

GREEN voter guide

Election Day: June 5, 2012

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

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**Primary Election
June 5, 2012**

President: Green Party primary Jill Stein, Roseanne Barr, Kent Mesplay

In 2012, two Green Party presidential candidates have secured key endorsements: one by world-renowned MIT professor, historian and activist, Professor Noam Chomsky, and another by NORML, the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws. The breadth of these endorsements has a simple premise: all different types agree on the core values of the Green Party: peace, social justice, immigrant rights, climate change solutions, protecting the environment, respecting diversity, ending corporate personhood, Single Payer healthcare, and so forth.

And as these basic values disappear under the control of the two corporate-owned parties – who are busy selling-out a misinformed US public to a profit-driven corporate agenda for short-term political gains – an increasingly diverse pool of candidates are seeking out the Green Party to join and partner with to make change. Each of our 2012 candidates, **Jill Stein**, **Roseanne Barr** and **Kent Mesplay**, support the Ten Key values that embody the basic rights that most people already agree on, and each has special strengths that make their campaigns unique.

Jill Stein

Central to Dr. Jill Stein's candidacy is the Green New Deal for America.

The Green New Deal is essentially a plan for a renewables revolution – an emergency four-part program of specific solutions to create thousands of green-collar jobs, end unemployment and rein in the extremist power of the

U.S. Senate Marsha Feinland

DON'T VOTE FOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN

It is hard to imagine a more reactionary corporate Democrat than the current senior Senator from California, Dianne Feinstein. She exemplifies power as it is now wielded in the higher circles of a violent and ruthless plutocratic system hiding behind a democratic façade. Feinstein's politics are characterized by the gradual destruction of whatever remnants of democracy still exist in our country; full support for militarism, imperialism and criminal wars; and the destruction of life giving ecologies by big corporations and their political allies.

Democracy vs. Plutocracy

In the struggle now being fought by people all over the world for their democratic rights in the workplace and daily life as well as for direct representation in society's larger political and economic decisions, Feinstein has always been on the wrong side of the struggle. She and her husband, the finance capitalist Richard C. Blum, are extremely wealthy, own six different homes, an entire hotel and a private jet

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State Senate, District 9 Mary McIlroy (write-in)

Incumbent Democrat Loni Hancock is the only candidate on the ballot, but Mary McIlroy, of the Peace and Freedom Party, is running as a write-in candidate. Although Hancock has been relatively good on certain state issues, such as education and campaign finance reform, she has had a very poor record on many local issues, such as supporting Gordon Wozniak for Berkeley City Council, and endorsing 2010's Measure R. (For more info on those, please see our write-up on State Assembly, District 15). In addition, despite representing one of the most environmentally-conscious areas in California, Hancock has regrettably had a very mixed record on environmental issues. We are, for example, very disappointed with her lack of leadership in the fight to prevent the 2008 proposed aerial spraying of the Bay Area with pesticides for the light brown apple moth.

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finance sector.

Speaking on the Thom Hartmann show in February on RT (Russia Today), Jill stated: "Securing the Green New Deal depends not on me or the Green Party or some professional politician we see on television. It depends on all of us standing up and declaring that we've had enough of the insider-run big money politics that rules Washington."

Jill's Green New Deal includes a 50 percent reduction in military spending, the withdrawal of U.S. military bases from the over 140 countries in which our military is now located, and the restoration of the National Guard as the centerpiece of our system of national defense. And as Jill states, "This change will never come from the top. It never ever comes from the career politicians or the powerful Washington lobbyists. Real change has to come from the grassroots."

Jill has run several strong campaigns in her home state of Massachusetts – in 2002 and 2010 she ran for Governor of Massachusetts and in 2003 she received 21.3 percent of the vote in a race for the Massachusetts House of Representatives. In 2011 she became active in the Occupy movement in Boston and has visited camps all over the country. Jill is a 1979 graduate of Harvard Medical School. She serves on the boards of Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and MassVoters for Fair Elections, and has been active with the Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Communities.

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Superior Court Judge, Seat 20 Tara Flanagan

The three candidates in this judicial election are Tara Flanagan, Andrew Wiener, and Catherine Haley. While both Flanagan and Wiener are clearly qualified, we endorse Flanagan.

Tara Flanagan (www.taraflanaganforjudge.com) has a broad range of experience, in criminal, civil, and family law matters, and has a long history of work on behalf of domestic violence victims. Both Wiener and Flanagan have significant endorsements, although Flanagan may have an edge in this area. Currently only 30 percent of local Superior Court Judges are women, so as a woman and a lesbian, Flanagan would add significant diversity to the Court. In addition, Flanagan's answers to our questionnaire were a bit more thoughtful and detailed than Wiener's answers. Finally, Flanagan appears to have provided more pro bono services than Wiener, while also having a significant amount of community involvement. Accordingly, we endorse Tara Flanagan for Superior Court Judge.

Haley acknowledged receiving our questionnaire and later told us she would try to complete it, but she did not return it during the 12 days we had allotted, and her campaign website (www.ElectHaleyJudge.org) was not functioning at the time this article was prepared, over 3 weeks after she had filed for the seat. Because her campaign does not seem to really be ready for prime time, and because details regarding the scope of her experience and community involvement were simply not available, we do not endorse Haley.

Andrew Wiener (www.electandrewwiener.com) has extensive litigation experience, primarily in civil litigation, and he has demonstrated community involvement through his work on the Oakland Public Ethics Committee and as an arbitrator for homeless shelters. Based on his answers to our questionnaire and his campaign website, we do not have any serious concerns with Wiener. Nevertheless, as explained above, we must give an edge to Tara Flanagan.

State Assembly, District 18 No endorsement

This race, among few competitive elections in Alameda County, is taking place because current Assemblymember Sandra Swanson cannot run again after 3 terms (6 years) in the California Assembly. Vying for this seat, which covers Alameda, San Leandro, and most of Oakland, are three liberal democrats – Rob Bonta, Abel Guillén, and Joel Young – and a Republican, Rhonda Weber. As a result of Proposition 14, passed in 2010, the top two vote getters in the June 2012 primary, regardless of party affiliation, will run against each other in the November 2012 general election. (See article in this Voter Guide about the legal challenge to Prop 14, page 8)

The Democratic candidates have much in common. All are men of color from working class backgrounds. All attended college and attained graduate school degrees. All currently hold local elective office. In their responses to the Green questionnaires, all supported restoring funding for the state's schools and colleges, a single payer health program, taxing the rich, developing jobs, getting money out of politics, and shifting spending from the military to human needs.

The Green Party does not endorse Democrats or Republicans in partisan races. But here is information about each candidate.

Rob Bonta (www.robbona.com) was elected to the Alameda City Council in 2010, his first elected office. He serves as Vice Mayor. He is "running for state assembly to continue the commitment to public service and the struggle for social justice and progress that my parents were a part of" when they were farm worker organizers with the United Farm Workers and worked directly with Cesar Chavez.

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Proposition 28 - Yes, with reservations Changes to term limits

Proposition 28 reduces the number of years persons elected after June 5, 2012 can serve in the Legislature from 14 years to 12 years total in a lifetime. At the same time it increases the number of years persons can serve in either House (Assembly or State Senate) to a maximum of 12 years.

Proponents of Proposition 28 include the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, the Congress of California Seniors, the Democratic Party, and Dan Schnur, Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission. Opponents include U.S. Term Limits, Parents In Charge, the National Tax Limitation Committee, and Americans for Prosperity.

The virtue of this proposition is that it is a small change for the better. It is a tacit admission that term limits, which went into effect in November 1990, have been a fiasco for public policy. (The effect of term limits has been strengthening the hand of corporate lobbyists in dealing with a revolving door of legislators.) But we have two reservations. First, this is a very small improvement. It will not undo the damage done by term limits. (We are totally opposed to term limits. Term limits are an assault on the process of democracy, in which the voters decide whom they want to represent them.) Second, this measure does not address the real problems of the Legislature; the lack of responsiveness to the 99 percent caused by the exclusive dominance by the two corporate parties. As Ralph Nader says, "We need more voices and choices." To this end, in the short term, we propose ranked choice voting, as is now used for city council elections in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro. In the longer term, we favor moving to a system of proportional representation, as is now used in most countries in the world, including Japan, Brazil, Venezuela, and in almost all European nations.

The Green Party's position on Proposition 28 therefore is: "Yes (with reservations)."

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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 7,000 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, and 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.wordpress.com

Email lists: To join a discussion of issues and events with other active Greens, send an email to:

GreenPartyofAlamedaCounty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

(all one word, no spaces, but a dash between County-subscribe). To get occasional announcements about current Green Party of Alameda County activities send an email to: announcementsGPAC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Locals:

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

Berkeley Greens: We will start meeting again during the Summer, to get ready for the November election campaign. To join our email list, and for more information, contact: <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/berkeleygreens>; (510) 644-2293

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: We are preparing for the November election, where we will be running at least 4 candidates. For more details, please see the full-page "We're the Oakland Green Party" article in this voter guide. For additional info, please see our website, YahooGroup, or telephone us: www.OaklandGreens.org; <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens>; (510) 866-7488

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

Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: Peter Allen, Jan Arnold, Victoria Ashley, Bill Balderston, Paul Burton (page layout), Maxine Daniel, Conor Dixon, Mike Donaldson, Dave Heller, Greg Jan, Preston Jordan, Gretchen Lipow, Don Macleay, Bob Marsh, Patti Marsh, Jonathan Nack, Michael Rubin, John Selawsky, Larry Shoup, Joan Strasser, Laura Wells, and Nan Wishner.

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). 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 percent 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 percent 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

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

(510) 644-2293 • www.acgreens.wordpress.com



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.

State Assembly, State Senate

State Assembly

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Dolores Huerta, Philip Vera Cruz and Pete Velasco in La Paz. If all we knew about Rob Bonta came from his campaign literature (including his very thorough answers to our questionnaire) he would sound good. But with all due respect to Bonta's parents, there is a disconnect between Bonta's stated ideals and his recent political practice.

