organizations spend billions advertising to attract healthy people to their policies (they refuse everyone else). By eliminating insurance company intermediaries, there would be a 30% savings in health care costs, which can be used to cover ALL Californians with top quality health care that rejects no one. Six to seven million currently uninsured people would be included. There would be no deductibles, co-pays or outrageous premiums. The payment of services will be handled by the state. The providers will remain private and everyone will have the choice of doctors, hospitals and HMO's. Kaiser, for example, will remain Kaiser but they will no longer sell insurance or get to charge people (like us) \$75 for an office visit or \$200 for a very simple glaucoma test (!!!) on top of monthly premiums.

CALL THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TODAY. ASK THAT HE SIGN SB840, 916-445-2841 (even if he has already vetoed it by the time you read this!). It's the only way he will be remembered in our history books.

- Gretchen Mackler-Lipow and Sandra Decker (Gretchen is an Alameda County Green and Sandra a Contra Costa Green).

## Green Sundays

Green Sunday forums are usually held on the second Sunday of every month. Join other Greens to discuss important and sometimes controversial topics, hear guest speakers, and participate in planning a Green future.

When: Second Sunday of the month, 5:00-6:30pm

Where: Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (between Alcatraz and 65th St.)

Wheelchair accessible.



## Big Box Ban in Alameda

Congratulations to the citizens of Alameda. On September 16 the Alameda City Council approved a big box ban for the city. It bans any retailer that has over 90,000 square feet of space with 10 percent of the floor space devoted to non-taxable items. The Council found the courage to override its staff, which had strongly opposed the ban.

This law provides the legal standing to reject building applications, such as one that OSH (Orchard Supply Hardware) had submitted. Although OSH used to be owned locally and specialized in selling to orchard farmers in San Jose, it was bought out by Sears and is now just a brand and another big box. Construction of a new OSH in

Alameda would damage an existing healthy independent retail environment by putting excessive pressure on two local hardware stores and three nurseries. The City Council apparently was persuaded to stop the continuing destruction of Alameda's retail environment.

Greens have been important advocates against Big Box stores in their communities. Several in Alameda, including Gretchen Mackler, sat out a lengthy and past-midnight Council session to the discussion through to its completion.

by Joseph Feller (Joe Feller is a Solano County Green who has been fighting big box stores like Walmart and OSH in order to promote more healthy communities.)

## Writers, Editors and People with Good Ideas!!

The Alameda Green Newsletter needs your skills. If you can devote a few hours three times a year to the Newsletter Committee, please contact Suzanne Baker at [suzannebaker@earthlink.net](mailto:suzannebaker@earthlink.net) or (510) 654-8635. Unsolicited articles, book reviews, and commentary are welcome and will be considered for publication.

## DONA SPRING: IRREPLACEABLE GREEN

Dona Spring died on July 13, 2008. For the past thirty-five years she courageously battled rheumatoid arthritis, which progressively took away her mobility, her stamina, and her health, but never her dignity and integrity.

Dona served on the Berkeley City Council, representing District 4, for 16 years. This is the longest term for any elected Green in the state of California, and the second longest in the country. Her longevity in office is attributable to her persistence, intelligence, and compassion as a representative on state, national, and international issues and on the day-to-day issues that impacted her constituents in District 4: street sweeping, stop signs and traffic lights, traffic calming, disability access, public works, and other city services. She was accessible, available, intelligent, and responsive. She was a rare public official in so many ways.

We will remember Dona Spring for many things: zipping through her District 4 to attend a neighborhood meeting or to City Hall in her motorized wheelchair and her tireless advocacy of social justice issues—for people with disabilities and the need for funding a new warm-water therapeutic pool, for a new Berkeley animal shelter and animal rights, for environmental issues, including strong and early support for the Berkeley Farmers' Markets. She authored the resolution strongly condemning U.S.

military action in Afghanistan, and gained national attention and vociferous criticism elsewhere for that resolution, but not here in Berkeley. She received death threats for that proposal, and for others she carried and sponsored.

I don't believe she feared death, since she had been facing it for many years. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Dennis Walton, Dona's companion of 25 years, who supported, aided, and more and more cared for Dona over the years. His commitment to Dona was unwavering. Dona's mother, Paula, had moved to Piedmont, only 5 miles from Berkeley, to be near her daughter during the last few years of Dona's life.

