

GREEN voter guide

Election Day: November 2, 2010

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

Index

Statewide Offices	1, 3, 4, 5
State Assembly, Federal Offices.....	7
State Propositions	1, 5, 6
Judicial Offices	15
Special Districts	14, 15
County Offices and Measures	6
City Offices and Measures.	
Alameda	8
Albany	11, 13
Berkeley	1, 12, 13
Emeryville	8
Oakland	1, 9, 10, 11
Voter Card	Back page

*General Election
November 2, 2010*

Statewide Races

Governor Laura Wells

Two of the most important points of the Green gubernatorial candidate Laura Wells' campaign platform—among her many ideas to protect civil rights, increase renewable energy and provide for the health and education of all Californians—are her solutions to address the current financial catastrophe in California: the establishment of a State Bank, and making significant changes to Proposition 13.

Both Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman support Prop 13 (which passed during Brown's first tenure as Governor) and claim to be defending the people of California by doing so. Brown's website states that he "embraced and implemented Proposition 13 after it was passed by voters, and he has vowed not to raise taxes as governor unless they are approved by the voters of California." Similarly, Meg Whitman's website states that she "pledges to uphold Prop. 13 and stand tough against any efforts to weaken it."

However, Prop. 13, in 1978, was promoted to California voters as a way to reduce taxes and to stop fixed-income seniors from losing their homes due to escalating property taxes, Wells says. "But since then, the bulk of the 'tax relief' goes places the voters never intended: giant corporations. Corporate properties are rarely reassessed since corporations don't die and seldom sell."

Under Prop. 13, corporations win. For example, we all know when a home has changed ownership, but has ownership of the Disney Corporation changed hands since

1978? Under Prop 13, a property is not considered to have changed ownership unless over 50 percent of it is purchased by a single owner, so if three purchasers buy a property, no change of ownership occurs. Publicly traded companies and corporate entities, but not the elderly, benefit from such loopholes. So the bulk of the land in Disneyland is taxed at 1975 values: five cents per square foot. Orange County is losing over \$4 million in taxes per year this way.

Most voters are also not aware that Prop 13 requires a 2/3 vote of the State Legislature to pass a budget or increase taxes, but only a simple majority vote to lower taxes. As Governor, Wells would push to change that.

Laura Wells' second solution is the establishment of a State Bank, which is where North Dakota, oddly enough, comes into the story:

"North Dakota," Wells says, "has had a state bank for more than 90 years, and is now the only state with a budget surplus not a deficit. . . . If North Dakota (with its 650,000 people) can do it," Wells says, "California (with almost 40 million) can do it too. Our state is wealthy in both natural and human resources. There is no reason we should be begging Wall Street bankers for credit and investments.

And not only did the Big banks take bailout money, Wells points out, but they also paid themselves big bonuses and bought up small banks. Such scenarios could be eliminated if California could control its own money supply and credit, putting interest earnings back into California instead of into the pockets of the Big banks.

"When I call the two biggest political parties the Titanic Parties," says Wells, "people immediately know what I'm

continued on page 3

Proposition 23 - No, No, No! Guts Greenhouse Gas Laws

The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) requires that by 2020, the level of emissions of greenhouse gases in the state must be reduced back to their 1990 level. This would require an approximate 25 percent reduction over the level of emissions in 2006, the year the bill was signed.

Prop 23 suspends the state's greenhouse gas reduction law until California's unemployment rate has been 5.5 percent or less for four consecutive quarters, and suspends requirements for increased renewable energy and cleaner fuel, as well as mandatory emission reporting and fee requirements for major polluters such as power plants and oil refineries.

According to the California Employment Development Department, there have been only three periods during the past 34 years (since 1976) when unemployment in the state remained below 5.5 percent for four or more quarters. (Each of these three periods lasted less than two years). As unemployment in California is presently around 12 percent, it is highly unlikely to fall to 5.5 percent in the foreseeable future. Thus passage of this proposition will virtually eliminate the requirements of AB32 for the foreseeable future in the state, and will likely influence the stalling of national legislation as well.