Bonta's "Key Endorsements" (his term) include Don Perata, who arranged for the legislative action allowing the very large Oak-to-Ninth development to be approved by the Oakland City Council in 2006, although thousands of units of residential housing is not a proper use of waterfront property under the "Tidelands Trust" law.

The biggest, most significant fight that Alameda recently experienced was that of the attempted land grab of 450 acres of Alameda Point (formerly the Naval Air Station) by SunCal, backed by a major Wall Street hedge fund. Because their plan involved over 4,000 residential units, a citizens' vote was required. The progressive community successfully organized to defeat this plan and did so by an 85 percent to 15 percent vote. While Mr. Bonta claimed, AFTER the election, that he was opposed to the SunCal plan, he did at no time take a public position against the plan during the campaign. Bonta was closely identified with council members who supported the SunCal plan and was perceived to be in that camp.

On his questionnaire Bonta assumes development at Alameda Point will lead to "creation of thousands of jobs and massive revitalization," which sounds like he expects a future similar to the one already rejected by Alameda's voters. In his comments on environmental concerns he again speaks of Alameda Point cleanup and development. Bonta considers climate change "the most pressing long term environmental challenge we will confront," which seems incompatible with a business-as-usual large development a few feet above current sea level on Alameda Point.

Citizens soundly rejected high density on the Point for good reasons. Alameda is an island with limited access. When Alameda residents asked the City Council to sponsor an initiative protecting all public parks from swaps or sales without voter approval, the Council—including Bonta—refused. So the community rallied to place an initiative on the ballot, gathering many signatures beyond the required number for ballot qualification.

In several places Bonta writes long and strong support of public schools, but his endorsement list does not include either of the state teachers' unions, the California Federation of Teachers and California Teachers Association, which went to Guillén.

Bonta seems to be treating his short period as a City of Alameda politician as a stepping stone to higher office.

Abel Guillén (<http://abelforassembly.com>), a Peralta Community College District Trustee for the past 5 years, is especially familiar with public education issues. In addition, he works in the field of school finance, assisting local districts to raise funds to build and renovate schools and colleges.

In his responses to our questionnaire, Guillén focused on improving our education system as one of the state's greatest challenges and the best thing we can do for the future of our state: education has transformative power of education, is the foundation of strong communities and a vibrant economy, is a source of opportunity for everyone, is on the frontline of preparing individuals for good jobs (especially in growing sectors like high-tech and green business), is the key to our economic development, and enables California and the East Bay to compete in the global economy.

On March 5th of this year, Guillén marched in Sacramento with 10,000 students, faculty, staff, and community members to demand that the state fully fund education and human services.

Regarding the environment, Guillén emphasizes (1) environmental health, especially air pollution affecting low-income and minority communities; (2) in-fill neighborhood development including affordable housing that is close to services and transit and is walkable and bike-friendly; and (3) green jobs focused on resource sustainability and renewable energy, residential/commercial energy efficiencies, green building, reducing the waste stream and reducing unemployment.

As a Peralta Trustee, Guillén has supported valuable programs for students, especially an inexpensive bus pass in cooperation with AC transit, and Peralta's new Health and Wellness Center. He also supported Peralta Board resolutions to endorse SB810 (California single payer legislation), the California Dream Act, and the Millionaires Tax.

Guillén has worked, with some success, to overcome years of mismanagement and waste by Peralta's adminis-

tration and Board, to bring accountability and transparency to its finances, and to end fraud and abuse. There has been progress, but the Peralta Board has a long way to go, as evidenced in the write up of Peralta's proposed Parcel Tax Measure B (see page 5).

Guillén endorses include the Sierra Club, California Federation of Teachers, California Nurses Association, California Teachers Association, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, local elected and former elected officials, and community members.

Joel Young (<http://youngforassembly.com>), currently the AC Transit Director-at-Large, is deeply concerned about "improving the prospects of Latino and African American males Right now, a Latino or African American male who goes through the Oakland Unified School District has a better chance of ending up in prison than of going to college. That must change."

Young said "At AC Transit, I have worked to create jobs and more revenue for the agency by supporting a "Buy America" resolution that will redirect millions to businesses in California, and by increasing opportunities for small, local, and emerging businesses to contract with the agency. I've led numerous initiatives, including the Freedom Bus Project, which increases awareness of public transportation among young people and educates everyone about the link between public transit and the civil rights movement."

The accomplishment he is most proud of is "moving one of AC Transit's bus contracts from a Belgian company to a unionized Hayward company." While we are pleased with this decision, it's not clear (from the news stories) why Young takes the credit. Transit activists also say that Young voted with the majority of the Board on this decision, but did not lead.

Young's major strategy for creating jobs is to count on business to do so when public money comes their way. In the State Assembly, Young plans to "require the State to contract with California businesses whenever possible."

Young was part of the majority on the AC Transit Board voting to raise fares in May 2011, part of a plan to continue raising fares several times in the next ten years. However, activists got the Board to pass some changes to the plan (which was proposed by staff). Instead of automatic raises, each change will come back to the Board for a vote.

Young proposed a motion suggested by activists and passed by the Board to direct staff to work toward increasing the number of Clipper cash-reloading sites where bus riders live and travel in the East Bay. This is part of a plan to move toward a more generous transfer policy in the future.

Transit activists that we spoke to report that Young is willing to meet with them, and sometimes to introduce a small improvement as noted above, but does not provide strong leadership overall ("warms the chair" was one description). Young has been somewhat disappointing as an AC Transit Board member, and does not seem to be the best choice for State Assembly.

Each of the three Democratic Party candidates is endorsed by various elected officials, business organizations, and unions. But according to The East Bay Blog (on the East Bay Express website) of March 15, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which had endorsed all three Democrats, withdrew its earlier endorsement of Joel Young "for using the union's confidential questionnaire against his two opponents, according to a source with direct knowledge of the union's deliberations." "Two sources with knowledge of Young's transgression say he used the questionnaires to specifically illustrate how "liberal" his opponent, Guillén, was in contrast to his own positions. Young, according to one of the sources, is attempting to appeal to moderates in the district by labeling himself a "business democrat."

Rhonda Weber (no website) did not respond to our questionnaire

State Assembly, District 15 No Endorsement

Democrat Nancy Skinner is running for re-election and is the only candidate on the ballot. Following the re-districting process, the new 15th district is generally similar to the old 14th district, as it still includes the former core areas of Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, and parts of north Oakland, with Piedmont and Hercules now being added to the district, and the areas in central Contra Costa county being removed.

Nancy Skinner has been a relatively strong progressive voice in Sacramento, where she has championed health care and other issues. Unfortunately, she has been locally less than progressive and independent; as part of the Bates/

Hancock machine, Skinner has been terrible on Berkeley's land use and development issues, and in 2010 she endorsed incumbent Gordon Wozniak for City Council over two far more progressive candidates. Skinner even contributed to preventing the Berkeley Bowl from becoming unionized.

We were also particularly disappointed that she actively participated in the 2009 campaign against the Berkeley downtown plan referendum, where Greens and other progressives were successful (at that time) in halting the city council's ill-conceived scheme for the center of Berkeley. In 2010 she then supported Measure R, which significantly raised downtown building heights, undermined landmark protections, and failed to contain any requirements to build affordable housing downtown, provide open space, or mitigate impacts on the neighborhoods adjacent to downtown.

Unfortunately, District 15's progressives were not able to find a candidate to run against Skinner this year, so (excepting only a miraculous write-in campaign), she will undoubtedly be re-elected. Obviously though, we do not recommend that you vote for her.

State Senate

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Several other state legislators, including Sandre Swanson of Oakland, Mark Leno of San Francisco, and Jared Huffman of Marin county, were vocal critics of the proposed spray and introduced and fought for stronger bills to stop it than the bill Hancock introduced late in the game and did little to promote.

Hancock also continues to stick with a party that is clearly owned and controlled by the same corporate and wealthy elite that also runs the Republicans. 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, capitalist, and corporate issues, or be removed. That is why endorsing Democratic Party candidates in partisan races is unacceptable to the Green Party, and why we continue to work for electoral reforms such as instant runoff voting (ranked choice voting), public campaign financing, and proportional representation as the best means of gaining more democratic choice in our county, state, and country.

The Peace and Freedom Party's Mary McIlroy has decided to challenge Hancock as a write-in candidate. McIlroy has been a political activist pretty much all her life, as her parents took her to her first demonstration (against the Viet Nam war) when she was seven. She's been registered Peace and Freedom for 25 years, and served on the County Central Committees in San Francisco and Contra Costa. She's currently the co-chair for the Contra Costa County Central Committee. She did Irish solidarity work for a number of years, including for political prisoners. She's been active in Occupy Richmond, and worked on the recent Occupy Earth Day in Richmond, which demanded that Chevron clean up its act and drop the lawsuits against Richmond and Contra Costa County.

McIlroy believes we need more than one candidate in a race, and that the California Senate is an important office. She says that if elected she will be an activist senator who will bring the people in to demand the changes we need. She advocates for taxing the rich, including a 25 percent oil severance tax, taxing millionaires at a higher rate, and a split-roll reform of Prop. 13 which would protect homeowners but require businesses and corporations to pay their share. She believes that we need a state bank, and that the requirement for the state legislature to pass taxes should be lowered to a simple majority. She pushes for rolling back fee increases at our community colleges, CSUs and UCs and rolling back pay increases for executives of these systems. McIlroy feels that ultimately we need a mass movement for free education at all levels and says that she will work to increase funding for education at all levels, from pre-school through university. She advocates for protecting and expanding our social safety net, supports universal health care, and would work to repeal Costa-Hawkins and for state-wide rent control. McIlroy believes we need environmental controls with teeth, not cap-in-trade.

Join us in opposing the status-quo Democratic Party candidates and write-in Mary McIlroy for State Senate. In order to have your write-in vote count, in addition to writing in Mary McIlroy's name, please be sure to "connect the arrow" by the write-in space on your ballot.