My own experience and relationship with Dona goes back over 15 years. We met first as Green Party activists; she had already been elected to her first term as a Berkeley City Councilmember in 1992 (she ran against and defeated in a mild upset a well-known and respected environmentalist in his own right, John Brauer). She appointed me to Berkeley's Community Environmental Advisory Commission in 1995, on which I served for five years, eventually serving two terms as chair of the commission. I note this as an example of Dona's unerring eye and ear for placing people in positions where they could succeed, and grow. From that five-year experience on CEAC, and with my own work in the school district, I ran for and won a seat



on the Berkeley School Board in 2000. I am currently the President of the Board.

Dona supported the unrepresented, the voiceless, and the hidden amongst us. She never backed down from a debate, never apologized for taking the side of the disabled, or homeless, or poor. She understood and lived the understanding that we are all ultimately judged, and the society we build is judged, on how we treat and empower those who have had little or no opportunity in their lives, or have had hardship and setback. We all need to remember that message in the work we continue to do.

- John Selawsky

## California Hotel Tenants Receive Favorable Ruling

On Wednesday August 27, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Richard Keller made a ruling in favor of the tenants at the California Hotel in Oakland by keeping in place a temporary restraining order against Oakland Community Housing Inc. (OCHI), stopping the nonprofit housing developer from evicting the tenants or shutting off the gas, water and electricity at the historic hotel where they reside. After accusing OCHI of running a "shell game," Judge Keller ordered the case to be continued until October 29.

There are still about 52 residents living in the historic 150-room California Hotel, who are fighting against unlawful attempts to force them out. More than 20 tenants were in court listening intently to the judge, and they were delighted to hear him say that he was willing to appoint a receiver to run the hotel.

In 1992 OCHI spent about \$9 million in local, state, and federal loans for renovations to the historic hotel, after agreeing to offer 30 years of low-income housing to Oakland renters. Judge Keller said that he believes that OCHI and its partners have been running a "shell game," reaping ungodly credits and tax benefits; he sympathized with the plight of the renters, many of whom are elderly, disabled, and poor and who are at risk of losing their housing.

In July OCHI, its subsidiary CaHon Associates, and its management company, the John Stewart Company, abandoned the tenants at the California Hotel after trying to frighten them out of their housing by threatening to cut off their water and utilities. The tenants fought back and refused to move. On their behalf, their attorney John Murcko sued OCHI and the John Stewart Company for \$2.5 million for breach of contract, and on August 6 the tenants filed an additional claim for \$53 million against the City of Oakland and two city employees, Sean Rogan and Marge Gladman, for their involvement in the scheme to force the tenants out of their housing at the hotel.

After receiving many millions in subsidized funding revenues, as well as the rents that it has collected for years, OCHI is now trying to claim that it's broke. "There's no one left in OCHI, to run the organization," says Murcko. "They all ran off except for one person, and it's left only the tenants and the attorneys to fight this out in the courts."

OCHI established a non-profit subsidiary, CaHon Associates, Inc., for the California Hotel, charging fees for its services. Since OCHI reopened the hotel in 1992, CaHon Associates has filed 990 tax forms with the IRS on only two occasions, making it nearly impossible to see where all the money that flowed into the California Hotel has gone, much of it probably disappearing into OCHI's main coffers.

Since July 15, the tenants have been providing for their own security, and have been managing the hotel and keeping it clean with the assistance of Anne Omura of the Eviction Defense Center in Oakland. Just Cause Oakland continues to ask the community to come out and show its support for the California Hotel tenants. Other community members, such as Food Not Bombs, have contributed free food to help assist the tenants at the hotel in their time of need.

—by Lynda Carson (Lynda is a Green Party member. She may be reached at tenantsrule@yahoo.com. John Murcko is one of the founding members of the Eviction Defense Center and an Alameda County Green.

## Community Choice: the Energy System We've Been Waiting For

A new clean energy movement is emerging in the Bay Area. Its predecessor, the solar energy movement of the 1970s and early '80s, sowed the first seeds in Northern California, as tinkerers, inventors, off-grid advocates, and renewable power activists brought power to the people in the form of solar thermal water heaters. That movement ultimately died on the vine in the mid 1980s as California investor-owned utilities and the government discredited the nascent solar industry, state tax credits were cancelled, and the price of natural gas dropped substantially.

The current manifestation of Northern California's long-standing desire for a renewable energy powered grid and local control of our energy future is Community Choice Energy. Municipalities, counties, and climate activists in many California communities agree that Community Choice is their most effective policy option for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.