By cynically linking the reduction of greenhouse gases with unemployment, the supporters of Prop 23 are relying on scaring people who are already in a vulnerable position or are sympathetic with the plight of the unemployed.

However, AB32 has encouraged clean energy businesses in California. With over \$9 billion in venture capital funds, California's clean energy firms have received 60 percent of venture capital funds in North America. The independent Legislative Analyst's Office has stated that suspending AB 32 would "dampen additional investments in clean energy technologies or so-called 'green jobs' by private firms, thereby resulting in less economic activity than would otherwise be the case."

Prop 23 was launched by, and its campaign is being almost entirely funded by, the oil industry. Valero has contributed over \$4,000,000 to the campaign, and Flint Hill Resources, (a subsidiary of Koch Industries) and Tesoro each a million.

Defeating Prop 23 is critical to the future well-being of our state, country, and planet. In addition to voting "No" on Prop. 23, you can also support the opposition campaign at: <http://www.stopdirtyenergyprop.com> or 888-445-7880.

Proposition 19 - Yes, Yes! Legalizes Marijuana

This proposition is very explicit in stating how marijuana will be legalized for personal use, cultivation and purchase, less explicit in stating how it will be legalized for commercial production, taxation, and purchase by wholesalers and retailers.

Because it is short on details, complex in its enactment, and uncertain in application, some politicians, law enforcement officers, and religious leaders in Alameda County, who might share progressive values, oppose this proposition. We are among those who see it as a beginning, however imperfect, however risky, of a long overdue correction of years of unjust prohibition of a drug far less harmful than alcohol or nicotine, the illegality of which has ruined the lives of countless otherwise law-abiding Californians.

Particularly pernicious are the present California laws, which appear to minimize the penalty for possessing small amounts of marijuana, while arrest rates for possession continue to increase. More than 60,000 arrests in 2008 are triple the number in 1990. The criminal conviction that seems like a traffic ticket is in reality far more serious. In our time of computerization, it creates an easily retrievable permanent record that precludes the convicted from obtaining financial

continued on page 5

Oakland Mayor

#1: Don Macleay

(Jean Quan ranked #2,
Rebecca Kaplan ranked #3)

Do Not Vote for Don Perata!

The earth's biosphere is overheating, natural resources are declining, jobs are disappearing, pension plans are crumbling, states and cities are heading toward bankruptcy—and still the War Machine and Wall Street rumble on, sucking out whatever assets are left of our national treasure. Oaklanders are becoming aware that we will be on our own more than ever in the coming years, so we had better get serious about building a city government that is flexible, focused, and independent enough to work for us in a very different, very constrained future. This year's mayoral election is therefore especially important.

Greens have a better chance in this election with the implementation of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for the first time in the Oakland Mayor race. We have struggled long and hard to get RCV for our local elections, and now Oaklanders can vote for their preferred candidate without worrying if their "spoiler" vote will put the worst candidate in office. Congratulations to all who made this happen!

In this year's race we have an excellent first-choice candidate for Mayor, out of a crowded field of 10 hopefuls. Longtime Oakland resident Don Macleay (www.macleay-4mayor.org) is a Green Party member, a business owner, and an environmentalist with a broad and diverse background and a clear understanding of what social, economic, and political priorities will be necessary to help Oakland survive and thrive in a new era. He was a union machinist for nearly two decades, and served a stint as IAM shop steward in Albany, CA. He has traveled the world, teaching shop trades in Nicaragua and English in China. He worked on small scale hydro projects in South America and Brower Fund projects in the US. Nowadays he cares for his two sons and manages a computer networking business in Oakland.

Macleay's thoughtful responses to the Green Party candidate questionnaire show a strong grasp of Oakland's

continued on page 9

Berkeley Measure R No, No, No!

Downtown Area Plan

Measure R was placed on the ballot by the moderate/developer-friendly majority of the City Council in a contemptuous and deceptive attempt get voter approval for highly controversial land use and permitting policies. The Ballot Question sounds great—who wouldn't want Berkeley "to adopt policies to revitalize the downtown and help make Berkeley one of the greenest cities in the United States?" Too bad this measure won't do that.