County Supervisor, County School Board

County Supervisor, District 4 No Endorsement

Incumbent Supervisor Nate Miley represents the residents of Alameda County's Fourth Supervisor District. Since the recent redistricting this diverse district includes portions of Oakland, from Montclair in the north to Oracle Arena and the Coliseum area in the south, and the communities of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, El Portal Ridge, Fairmount Terrace, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and Pleasanton.

In the one-party county that Alameda has become, the public rarely gets to see incumbent Democrats called upon to publicly answer for their official behavior. Nate Miley (www.MileyforSupervisor.com), the current supervisor, is now up for his 4th term, and he has a challenger this year, a political newcomer named Tojo Thomas.

Miley has made some good contributions as Supervisor. He successfully promoted Measure A that brought additional funding to Alameda's health care system (via a sales tax increase), has advocated administrative measures to prevent violence, helped organize seniors and worked to bring county services to Castro Valley.

Among more recent accomplishments in the past few years, Alameda County has spent more than \$37 million – much of it redevelopment funds – on the unincorporated city tucked in the hills between Hayward and Pleasanton. The latest expenditure is a \$1.7 million solar energy system for the new library, unveiled amid much fanfare. The 880-panel solar system makes Castro Valley's library the greenest in the Bay Area, with all of its electricity coming from the sun. The spacious, airy library won the highest ranking from the U.S. Green Building Council. Thanks to a county spending spree, Castro Valley is morphing into a town where people might actually want to stop, stroll around and even stay for a while.

However, we don't feel that Miley has done enough to help the overall county find the money necessary to maintain and improve county services, particularly in these economically difficult times. As we wrote four years ago, relocation of organic family farms and green industrial production, instituting a local currency, and looking for new methods of corporate taxation are some promising ideas which he could have pursued during his term in office. We also haven't seen any real progress in becoming more of an environmental advocate since the vague responses he gave four years ago concerning the impending pesticide spraying to eradicate the light brown apple moth.

Tojo Thomas (www.Tojo2012.com), a probation officer from Fairview, is seeking to oust Nate Miley for the seat. But Thomas, who is running as an independent, is a political newcomer. Mr. Thomas cites his concern for public safety and better schools in his decision to seek the Supervisor seat. In an interview in the *Contra Costa*

Times, www.contracostatimes.com/politics-government/ci_20217489/deputy-probation-officer-tojo-thomas-challenges-incumbent-supervisor, he indicates his concern regarding the effects of State Assembly Bill 109 signed into law by Governor Brown in March 2011.

The bill releases prisoners deemed non-violent, non-serious and non-sexual offenders back into the community. In light of the cuts to public safety programs, Thomas is concerned about the conditions of additional workloads to already overloaded staff and the lack of training and equipment of the probation department.

He is also in favor of better schools and safer streets. His platform regarding improved education is statement that he will fight for "excellent teachers." Yet the County Board of Supervisors has essentially zero authority over education.

Thomas's platform seems to be focused on more law enforcement officers on the streets and wants a more detailed prison realignment regarding the transferring of felons to county supervision. He does seem a little fuzzy about how to translate his platform into policy for the district, and again, the County Board of Supervisors has no direct authority over law enforcement in the county, that being the shared jurisdiction of the Sheriff's department and the police departments of Alameda County's 14 incorporated cities.

Thomas also neglects to address many vital responsibilities of the Supervisors such as health care (including the county medical center), the Registrar of Voters office, and the many social services, from Public Assistance, to In-Home Support, to Child Protective Services. In sum, Thomas' understanding of the job of the Board of Supervisors is woefully deficient, so we can not endorse him.

The District 4 area needs a capable and pro-active Supervisor on the Board, but unfortunately this is not the year when they'll be able to elect one. So if you know of any resident in the district who might make a good Supervisor, we urge you to talk with them about running for this seat in 2016.

County Supervisor, District 5 No Endorsement

Incumbent supervisor Keith Carson is once again running unopposed. While he's done a reasonably good job in the past, and more recently with a handful of issues such as the county's Transportation Expenditure Plan, we feel that overall, during the past several years he hasn't really made use of his office to be a strong, outspoken leader for progressive change. After all, he does represent the most consistently radical part of Alameda County (Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and North and West Oakland).

A number of important county functions continue to be managed very poorly, such as Family Court and Child

Protective Services. These, and also other programs, should receive regular reviews and audits so they can be overhauled to provide the highest level of quality possible.

Our local elected officials need to be pushing hard for the major changes we need to move society in a more positive and progressive direction. Carson has become too complacent about the many problems in our county -- at times he even sounds like an apologist, such as when he has informed us about the likelihood of upcoming budget cutbacks.

For the reasons cited above, we are not able to give Carson our endorsement, and we will be watching to see if he can transform himself to become a pro-active leader, which we so sorely need in these increasingly difficult times.

County School Board, Area 4 Geraldine Sonobe

Two candidates are running for this seat: Aisha Knowles and Geraldine Sonobe. Sonobe (www.Geraldine2012.com) has been very involved in education at the site level, as was obvious from her responses to our questionnaire. She was also active with her local teacher's union, the Oakland Education Association. Overall, her questionnaire responses were impressive in terms of her educational experience, her work with young people, and her knowledge of the programs and role of the County Office.

However, she is obviously somewhat of a newcomer in politics and as of late March (the deadline to return our questionnaire), she had not yet solicited endorsements or begun fundraising.

Sonobe's opponent, Aisha Knowles (www.AishaKnowles.com) had difficulty in returning our questionnaire. We give all candidates a week to complete it, but it took repeated communications with Knowles before she finally returned it to us an additional week after our deadline had past. Unfortunately, nothing in her responses indicates any real knowledge of key public educational issues and she had only a meager awareness of the role that the County Office can play in regards to budgets and resources.

She may have some reasonable ideas on safety and infrastructure, but that is not sufficient. Her big claim is for communication with the community, which was vague. Although she does have considerable support among Democratic Party office holders as well as the Alameda County Central Labor Council; she appears more like someone who wishes to build a resume for higher office.

Our stance is that Sonobe's impressive educational experience and knowledge definitely outweigh Knowles' political connections and campaign war chest. Vote for Geraldine Sonobe.

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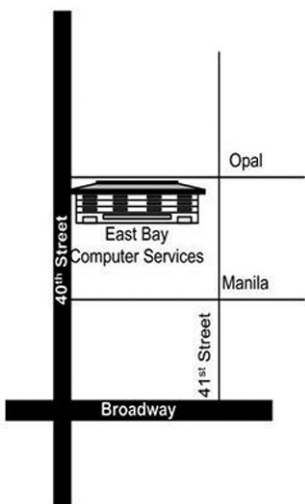
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Local Measures

Peralta Community College District Measure B No Endorsement Parcel Tax

The text of the measure, and also the “Pro” argument, (as we go to print in mid-April), are on the County Registrar of Voters website, www.acgov.org/rov/documents/2012-06-05MeasureB.pdf. (No opposition argument was submitted, so the “official voter pamphlet” will only contain the “Pro” argument).

The Trustees of the Peralta Community College District have once again submitted a ballot measure lacking in specifics. Peralta is also notorious for spending money on consultants instead of employees, for incurring cost overruns, and for lack of fiscal transparency. Peralta needs an oversight committee that represents all elements of the general and the college community to plan and monitor programs and expenditures.

Measure B is a parcel tax proposal to provide operating revenue to the Peralta Community College District. The tax would be \$48 per parcel (except parcels already exempt from taxation), and would last for eight years beginning July 1, 2012. The tax would generate about \$8 million annually for the district, funds that cannot be taken away by the state. A two-thirds vote is required to pass Measure B.

Most ballot measures put on the ballot by various jurisdictions offer estimates of where and how money will be spent. But with Measure B, Peralta is essentially asking for a blank check. The various expenditures should be quantified, to ensure that they will be used to restore classes and to offer meaningful improvement in services for a large number of students.

Measure B seeks “to protect and maintain core academic programs including math, science, and English; train students for successful careers; and prepare students for transfer to four-year universities,” but no percentages or dollar figures for direct classroom expenditures are given.

How much of the money will go to actual classroom instruction? How many classes will be restored? What classes will be offered? Will the classes serve recently graduated local high school students, the general community, students preparing for admission to state universities? Will the classes serve students unable to enroll in the state universities, or foreign and out-of-state enrollees? What about services for students – such as counseling and tutoring – which help students succeed in college?

How much of the revenue will go to classroom technology? How much to other technology? How much to other projects? How much to overhead or outside contractors? Will the money be wisely used? Measure B lacks specifics and contains no controls on spending.

Ultimately, the problem lies with the inability of the State of California, school districts, and the U.S. Government to adequately fund public education and their inability to raise sufficient money by taxing high-earning individuals and corporations. Such revenues can be tracked and monitored, should require proper plans and planning, and must include modes of accountability and control (including auditing and civil and criminal penalties).

Parcel taxes are inherently regressive, and this one is especially so. We are disappointed that this measure taxes huge industrial and commercial parcels at exactly the same amount as small residential parcels. Also, Measure B does not include a reduction or exclusion for low-income homeowners (especially for those who are seniors and on fixed incomes).

Unfortunately, like so many school districts, Peralta does need more revenue. But the stark lack of clear details in this measure, which might assure us the money will be wisely spent, is definitely a major concern. Therefore, we will also make oversight of these funds a critical issue for this November's election of Trustees to the Peralta Board. In addition, given the lack of quantified specifics and other controls in this measure, the severely regressive nature of this particular parcel tax, and Peralta's poor track record in using funds, we have concluded that we must stand aside from giving our endorsement to Measure B.

City of Alameda Measure C - No Sales Tax

It's hard to believe the city really wants this 0.5 percent (half cent) sales tax measure to succeed -- in particular, because it's for 30 years and requires a two thirds approval. Taxes are touchy subjects these days since we're anticipating one or more additional state tax propositions this fall. Careful reading of the Measure C proposed ordinance reveals that monies raised by this tax do not commit the city to any of the specific projects that have been rattled off at recent city council meetings or which are listed in the Measure C text; a new public pool, recreation and cultural facilities and rehabilitating an historic Carnegie building, and more. There are certainly lots of wonderful ways to spend the additional funds but none are guaranteed.