Currently, Bay Area ratepayers do not have the choice of purchasing cleaner energy through the grid and many cannot afford to install solar panels. Community Choice Energy creates a new option to increase renewable energy on the grid. With Community Choice Energy, a city or county controls the purchasing and potentially the actual production of electricity that is distributed to local residents and businesses.

California State law AB 117 permits cities and counties to create a bulk purchasing pool from the electric loads of residents, businesses and municipal customers for buying electricity. Each consumer is automatically enrolled in the local Community Choice program, but is given the option to continue to receive power from the utility company. The city or county works with an Electric Service Provider to keep prices competitive while investing in renewable energy with full citizen oversight. The utility company continues to handle transmis-

sion and billing in an efficient public-private partnership.

In January 2007, the San Joaquin Valley Power Authority (representing 11 cities and one county) became the first Community Choice program to be certified in the State of California. Although their implementation had been hampered by an onslaught of obstacles created by PG&E, they are proceeding and now planning to begin delivering power in the first quarter of 2009. San Francisco is also working on an implementation plan for Community Choice. Marin County plans to create a new green power agency in December; this fall Marin communities will vote on whether to join.

Community Choice Energy is projected to be able to deliver larger amounts of clean, safe, local renewable energy at the same or lower prices than what PG&E charges for its mix of natural gas, hydro, and nuclear power. According to a 2005 Feasibility Report developed by Navigant Consulting, Inc. for the Oakland City Council, a fully developed Community Choice Energy program could save Oakland \$12.5 million annually, or approximately 4% of total customer electricity costs. This would potentially reduce rates for Oakland ratepayers or generate income for the city.

Oakland, Berkeley, and Emeryville are considering the formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to manage and administer a Community Choice Energy system for their cities, with the near term goal of 50% renewable energy by 2017. Berkeley's draft Climate Action Plan mentioned Community Choice Energy as a viable option for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Oakland's Mayor Dellums' Citizen Task Forces recommended implementing Community Choice. The Oil Independent Oakland by 2020 task force recommended Community Choice Energy as a key strategy for advancing local clean energy, creating meaningful green jobs, and making the city more resilient.

But the incumbent utility, PG&E, has aggressively fought Community Choice in every jurisdiction that has pursued it and is now waging a campaign to create fear and doubt among city councilors in Marin and the East Bay. Despite a growing body of evidence to the contrary, PG&E continues to tell our elected representatives that Community Choice is "too risky, too costly" when the largest risks and costs are remaining with their mostly fossil fuel and nuclear powered energy system. They continue touting their shareholder-driven perspective in public forums as well as in private one-on-one meetings with city officials.

### Take Action

The Local Clean Energy Alliance of the East Bay is a growing coalition of local nonprofits, businesses, and community leaders working for a clean energy future in the East Bay. The alliance's long-term goal is for the East Bay to meet 100% of its future energy needs with a balanced mix of renewable energy, improvements in efficiency, and conservation. The interim goal is 50% renewable energy by 2017. These goals can only be met with Community Choice Energy and the alliance needs your help to stave off PG&E's increasingly desperate attempts to control our energy future.

If you would like to get involved, the first thing is to call your city councilor and tell them you want clean, renewable energy and Community Choice Energy. Second, join us at monthly Local Clean Energy Alliance meetings; we will work with you to spread the word about Community Choice, renewable energy, and green jobs in your neighborhood. For more information, visit <http://localcleanenergy.org> or call (510) 834-0420.

by David Room (David is the coordinator of the Local Clean Energy Alliance and a founding board member of Bay Localize.)

Green Party of Alameda County  
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## Green Voter Card

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

### Federal Offices

President/Vice President—Dual Endorsement:  
 Cynthia McKinney/Rosa Clemente and Ralph Nader/Matt Gonzalez  
 U.S. Representative, District 9 -- No Endorsement, see write-up  
 U.S. Representative, District 10 -- Eugene Ruyale

### State Offices

State Senate, District 9 -- Marsha Feinland  
 State Assembly, District 14 -- No Endorsement, see write-up  
 State Assembly, District 16 -- No Endorsement, see write-up

### Judicial Offices

Superior Court Judge, Seat 9 -- Dennis Hayashi

### Special School Districts

Peralta Community College, Area 2 -- Marlon McWilson

### City Offices

**Alameda**  
 City Council—Only vote for Doug deHaan  
 School Board—Janet Gibson & Niel Tam; also Ron Mooney, with reservations

### Albany

City Council—Ellen Toomey & Robert Lieber; also, Leo Panian with reservations, & Nick Pilch, with reservations  
 School Board—Patricia Low; also Ron Rosenbaum, with reservations