To make matters worse the opponents of this controversial vote (www.milkingalameda.com) somehow missed the deadline in submitting the opposing arguments and when they took this matter to court the judge ruled in favor of the city and kept the opposition argument out of the voter pamphlet. The city could have played fair ball but wouldn't, however, this just might backfire on the city. It does look rather heavy handed and manipulative. Good government practices should present both sides, but in this case the city is pushing too hard and only the pro side (www.preservingalameda.com) will be in the voter's handbook.

Talk on the street is not favorable: while people want all the needed public services there is concern that this is all about the police and firefighter pensions. In addition, because sales taxes are regressive, any measure which proposes them should be for clearly specified and numerically-allocated urgent needs, which is not the case with Measure C.

If the city really wants this tax they've done a poor job in persuading Alameda citizens to vote for it. It's very regrettable that this measure is so poorly written, but at the same time we're also disappointed that the opposition campaign missed the deadline for their argument to be included in the voter pamphlet. Weighing all of the various considerations, we find more reasons to oppose Measure C than to support it.

State Propositions

Proposition 29 - NO Tobacco Tax

If voters can get beyond the hype of “opposition to Proposition 29 is entirely funded by the tobacco companies”, we hope they will then recognize that this ballot initiative is in reality largely another example of blaming and punishing the victim. Nicotine is a drug that is addicting. Those who are unfortunate enough to smoke are currently paying 87 cents in excise tax to the state for every pack of cigarettes, accounting for 905 million dollars annually, and by adding one dollar per pack, Prop. 29 would more than double that. The same people who would pay this tax are generally people who are already suffering from the effects of tobacco. It's doubtful we can ever succeed in getting everyone to quit smoking and another tax on cigarettes and all tobacco products will only serve to put more stress and burden on those who smoke -- almost all of whom are part of the 99 percent.

Proposition 29 would create another politically-appointed bureaucratic entity to administer these funds without any real accountability. One of the most chilling things about Proposition 29 is the fact that if this tax goes into effect it has built in immunity to any changes for the next 15 years.

While it's probably true (as the proponents argue), that increasing the cost of cigarettes by about 25 percent would somewhat discourage teenagers from starting to smoke, it should be noted that only a small portion of the funds that are raised would actually go to prevent people from (or help them to stop) smoking. Instead, the bulk of the money will mostly subsidize highly paid researchers. If Prop. 29 were truly serious about helping to prevent smoking, then the bulk of the money would instead have been used for prevention programs.

Finally, voters should be aware that the notorious Don Perata (formerly leader of the State Senate) used this ballot measure as one of the main vehicles to raise money to help him (indirectly) with his 2010 campaign for Oakland Mayor. For example, in early 2010, Perata's state initiative campaign fund already had \$700,000 in its accounts and it was sharing an office with his Mayor's campaign -- and “the Don” was using some of that initiative money on consultants who were also working on his Mayoral campaign, and on mailers which publicized himself to Oakland voters, as well as on fancy hotels and meals, etc. (See: <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/ebx/the-cancer-in-the-oakland-mayors-race/Content?oid=1600133>). And after Perata lost the Mayor's race to Jean Quan, he then paid his friend, city council member Ignacio DeLaFuente, \$12,000 to be a “consultant” on the initiative campaign, etc.).

Of course, Perata calculated that it would be very un-

likely that any major group would (sympathetically) defend addicted smokers from a tax increase on tobacco, and that (probably) only tobacco companies would contribute much money to defeat it (which so far is the case), so for the solid majority of voters, the “politically correct” position is likely going to be to approve this proposition. Nevertheless, as we explain above, there simply are too many problems with this proposition to support it -- from its gross lack of consideration for the plight of existing smokers, to the corrupt use of the money raised to qualify the initiative, to its failure to use the bulk of the money raised for smoking prevention and cessation programs. California's existing addicted smokers should be viewed as a “disadvantaged minority”, yet proposition 29 shows no compassion at all for their situation and is instead essentially 100 percent punishment. Vote “No” on Proposition 29.



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United States Congress

U.S. Senator

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for their own exclusive use. She could fund her own campaigns for public office, but instead takes large donations from dozens of the biggest corporations. We need public financing of elections, instant runoff and proportional representation to begin to break the stranglehold of the 1 percent, but Feinstein opposes all of them. She favors the continued corporate domination of politics.

As head of the Senate's Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee from 2001-2007, Feinstein illustrated the corrupt nature of high-level politics today by supporting the appropriation of over \$1.5 billion to two military contractors, URS Corporation and Perini Corporation, both companies that her husband, Richard Blum, had a controlling interest in. When her actions were exposed, she quietly resigned from the subcommittee, and of course, there was no investigation by the Senate's "ethics" committee, chaired by Feinstein's friend, Barbara Boxer, who accepts rides to California on Feinstein's personal jet.

Feinstein also supports the relentless elimination of the civil liberties of the people while corporations are given more and more rights. Even the *SF Chronicle*, generally a big supporter of Feinstein, recognized that she was one of the "biggest cheerleaders" for renewing Bush's PATRIOT Act, adding that it went "too far" in "erasing bedrock guarantees" of the Constitution.

Militarism, Imperialism and War

A member of two capitalist class imperialist private policy making bodies, the Council on Foreign Relations and Trilateral Commission, Feinstein has never seen a war she did not like. During her tenure in the Senate, she has voted for every war possible. She never questions the need for yet another bombing campaign or invasion and occupation of some poor and weak country that has oil or strategic location that the U.S. ruling class wants to get their hands on. Feinstein also chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, wildly approving both the appointment of General Petraeus to head the CIA and the massive use of drones to kill thousands of people, even U.S. citizens who are identified as enemies, but whose criminal guilt has not been established.

Ecological Destruction

The ongoing and accelerating global ecological crisis is alarming, and is a deeply rooted consequence of the capitalist system's production and exchange activities, for profit and accumulation. As could be expected, Feinstein and her husband's political and economic activities routinely undercut ecological needs in favor of the accumulation of more wealth and power for themselves and their favored system, capitalism. One example is Feinstein's relationship to wealthy corporate farmer Stewart Resnick, owner of over 100,000 acres of prime farmland in the San Joaquin Valley. He has written big check after big check to her political campaigns, as well as hosted her at at least two of his mansions. Over the past few decades he has also given several million dollars to the Democratic and Republican Parties and their candidates. Then, when Resnick called Feinstein in 2009 to weigh in on the side of corporate agribusiness in a drought fueled ecological dispute over water to big landowners or water for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta's ecological needs, Feinstein jumped in, pushing the agribusiness viewpoint onto two Cabinet level secretaries and calling for a sweeping review of the science to allow more water to go to Resnick and other big operators. Due largely to excessive water diversions, the Delta's ecology is in serious trouble, with fish populations in catastrophic decline. Jim Metropulos, a Sierra Club leader, representing an organization that always endorses Feinstein, and almost always backs Democrats in every election, stated that "it is very disappointing that one person can make this kind of request, and all of a sudden he has a senator on the phone, calling up (Interior Secretary) Salazar." Would it be too much to hope that the Sierra Club would learn from this and other examples and draw appropriate conclusions about Feinstein and the Democratic Party?

Blum and Feinstein also favor and work for "wilderness," she in the Senate sponsoring legislation to set aside public lands as preserves, and he as a member of the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society. One problem with their approach lies with the dualism inherent in the concept of "wilderness" as something standing outside and separate from humans. In fact, the "wilderness" areas of the world have been or still are inhabited by indigenous people, who have sometimes been exterminated by industrial society, supposedly creating "wilderness." In any case, humans are never outside of nature, our lives depend upon it, and we live as part of nature and we change nature simply by existing. The earth, nature, plants and animals including humans, must be viewed as a part of a whole, and destroying the air, water, oceans, and forests that lie outside "wilderness" will

impact, even destroy the "wilderness" as well. The nature and politics of Blum's Wilderness Society can be seen by looking at its Governing Council and one of its "corporate partners." The Governing Council is filled with the super rich like Blum and includes a member of the Getty oil family, a member of the Roosevelt family, a Rockefeller family in-law, a Texas Pacific Group private equity billionaire, an adviser to the Clinton-Gore White House and a past chairman of Recreational Equipment Company, which sells products for outdoor activities. Its leading corporate partner is Bank of America, which, for years financed mountain top removal to mine coal by Massey Energy and International Coal Group. A leader of Rainforest Action Network correctly called this a "barbaric form of resource extraction," an activity that, through the Bank of America, was profiting the Wilderness Society. Recently, under the pressure of direct action against it, the Bank of America cut back on but did not end such financing. The Blum-Feinstein-Wilderness Society approach of creating a few islands of non-development in a sea of life destroying capitalist ecocide is clearly inadequate as a strategy of ecological and human survival. What is required is for us to envision what a rational, egalitarian, life affirming economy and society would look like and struggle to bring that system into reality. The long term survival of the planet and its wonderful life forms cannot be coaxed out of a system of alienation that tramples anything and everything that gets in the way of profits and capital accumulation. This is the reality that all of us, including Blum and Feinstein, must eventually face.

VOTE FEINLAND NOT FEINSTEIN

Fortunately, the 99 percent has a good alternative to voting for a member of the 1 percent. The Peace and Freedom Party's Marsha Feinland (www.FeinlandForSenate.org) is running against Feinstein on a platform of standing up to corporate domination; ending the barbaric wars of capitalism; full employment at fair wages through social ownership and democratic control of the economy; free health care and education; full union rights and "environmental protection." Although "environmental protection" is a commonly used term, we note that the Green Party prefers the term "ecological restoration," which emphasizes the inclusion of humans and our activities as part of the ecosystem. We humans, part of the wider web of life, will also fall as a species as our web is destroyed. We must therefore work toward ecological restoration, not only protection of the environment outside ourselves. We would hope to see Feinland adopt this language, which we believe is more accurate in describing the global ecological situation.

Feinland has also previously held elective office, from 1995 to 1999, as a member of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board. She has formerly run several times for U.S. Senate, as well as for State Senate. She was a teacher for over 25 years, including three years on a Hupa Reservation in northern California. Green Party members and the wider progressive community should vote for Feinland, and participate in direct action against Feinstein and all that she represents. Although there are over 20 other U.S. Senate candidates on the ballot, Marsha Feinland is the best choice for Greens. Vote for Marsha Feinland for U.S. Senate.

U.S. Representative, District 13 No Endorsement

There are three candidates running for U.S. Representative, District 13. Barbara Lee (www.barbaraleeforcongress.com) is one of the more progressive members of Congress and has made some very courageous votes in the past, namely voting against the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Her voting record overall is pretty good. However, we have taken issue with her on some very important legislation in the past.

In 2008, she voted for the "Bailout for Billionaires" bill, giving the bankers who created our ongoing financial crisis a golden parachute from which they continue to benefit. Meanwhile, mortgage foreclosures continue to plague the struggling working class and there have only been anemic banking reforms, which will do little to nothing as a long term solution to keep corporate greed in check.

She has also voted for bloated Defense spending bills, which included over \$100 billion for the war in Afghanistan. We're happy to report that she voted against a similar bill in 2011.

She also voted for "Obamacare," which is another corporate boondoggle. Under this law, people will be forced to buy insurance from private corporations which have shown nothing but contempt for peoples' health. There are lots of reforms that need to be made to make our health care system more effective and more affordable, but this bill

will do nothing to keep the pharmaceutical and insurance companies in line. Both these industries have profits as their bottom line and this should not be part of any health care system. We would like to see at least a public option to compete with the private insurance industry.

We are also pleased that Barbara Lee has come out in favor of Instant Runoff Voting (also referred to as Ranked Choice Voting). This is a major electoral reform which can be the beginning to help level the playing field. We would like to see her support Proportional Representation, which would create multi-seat districts that would eliminate the "winner take all" single seat districts which is a leading cause of our completely dysfunctional representative government from the local to the state and federal levels.

Public financing of campaigns is another area where we need to see some action. Our "democracy" is in a crisis state. We are increasingly in a plutocratic state where the 1 percent is in complete control of our government, while the rest of us 99 percent are forced to bear the burdens of the costs of corporate greed and malfeasance. It takes too much money to run an effective campaign to challenge most of the sitting members of congress.

The Democrats and Republicans have effectively smothered any hope of a real democracy through their use of gerrymandering, big money campaign war chests and other impediments to leveling the playing field to allow third party participation in our electoral system. The passage of Proposition 14, which is an open June primary which sends the top two vote winners to the November ballot, is another giant threat to third party politics in our state.

Both the Democrats and Republicans in Congress have sat idly by while Presidents Bush and Obama have been usurping the Constitution with giant power grabs. President Obama has taken the Presidential power to murder US citizens with drone aircraft without any judicial due process. This is a very dangerous precedent which neither Barbara Lee nor the rest of Congress is doing anything about. Congress needs to reign in the Presidential powers as we are suffering the consequences of two illegal and immoral wars and our troops are being committed to conflicts like Libya with no Congressional oversight.

We the People own the airwaves. We would like to see legislation that would mandate that radio and TV stations give some free air time to ALL candidates as part of their obligation to maintain their licenses. We would also like to see her sponsor legislation that will reverse the absolutely catastrophic results of the "Citizens United" Supreme Court ruling which is making a complete mockery of democracy by granting corporations "personhood" and allowing them to spend unlimited funds supporting candidates and initiatives.

Additionally, we need to eliminate the Electoral College and have a direct election of the President. In our current system, only a handful of states actually make a difference in the outcome of a presidential campaign, so candidates come to populated states like California (which is a solid Democratic stronghold) only to raise funds, which are then spent in swing states. There is very little actual campaigning in our state, even though it is the most populated state. If we had a direct election, we would see a giant shift in how Presidential politics is run.

In the end, it is not that Barbara Lee has a horrible voting record, it's more about what she and the Democrat Party as a whole are NOT doing that gives us great pause.

Justin Jelincic (www.justinjelincic.com) is a self-described conservative Democrat who takes his political lessons from Christian Scriptures. He is a 53 year old Finance Manager and a graduate of UC Berkeley Business School.

He calls for a restoration of our rights and a return to Constitutional law, which we agree with, but he puts a lot of emphasis on Christian scriptures. As an example, he has written the Bill of Rights on his website and bolded the words "respecting an establishment of religion" while leaving the words preceding them, "Congress shall make no law..." unbolded.

He also worries that taxing the wealthy is a punishment for being successful.

Marilyn Singleton (www.singletonforcongress.org) is a graduate of Stanford, UCSF and UC Berkeley. She has degrees in both medicine and law.

Though she has no party affiliation, her politics can best be described as Libertarian. She highlights "personal responsibility, a business friendly environment and market-based solutions to social problems." She calls for deregulation and a flat tax.

Assuming Barbara Lee gets the pole position in the primary, it is difficult to say which of the other two candidates we would like to see move to the November General Election against her. They both are to the right of her politically. In any case, as we explain above, we are not able to endorse any of the candidates in this race.

President

Presidential Primary

continued from page 1

MIT Professor Noam Chomsky describes a vote for Jill as “a vote for resurgent democracy” in his endorsement for her campaign: “I hope you’ll take the opportunity . . . to cast a vote for resurgent democracy. A democracy that thrives outside of the Democratic and Republican Parties that are sponsored by and subservient to corporate America. And I hope you will consider joining me in supporting Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein – both with your vote and with a contribution to her campaign for people, peace and the planet. As you know, popular anger at the political and economic institutions, and the subordination of the former to the latter, has reached historic heights. And for sound reasons. There could hardly be a better time to open up political debate to the just anger and frustrations of citizens who are watching the country move towards what might be irreversible decline while a tiny sector of concentrated wealth and power implements policies of benefit to them and opposed by the general population, whom they are casting adrift. Jill Stein’s campaign is unifying the national Green Party, and ensuring that an urgently needed voice for democracy and justice will have a place on the ballot in the November election. Please join me in supporting Jill . . . and securing a voice for a peaceful, just green future in the presidential race.”

We couldn’t have said it better.

Roseanne Barr

Roseanne Barr comes to the Green Party with the gift of media coverage: the announcement of her presidential candidacy with the Green Party was told in over 700 news stories, in the US and internationally, in a single day. Many media organizations that regularly cover Roseanne, whose readers may never have heard of the Green Party—*Star Pulse*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *TMZ*, *PerezHilton.com*, etc.—must now cover the Green Party with Roseanne’s run for audiences that left media might never otherwise reach. The popular celebrity gossip and entertainment news company, *TMZ*, reported *NORML*’s endorsement of Roseanne’s candidacy with the statement from Allen F. St. Pierre, its executive director: “*NORML* welcomes Roseanne’s public support for ending a failed 74-year-old cannabis prohibition.”

Although entertainment news may describe Roseanne as a “comic-turned-politician,” she has actually been involved in social justice activism for decades, supporting and bringing attention to issues like women’s rights, the legalization of marijuana and same-sex marriage through her television roles. Although she did stand-up comedy for years, she is best known for her Emmy award winning role as a working class “domestic goddess,” Roseanne Conner, in her popular sitcom *Roseanne*, which ran for almost 10 years. At a time when television was dominated by lavish soaps like *Dallas* and *Falcon Crest*, about upper-middle-class and rich people, Roseanne focused on the blue-collar family. She and the show’s writers were committed to taking stories from their lives—regardless of controversy or taboo—and putting them out to millions of viewers.

In one *Roseanne* episode, Mariel Hemingway plays a lesbian who unexpectedly kisses a stunned Roseanne Conner at a local gay bar. Roseanne described what happened behind the scenes: “Oh, the lesbian kiss! ABC didn’t want to air it, but . . . We’re like, ‘We’re doing it!’” They threatened to pull it — the sponsors, this, that, and the other. At the last minute, ABC relented. I knew it was shattering all kinds of middle-class things that should be shattered. To me, it was like a big sociological victory.” As one writer summed up, “It took popular artists to push that envelope. She had the power and she used it for really good causes.”

However, most *Roseanne* fans and Greens were surprised to discover how active and aware Roseanne actually is and to see her speaking at Occupy Wall St. In her response to the Green Party US candidate questionnaire, she describes some of her views:

“The ‘two party’ system is clearly broken. The 1 percent has two political parties—Democratic and Republican—but the 99 percent only has one: The Green Party. . . The Green Party is already well-positioned as an existing party and with the right candidate, the underlying sanity of its platform can not only reach new ears, it can change both the course of conversation in America and the course of this country itself.”

And on the outsourcing of jobs by U.S. corporations: “I will rewrite labor laws so that U.S. companies are bound by them even when they try to skirt them by shipping jobs overseas. This will effectively roadblock mega-corporations from outsourcing production to countries with

immoral, inadequate and nonexistent labor laws. Our jobs will stay here in the United States of America where they belong.”

Roseanne supports ending corporate personhood:

“If it doesn’t think, breathe and bleed, it’s not human. It’s not even a dog. I will then take this one crucial step further and embrace current efforts to remove all money from our electoral process.”

In one video she describes her campaign platform as three-fold, to result in world peace within one year: Step one: make war illegal and legalize hemp; Step two: change the demographics of government (more women); and Step three: outlaw bullshit.

“After the passage of this one law,” Roseanne says, “the Patriarchy will inevitably begin to crumble, as will the concept of War itself, which is largely a large load of bullshit.”

Speaking about her presidential campaign, Roseanne states, “I do have all the answers. A lot of people hate that about me, but I do.”

Kent Mesplay

Kent Mesplay sought the Green Party nomination for president in 2004 and 2008, but lost to the better known candidates, David Cobb and Cynthia McKinney. A California resident, he holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, and has worked as an Air Quality Inspector with the Air Pollution Control District in San Diego County. And as an enforcement officer within the Compliance Division he helps ensure – through education and regulation – business compliance with local, state and federal air quality standards.