### Berkeley

Mayor—Kahill Jacobs-Fantauzzi, WRITE-IN  
 City Council, District 2 -- No Endorsement, see write-up  
 City Council, District 3 -- Max Anderson, with reservations  
 City Council, District 4 -- Jesse Arraguin  
 City Council, District 5 -- Sophie Hahn, with reservations  
 City Council, District 6 -- Phoebe Anne Sorgen, with reservations  
 School Board - Only vote for John Selawsky  
 Rent Stabilization Board—"Progressive slate"; Nicole Drake, Jack Harrison, Judy Shelton, Jesse Townley, and Igor Tregub

### Oakland

City Council, At-Large—No Endorsement, see write-up

### Special Districts

A.C. Transit, At-Large—Joyce Roy  
 A.C. Transit, Ward 2 -- Greg Harper, with reservations  
 BART, Ward 3 -- Bob Franklin (please see write-up)  
 BART, Ward 5 -- No Endorsement, see write-up  
 BART, Ward 7 -- No Endorsement, see write-up  
 East Bay MUD, Ward 5 -- Doug Linney

East Bay MUD, Ward 6 -- Bob Feinbaum, with reservations  
 East Bay Park District, Ward 1 -- Norman LaForce, with reservations

### State Propositions

1A—High Speed Rail Bond—No, with regrets  
 2 -- Treatment of Farm Animals—Yes  
 3 -- \$2 Billion Children's Hospital Bond—No  
 4 -- Parental Notification for Under-18 Abortions—No  
 5 -- Nonviolent Offenders Sentencing and Rehabilitation—Yes  
 6 -- Anti-Gang Penalties (Rummer initiative) -- No, No, No!  
 7 -- Renewable Energy Requirements for Utilities—No, with regrets  
 8 -- Same-Sex Marriage Ban—No, No, No!  
 9 -- Victims' Rights, Reduction of Parole Hearings—No  
 10 -- Alternative Fuel Vehicles & Renewable Energy Bond—No  
 11 -- Redistricting—No  
 12 -- Veterans' Bond—Yes, with standard bond reservations

### Local Measures

N—Oakland Outstanding Teachers Deception and Division Act—No  
 O—Alameda Raising Real Estate Transfer Tax—No  
 O—Alameda Removal of "Obsoltescent" Charter Language—No  
 R—Alameda Contracts in Writing—Yes  
 S—Alameda Removal of Competitive Bidding in Emergencies—No  
 T—Alameda City Office Hours—Yes  
 U—Alameda Auditor Requirements—No endorsement, see write-up  
 V—Alameda Treasurer Requirements—No endorsement, see write-up  
 W—Alameda Public Utilities Board—No endorsement, see write-up  
 X—Alameda Removal of Historical Advisory Board Members—No  
 Y—Albany Directly-Elected Mayor (Sections 2.01, etc.) -- Yes  
 Z—Albany Appointee Terms (Section 3.23) -- Yes  
 AA—Albany Contract Bids (Section 4.03) -- Yes  
 BB—Albany Council Compensation (Sections 2.01 & 2.08) -- Yes  
 CC—Albany Meeting Start Times (Section 2.04) -- Yes  
 DD—Albany Real Property Transfer Tax Increase (Chapter 4.5) -- No  
 EE—Albany Paramedic, Fire, etc. Tax Increase (Chapter 4.8) -- Yes, with reservations  
 FF—Berkeley Library Bond—Yes, with standard bond reservations  
 GG—Berkeley Fire, Emergency Medical, & Disaster Preparedness Tax—Yes  
 HH—Berkeley Appropriation Limit Increase—Yes  
 II—Berkeley Redistricting Timelines—Yes  
 JJ—Berkeley Medical Marijuana—Yes, with reservations  
 KK—Berkeley Voter Approval of Transit Lanes (BRT) -- No endorsement, see write-up  
 LL—Berkeley Repeal of Landmarks Preservation Ordinance—No, No, No!  
 NN—Oakland Police Services Expansion—No  
 OO—Oakland Kids First Act—No endorsement, see write-up  
 VV—AC Transit Special Parcel Tax—Yes, with reservations  
 WW—Extension of Existing East Bay Park Bond—Yes, with standard bond reservations

# GREEN

## Voter guide

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

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social justice • ecological wisdom • feminism



decentralization • community based economics



global responsibility • grass roots democracy



nonviolence • future focus • respect for diversity



for the thinking voter