Speaking in March of 2012 on NBC San Diego’s “Politically Speaking” about ballot access barriers for third parties, Kent made an important concrete point when he described how Green Party candidates are sometimes even arrested just attempting to attend debates, a fact that average

television viewers would likely have never heard about.

Kent wants to help California become a national and international leader in areas critical to mitigating the effects of Global Climate Change. He calls for state and national energy independence based upon renewable energy (wind and solar), which will create jobs, help clean up the environment by reducing carbon in the atmosphere and improve our basic physical security by promoting decentralization of power. He notes the fact that when we meet our needs in a sustainable manner at home, we are less likely to concern ourselves with oil markets elsewhere.

Kent also advocates solutions such as single payer health insurance, ranked choice voting and publicly funded campaigns as a move away from the current system of legalized bribery in campaigning. He points out that more democracy is the best way for solving problems.

The only way that Greens can really lose as a party, Mesplay believes, is when serious candidates are not run – he is a serious candidate and believes that the Green Party is here to stay.

In California, registered Greens will vote in the Presidential Primary in June. (Proposition 14, which drastically changes the rules for the Primary, does NOT apply to the Presidential Primary.) In July, the Green Party’s Presidential Nominating Convention (in Baltimore this year) will make the decision. California’s votes in Round One will be cast in proportion to the Primary results.

Please visit each of our candidates websites for their full platform positions. We urge all Greens to participate in growing our presidential candidates’ campaigns – share their websites, offer to help, make donations.

Roseanne Barr : www.roseanneforpresident.com/

Jill Stein : www.jillstein.org/

Kent Mesplay : <http://mesplay.org/>

Democracy Not!

Unbeknownst to most voters, there are a lot of offices up for election that are not making the ballot. It has been determined for many elections that, in order to save money, if a candidate for an office has no competition, they will not be put on the ballot. People are basically being appointed to offices without any public knowledge or input.

There are 30 Superior Court Judge positions to be filled in the June primary. 29 of them will NOT be on the ballot. One of the problems with these particular races is that the legal community is an insulated community. One has to have passed the California Bar to sit as a judge and most lawyers are reticent to run against an incumbent as they may face them at the bench one day. Another problem with these races is that it’s very difficult in most cases to know whom you are voting for in these judicial races. Candidate statements all say about the same thing and it takes a lot of digging into case history to uncover a judge’s political temperament.

There are also some other more esoteric positions that most people have probably never even heard of. In this June primary, we will NOT be seeing who is running for the 3 Board of Directors seats for the Zone 7 Flood Control District, nor the 3 seats for the Union Sanitary District.

Of the 5 County Board of Education seats up for election, only 1 will be on the ballot.

It would be a healthy thing for a democracy to inform its citizens that people are running for offices without any notice. There should be a “None of the Above” (NOTA) line on the ballot to at least give the people the right to reject a candidate rather than seat them behind a cloak of saving money.

It is unfortunate that in an area as populated and diverse as Alameda County that there are any offices that go uncontested. It is even worse that people are put into positions of power without the voters being informed of the fact.

To see what offices are up for election in November, go to: www.acgov.org/rov/log.htm and near the bottom left of the page, click on “Offices Up for Election” and then click on the date of the election to see what offices are open. The nomination period for the November 6 General Election is from July 16 to August 10.

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.



The Way to Occupy a Bank is to Own One

By Ellen Brown

December 13, 2011

www.webofdebt.com/articles/the_way.php

The campaign to “move your money” has gotten a groundswell of support. Having greater impact would be to “move our money”—move our local government revenues out of Wall Street banks into our own publicly-owned banks.

Occupy Wall Street has been both criticized and applauded for not endorsing any official platform. But there are unofficial platforms, including one titled the 99% Declaration which calls for a “National General Assembly” to convene on July 4, 2012 in Philadelphia. The 99% Declaration seeks everything from reining in the corporate state to ending the Fed to eliminating censorship of the Internet. But none of these demands seems to go to the heart of what prompted Occupiers to camp out on Wall Street in the first place—a corrupt banking system that serves the 1% at the expense of the 99%. To redress that, we need a banking system that serves the 99%.

Occupy San Francisco has now endorsed a plan aimed at doing just that. In a December 1 *Wall Street Journal* article titled “Occupy Shocker: A Realistic, Actionable Idea,” David Weidner writes:

“[P]rotesters in the Bay Area, especially Occupy San Francisco, have something their East Coast neighbors don't: a realistic plan aimed at the heart of banks. The idea could be expanded nationwide to send a message to a compromised Washington and the financial industry.

“It's called a municipal bank. Simply put, it would transfer the City of San Francisco's bank accounts—about \$2 billion now spread between such banks as Bank of America Corp., UnionBanCal Corp. and Wells Fargo & Co.—into a public bank. That bank would use small local banks to lend to the community.”

The public bank concept is not new. It has been proposed before in San Francisco and has a successful 90-year track record in North Dakota. Weidner notes that the state-owned Bank of North Dakota earned taxpayers more than \$61 million last year and reported a profit of \$57 million in 2008, when Bank of America had a \$1.2 billion net loss. The San Francisco bank proposal is sponsored by city supervisor John Avalos, who has been thinking about a municipal bank for several years.

Weidner calls the proposal “the boldest institutional stroke yet against banks targeted by the Occupy movement.”

Responding to the Critics

He acknowledges that it will be an uphill climb. In a follow-up article on December 6th, Weidner wrote:

“Of course, there are critics. . . . They argue that public banks would put public money at risk. Would you be surprised to know that most of the critics are bankers?”

“That's why you don't hear them talking about the \$100 billion they lost for the California pension funds in 2008. They don't talk about the foreclosures that have wrought havoc on communities and tax revenues. They don't talk about liar loans and what kind of impact that's had on the economy, employment and the real estate market — not to mention local and state budgets.”

Risk to the taxpayers remains the chief objection of banker opponents. “There is no need for such lending,” they say. “We already provide loans to any creditworthy applicant who comes to us. Why put taxpayer money at risk, lending for every crackpot scheme that some politician wants to waste taxpayer money on?”

Tom Hagan, who pays taxes in Maine, has a response to that argument. In a December 3rd letter to the editor in the *Press Herald* (Portland), he maintained there is no need to invest public bank money in risky retail ventures. The money could be saved for infrastructure projects, at least while the public banking model is being proven. The salubrious result could be to cut local infrastructure costs in half. Making his case in conjunction with a Maine turnpike project, he wrote:

“Why does Maine pay double for turnpike improvements?”

“Improvements are funded by bonds issued by the Maine Turnpike Authority, which collects the principal amounts, then pays the bonds back with interest.

“Over time, interest payments add up to about the original principal, doubling the cost of turnpike improvements and the tolls that must be collected to pay for them. The interest money is shipped out of state to Wall Street banks.

“Why not keep the interest money here in Maine, to the benefit of all Mainers? This could be done by creating a state-owned bank. State funds now deposited in low- or no-interest checking accounts would instead be deposited in the state bank.

“Those funds would be used to buy up the authority bonds and municipal bonds issued by the Maine Bond Bank. All of them. Since all interest payments would flow into the state treasury, we would end up paying half what we now pay for our roads, bridges and schools.

“North Dakota has profited from a state-owned bank for 90 years. Why not Maine?”

The state bank could generate “bank credit” on its books, as all chartered banks are authorized to do. This credit could then be used to buy the bonds. The government's deposits would not be “spent” but would remain in the government's account, as safe as they are in Bank of America—arguably more so, since the solvency of the public bank would be guaranteed by the local government.

Critics worry about the profligate risk-taking of politicians, but the trusty civil servants at the Bank of North Dakota insist that they are not politicians; they are bankers. Unlike the Wall Street banks that had to be bailed out by the taxpayers, the Bank of North Dakota invests conservatively. It avoided the derivatives and toxic mortgage-backed securities that precipitated the credit crisis, and it helped the state avoid the crisis by partnering with local banks, helping them with capital and liquidity requirements. As a result, the state has had no bank failures in at least a decade.

With intelligent use of the ever-evolving Internet, truly effective public oversight can minimize any conyism. California's pension funds might have avoided losing \$100 billion if, instead of gambling in the Wall Street casino, they had invested in infrastructure through the state's own state bank.

The Constitutional Challenge

In Weidner's *Wall Street Journal* article, he raises another argument of opponents—that California law forbids using taxpayer money to make private loans. That, he said, would have to be changed.

The U.S. Supreme Court, however, has held otherwise. In 1920, the constitutional objection was raised in conjunction with the Bank of North Dakota and was rejected both by the Supreme Court of North Dakota and the U.S. Supreme Court. See *Green v. Frazier*, 253 U. S. 233 (1920).

A municipal bank would be doing with the public's funds only what Bank of America does now: it would be lending “bank credit” backed by the bank's capital and deposits. The difference would be that the local community, not Florida or Europe, would get the loans; and the city of San Francisco, not Bank of America, would get the profits.

California and many other states already own infrastructure banks that use the states' funds to back loans. If that use of public monies is legal, and if public funds can be deposited in Bank of America and used as the basis for loans to multi-national corporations, they can be deposited in the Bank of San Francisco and used as the basis for loans to the local community.

Better yet, they can be used to buy municipal bonds. Investing in municipal bonds would avoid the constitutional issue with “private loans” altogether, since the loans would be to local government.

Sending a Message to Wall Street

The campaign to “move your money” has gotten a groundswell of support, but move your money into what? Weidner repeats the complaint of critics that private credit unions have gotten too big and threaten commercial banking. Having greater impact would be to “move our money”—move our local government revenues out of Wall Street banks into our own publicly-owned banks, which could then generate credit for the local economy and public works.

Ellen Brown is an attorney and president of the Public Banking Institute, <http://PublicBankingInstitute.org>. In *Web of Debt*, her latest of eleven books, she shows how a private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her websites are <http://WebofDebt.com> and <http://EllenBrown.com>.

[This article reprinted with permission from the author.]

Our Fight Against Proposition 14

In June 2010, the voters passed Proposition 14, the so-called “Top Two” primary. It was deceptively sold to the voters as a “reform” much the same way as with term limits. The backers of Proposition 14 counted on the negative opinion of the voters toward the legislature with lots of horror stories about excessive partisanship and partisan gridlock. The real motivation of the backers of Proposition 14 was to assist in the election of what the backers consider to be “moderates.” Proposition 14 got on the ballot as a payoff to a Republican legislator, Abel Maldonado, for his vote on the State budget.

The main effect of Proposition 14 is the creation of an “open primary,” in which voters may vote for any candidate, regardless of the candidate's or the voter's party registration. Only the top two vote-getters in the primary, regardless of party affiliation (if any), would appear on the November General Election ballot.

While it is unclear whether the backers intended it or not, Proposition 14 has disastrous effects on the smaller parties. First, it will be very unlikely that any Green, Peace and Freedom, or Libertarian candidate would make it to the General Election.

Second, because the small parties are unlikely to make it to the General Election, we lose one of the two ways small parties keep ballot status. Any ballot-qualified party which gets 2 percent of the vote in November for any statewide office in a gubernatorial election year retains ballot status for the next four years. (The other way is by maintaining a certain level of voters registered in that party.)

Third, Proposition 14 greatly increased the number of signatures needed to reduce or avoid filing fees. For small parties, the time spent in gathering signatures in lieu of filing fees, or the larger amount of money needed to pay a filing fee, has already been onerous. This Primary season has already shown the problem. Fewer small-party candidates have been able to qualify for the ballot.

However, we are fighting back. We have hired the law firm of Siegel and Yee. They filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction challenging Proposition 14 in November 2011, with organizational plaintiffs (the Green Party of Alameda County, the Peace and Freedom Party, and the Libertarian Party) and individual plaintiffs. The basis of our legal action is that Proposition 14 violates the rights of our parties, our members, and the voters as a whole (who lose some “voices and choices”).

In the June 2010 Voter Guide, we said “we disagree with the philosophical underpinnings of Proposition 14. We disagree with the notion that political parties are inherently bad; that there is something wrong with like-minded people organizing themselves into political parties, having candidates of their choice competing in a general election. In fact, we believe it's their political right to do so.” We still believe that.

We need money for the court case. Please make checks payable to “Siegel and Yee” and mail to Green Party of Alameda County, 2022 Blake St., Berkeley CA 94704.

For more information, phone Michael Rubin (Lead Plaintiff) at (510) 436-3722.



Special Articles

Titanic Political Parties are Drowning Our Future

by Greg Jan and Laura Wells

www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/04/14/18711347.php

The "unsinkable" Titanic sank one hundred years ago, on April 15, 1912. Exhibiting similar arrogance and inertia, two Titanic political parties are now barreling full speed ahead toward ruining this country, as well as much of the planet.

It has now been over three years since financial speculation and greed plunged this nation and the world into the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Yet leaders of the two Titanic Parties refuse to implement even the most basic reforms, such as reinstating the Glass-Steagall law that separated commercial from investment banks, or breaking up the "too-big-to-fail" banks, such as Wells Fargo, Chase, and Bank of America.

It's time to let the "too-big-to-fail" banks go under. Encouraged by the "move your money" campaign of the Occupy movement, people have already moved billions of dollars from big banks to local banks and credit unions. In addition, more than 17 states and municipalities have started looking at moving money from Wall Street institutions to

publicly owned banks in partnership with local banks and credit unions.

As the Occupy movement has understood, the problems are systemic and interconnected and cannot be addressed by a finite list of demands, demands which will not be met by the Titanic Parties controlled by the 1% and their reckless corporations.

If America does not soon abandon its two Titanic Parties, then this country will surely be drowned as the party leaders continue to ignore the many icebergs in front of us. Decades of people's efforts to redirect the Titanic Parties have proven to be utterly futile—especially in recent years, in the face of ever-growing sums of corporate cash.

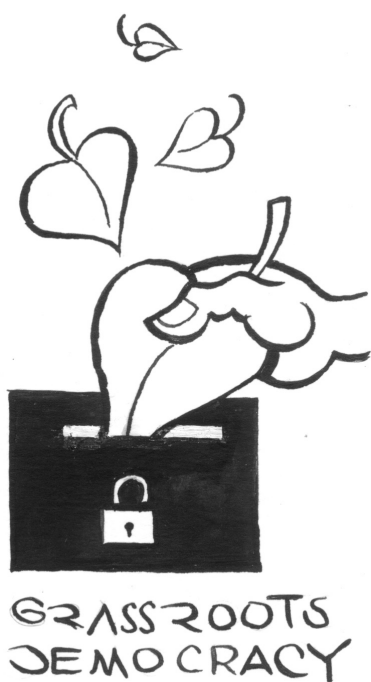
It is time for the emergence of a strong "third party" to oppose the insane policies of the Titanic Parties. Such parties have emerged a few times in the past. The Republican Party actually began as a third party in 1854, and within just a few years it was able to replace the Whig Party. "Third parties" are a time-tested American alternative to the disastrous

course of today's Titanic Parties.

Many formerly stalwart supporters of the Titanic Parties have bailed out. They found a library or post office that was open, filled out voter registration forms, and switched to an independent political party such as Peace and Freedom or the Green Party, with values that are uncorruptible by corporate funding and lobbyists.

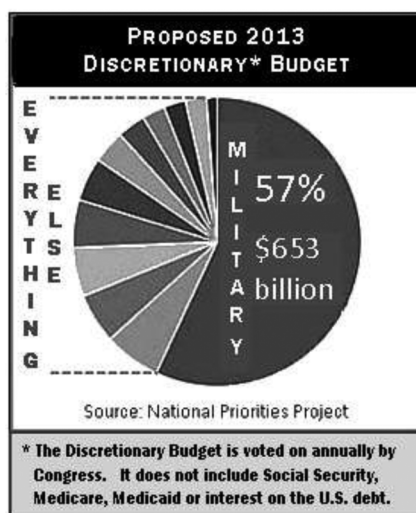
Let the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic serve as our reminder of the madness of trusting those who are "in charge," who continue to maintain a course of business as usual when the facts clearly show we are heading straight toward the icebergs of disaster. Let's not go down with the sinking ships. Let's abandon the Titanic Parties, before it's too late.

Greg Jan is a Founding Member of the Green Party of California, and Laura Wells was the Green Party candidate for Governor of California in 2010.



Invest in the American People and Our Communities

Congress and the President can revive our economy by shifting budget resources from the Pentagon to where they belong, addressing our needs here at home.



OUR GOVERNMENT NEEDS NEW PRIORITIES

- **END** the war in Afghanistan, no new war with Iran
- **CUT** the military budget: meet domestic needs
- **TAX** the rich, the banks, the Wall Street speculators, the oil companies and other giant corporations
- **INVEST** in our communities, our infrastructure, and our environment to create **jobs** in a peaceful, sustainable economy.

The U.S. accounts for 42% of all military spending in the world – more than the next 15 nations combined.

Teachers, firefighters, cops and many others laid off; libraries, clinics, and state parks closed; social services cut.

2012 Military Budget cost Bay Area tax payers \$14.8 billion and California tax-payers \$60.5 billion.

The Bay Area Campaign for New Priorities has been endorsed by more than 80 organizations and 3,500 individuals, including many community and political leaders.

Visit: www.newprioritiescampaign.org/endorsers

HELP DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO MANY MORE PEOPLE

CONTRIBUTE at the campaign's secure website at

www.NewPrioritiesCampaign.org/donate-to-new-priorities-campaign/

or SUPPORT the campaign with a check to

New Priorities - Bay Area, 1737 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94703

CONTACT the campaign at NewPrioritiesCampaign@gmail.com

(Donations are not tax deductible)

Add my name to the list of endorsers of the New Priorities Campaign (please print legibly)

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Tell me more about the Campaign _____

Organization _____

Signature _____

We value your support and respect your privacy. Information provided will not be shared or sold to any other organization or business. Providing your address will enable the campaign to provide you with occasional information specific to your Congressional District and community.

Return this form to: New Priorities - Bay Area, 1737 Allston Way, Berkeley, 94703

Artfull Living
Pamela R. Spevack
Passion Director

Oakland, CA 94619
510-593-0063
coreluv@yahoo.com

Green Party County Council

Vote for up to eight of the ten candidates.

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

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

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

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

County Council Candidates

Janet Arnold

The problems facing the world's people and environment are now more serious than ever. But this is a time of renewed hope. In 2011, international events ("Egypt") and national events ("Wisconsin," "Occupy") showed that many millions of people worldwide are ready to stand up and tell the truth about the wealthy and powerful, and demand necessary changes "for the people and for the planet."

I've been active in the movements for peace and social change since the 1960's, and in the Green Party especially since 2000. There are many tools in the activists' toolbox, and electoral action independent of the corporate parties is important to me. Our candidates give people a way to vote for the changes we wish to see in the world.

I've served on your County Council since 2004. I help to produce and distribute the Voter Guide, assist our Secretary and our Treasurer, and otherwise try to be useful. I'm also active in the Oakland Greens and usually serve as a delegate to the Green Party of California's meetings. Vote for any eight of us; we have a full slate of dedicated, active, cooperative candidates.

Victoria Ashley

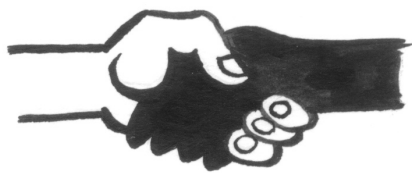
I have been a council member on the Alameda Green Party County Council since 2004, serve on the Green Party of California State Coordinating Committee, and have been an active Green in the Bay Area since 2000. I have degrees in architecture and psychology and am currently working as a psychology researcher. I am also involved with the Alameda solar start-up, Sun Synchrony, which is developing self-orienting concentrating photovoltaic panels for commercial and residential rooftops. I believe that the Green Party is worth fighting for. As the climate and the economy continue to unravel, large numbers of people will be forced to abandon the current system and seek solutions -- both the Green Party and the Occupy movement will represent the few viable means for change to emerge, uncorrupted.

Conor Dixon

I am an active member of the Alameda County Greens. I worked as a volunteer coordinator on Aimee Allison's 2006 election campaign, where she came a very close second.

I served briefly on the coordinating committee of the California Green Party. I work as a computer programmer and have helped on the Berkeley and Alameda Green Party websites. I have also recently helped on the www.eastbay-socialforum.org website.

I strongly believe that we need to reach out to people who agree with Green policies and start to get them actively involved in turning this mess around.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Greg Jan

I've helped coordinate much of our county Green Party work over the years, including the process for our Voter Guide endorsements, questionnaires, write-ups, and fundraising. I've also helped find candidates, for both our County Council, and the majority of our 2010 statewide candidates as well, along with the organizing to help our County Council and statewide candidates qualify to have their names on the ballot.

Given the continuing recession and the emergence of the Occupy movement, I believe we could have especially good opportunities to build the Green Party this coming year, as increasing numbers of people seek alternatives to the status quo "Demo-publicans". So after we finish distributing these Voter Guides, I strongly encourage all of you to volunteer for one or more of our county tasks, whether it be voter registration, phoning, fundraising, helping with our next voter guide, assisting the County Council with coordination work, etc. As an all-volunteer organization we need your assistance, even if it's just once every month or two -- whatever you can spare! (Please call us at (510) 644-2293). Thank you!

Patti Marsh

I have been a member of the Green Party since 1992 and have been on the County Council since 2002. I serve as the Council's secretary, help with our Green Sunday programs, with fundraising and with the distribution of our popular voter guide. I have been a delegate to state Green Party meetings and national conventions and have worked on numerous Green Party campaigns.

Vote for any 8 candidates for County Council. All 10 candidates are active Greens who will be continuing to work in the coming years on building and maintaining a Green Party voice in our communities. Please come join us!

Robert Marsh

[[Despite several e-mail and phone messages to him requesting his County Council statement, Mr. Marsh did not submit one.]]

Aaron Reaven

I have worked as a nutrition, cooking and environmental educator for the last ten years, mostly with elementary age children. Some of my top priorities for local political activism within the Green Party are:

- 1) Job-creating strategies to develop local, clean energy.
- 2) De-militarization of the Oakland Police Force; and de-linking local law enforcement from so-called "war on terror" policies.
- 3) Finding ways to promote food, health and environmental literacy within Oakland Public schools.

Pamela Spevack

I grew up in New Jersey as part of a politically active family who fought for social justice and environmental issues. I learned first hand about how government officials can be corrupt. In the early 70s in California I joined NOW, and became an ardent feminist marching and lobbying in Sacramento for justice issues, I progressed, honing my skills and joining lesbian organizations continuing as an activist for social justice and as well as being stringer for Dyke TV while working for several non-profits. I transformed into the Green Party in 1992. As I took up gardening and hiking the environment became more significant, and I became more involved with the peace movement. My work life has included marketing, sales, and office management, and presently social work in low-income senior housing. Thus I have been thrust into the health care issues on a daily basis and am busy advocating for seniors, myself included.

As an At Large Member of the Alameda County Council for a total of 8 years, I have attended the National Convention as a delegate in Chicago, and will be going to Baltimore this year as a delegate. I am ready to devote myself to this position and would feel honored to bring my skills to energize, and increase our presence in the community and to carry out the Green Party values as a member of this Council.

Akio Tanaka

I have served on the County Council for the last five years. I have also been on the KPFA Local Station Board for the last six years. I was drawn to the Green Party and KPFA because they do not take any corporate money. I am committed to expanding the reach of non-corporate media, public financing of elections, and changing the economic infrastructure to make earth sustainable.

Lindsay Vurek

I helped collect signatures to get the Green Party on the California ballot in 1991, and was elected to the first Green Party County Council in Alameda County. In recent years, I have not been as active in the Party.

Currently, I am volunteering for the California initiative campaign to label GMO food, along with activism in environmental and animal protection, human rights, peace, campaign and election reform.



Amper and by B. Deutsch

We're the Oakland Green Party

We want to work with you for real change in Oakland



Theresa Anderson City Council, At Large

An Oakland native, Theresa Anderson has brought herself out of a life of turmoil and abuse through hard work and education to find personal success.

A mother of four, she runs her own management company in Oakland, Dandell Entertainment. She has worked closely with people like Mistah Fab, M.C Hammer, Leon Powe, and Marshawn Lynch, and groups such as Oakland Community Organizations, to give back to the people.

Anderson has provided food for the hungry, and warm coats, phones, backpacks, and school supplies to those in need.

She is currently working closely with battered women and efforts to stop domestic abuse. She has also worked on the issues of jobs for felons, opposing gang injunctions, and runaway prostitution.

"I understand the needs of the people and what we go through everyday. Everything that I do for the the community is because of all the things I've gone through myself. Our youth are in peril. If we don't fix our youth today, we're going to have a broken society tomorrow."

- Theresa Anderson



Don Macleay City Council, District 1

Owner of a small computer networking business in Oakland, Don Macleay, brings a rare combination of experience, knowledge and skills to public service.

He has also been a machinist and a teacher, raised two sons, speaks six languages - three fluently - and lived and worked in both Nicaragua and China, before settling in Oakland 15 years ago.

Macleay has a deep understanding of public policy, grounded in solid ethics and years of political experience. As the Green Party candidate for Mayor of Oakland in 2010, he knows the city, it's government, and has developed many progressive policy solutions.

"With half of our children failing to graduate high school, and 400 people shot every year, my priorities will be youth, not a ballpark or decorations downtown. I'd rather have an honest beat cop as Chief of Police, than to have another career expert backstabbing our public policy. If a candidate does not speak out for reform of our budget, our budget process, and our gerrymandered council districts, they're not impressive."

- Don Macleay

The Oakland Greens will field our largest and most diverse slate of candidates in November, 2012.

We're ready to take on the tough issues: education, crime, unemployment, the city budget, fair policing, and social and environmental justice.



(L to R) Vicente Cruz II, School Board candidate, Dist. 3; Theresa Anderson, City Council candidate, At Large; Don Macleay, City Council candidate, Dist. 1; and Randy Menjivar, City Council candidate, Dist. 7; standing in front of Oakland's City Hall.

Our four candidates combine youth and experience, reflect the diversity of our city, and bring a wealth of progressive ideas and proposals.

Committed to a reform of our city from top to bottom, from police practices to budget policies, with our faith in a democracy that includes all of us.

The Green Party will take on the 1 percent who control both the Democratic and Republican parties. The Green Party accepts no corporate donations.

We're asking for your support for our candidates and to build the Green Party in Oakland. We're looking for people who want to step up and become producers, not just consumers, of politics.

Get involved with candidate campaigns, voter registration, outreach, or organizing events. Volunteer your talents, knowledge, and skills.

Donate to the Oakland Greens by Sending a check or money order to Oakland Greens, P.O. Box 20299, Oakland CA, 94620. (510) 866-7488, contact@oaklandgreens.org.



Randy Menjivar City Council, District 7

Raised in East Oakland, Randy Menjivar, is the son of immigrants. His mother is from Guatemala, and father is from El Salvador, where they experienced extreme poverty and civil war.

At a young age Randy comprehended that the same poverty that was rampant in Central America was prevalent in the inner city streets of Oakland. This realization would eventually give rise to him becoming a lot more active in his college community as well as in his home city about the social degradation, political injustices, and economic exploitation that occur daily to working-class people.

Seeing many of the youth in Oakland fall victim to violence and crime and grow hopeless in a society that too often dehumanizes people of color, Menjivar decided to run for public office.

With the fire of youth, and the determination of someone who has had to struggle hard in life, he brings a fresh perspective to Oakland politics.



Vicente Rafael Cruz II School Board, District 3

A Youth/Adult Sports Program educator, Vicente Cruz II, works for a contractor for OUSD schools. He comes from a long line of labor advocates dating back to the Civil War. He has no biological children, but has helped to raise five.

He has experience as a legal observer, an Agitator/De-escalator, and as a citizen journalist.

Passionate about education, he is largely self-educated, studying the teachings of great minds such as John Brown, W.E.B. Dubois, Malcolm X, and Harriet Tubman. Cruz attended OUSD Adult School and completed programs at Diablo Valley College and Santa Rosa Junior College.

"I'm going to be a radical voice talking about issues that concern the community that haven't been brought. up. I'm very concerned that there seems to be a systematic privatization of our education system. I want to use my position as a school board member to be like the leather gloved fists at the 1968 Olympics, calling for equalizing the resources."

- Vicente Cruz II

Green Party of Alameda County
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 (510) 644-2293
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Green Voter Card

clip and bring with you to the polls
 (and photocopy for your friends!)

- Federal Offices**
President
 Roseanne Barr, Kent Mesplay, and Jill Stein
 are running in our Primary -- Please see writeup!
- U.S. Senator**
 Marsha Feinland
- U.S. Representative, District 13**
 No Endorsement, please see write-up
- State Offices**
State Senate, District 9
 Mary Mellroy (write-in)
- State Assembly, District 15**
 No Endorsement, please see write-up
- State Assembly, District 18**
 Contested open seat: No Endorsement, please see write-up
- Superior Court Judge**
 Seat 20 -- Tara Flanagan
- County Supervisor**
 District 4 -- No Endorsement, please see write-up
 District 5 -- No Endorsement, please see write-up
- County School Board**
 Area 4 -- Geraldine Sonobe
- Local Measures**
 B -- Peralta Community College District Parcel Tax -- No Endorsement,
 please see write-up
 C -- City of Alameda Sales Tax -- No
- State Propositions**
 28 -- Term Limits -- Yes with reservations
 29 -- Tobacco Tax -- No
- County Committee**
 Green Party County Council -- See statements inside.

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GREEN

voter guide

*A publication of the Green Party of Alameda County,
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*Primary Election
 June 5, 2012*

decentralization • community based economics



nonviolence • future focus • respect for diversity

global responsibility • grass roots democracy

for the thinking voter