Measure R isn't even a plan—it's a five-page document with lots of lovely green statements and goals and a paragraph about guidance for council-decision making. If Measure R passes, the process for creating a Downtown Plan starts all over. The hard work of citizens over the last 5

continued on page 12

Berkeley Rent Board Dave Blake, Asa Dodsworth, Katherine (Kathy) Harr, Lisa Stephens, Jesse Townley, and Pam Webster

For a number of election cycles, the Green Party has been a convener of an affordable housing convention to choose a progressive rent board slate. Our participation includes screening all of the candidates before the convention and agreeing to abide by the convention's decision and NOT run candidates against the slate. As a result, a significant number of Greens have been elected to the Rent Board. This year, the convention nominated the five incumbent Commissioners Lisa Stephens, Pam Webster, Jesse Townley, Kathy Harr and Dave Blake, and lifelong Berkeley resident Asa Dodsworth to fill the six seats. (Stephens, Webster, and Townley are the registered Green Party members on the slate). Visit berkeleyrentboard.org.

The conventions to select a unified slate have been essential in past years in electing pro-rent control/pro-tenant

continued on page 12



The Green Party of Alameda County

The "GPAC" is one of the few County Councils that produces a Voter Guide for each election. We mail about 8,000 to Green households, and distribute another 10,000 through cafes, BART stations, libraries and other locations. Please read yours and pass it along to other interested voters. Feel free to copy the back "Voter Card" to distribute it as well.

Your Green Party

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

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

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

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

Ways to reach us:

County Council:

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

Website: www.acgreens.org

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 are working on a number of November election campaigns—please volunteer now! To join our email list, and for more information, contact: berkeleygreenparty@gmail.com; 510-644-2293; www.berkeleygreens.org

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: Regular meetings have been temporarily suspended because most of our active members are now busy volunteering for state and local Green campaigns such as Laura Wells for Governor (see page 1) and Don Macleay for Oakland Mayor (see page 1). For further details, see our YahooGroup, or telephone us: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens>; Michael or Jan, (510) 436-3722

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

Credits:

Our "unindicted Voter Guide co-conspirators" include: Peter Allen, Jan Arnold, David Arkin, Victoria Ashley, Bill Balderston, Paul Burton (page layout), Maxine Daniel, Sandra Decker, Brian Donahue, Dave Heller, Bert Heuer, Greg Jan, Preston Jordan, Khurshid Khoja, Art Lipow, Gretchen Lipow, Bob Marsh, Patti Marsh, John Morton, Jonathan Nack, Wilson Riles, Michael Rubin, John Selawsky, Kent Sparling, Lisa Stephens, Joan Strasser, Lindsay Vurek, Nan Wishner, and the rest of the Newsletter team!

Voter Guide Contributions

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

Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

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

Some races aren't on the ballot

Due to the peculiarities of the law, for some races, when candidate(s) run for office(s) without opposition they do not appear on the ballot—but in other races they do. We decided not to print in your voter guide write-ups for most of the races that won't appear on your ballot. Where we have comments on those races or candidates you will find them on our blog web site (www.acgreens.wordpress.com). 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 • <http://acgreens.org>



Name: _____

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

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

email address: _____

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

Credit card #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

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

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

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

State law requires that we report contributor's:

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Thanks for your contribution of:

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

Dear Voter Guide reader,

Imagine an election without a Green Voter Guide... it could happen.

Last June, for the first time in many years, the Voter Guide did not break even, and your Green Party had to borrow money to pay the printing and postage. If you did not donate recently, we really need you to donate now. If you have donated recently, we really need you to donate more. Without your financial support now, there may not be any more Voter Guides!! Yes, the Party's financial situation is that dire.

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

Statewide Offices

Governor

continued from page 1

talking about. Both Titanic Parties are heading straight for the iceberg, and their leaders are not changing course . . . the status-quo political parties have set up a game where only the richest of the rich individuals and corporations can win.”

A right-wing billionaire executive, Meg Whitman is her own biggest campaign contributor (\$100M+) and reportedly didn't vote for over 25 years, but made over \$1.5 million engaging in a shady practice called “spinning” IPOs (executives doing business with Goldman Sachs could profit by getting early stock deals before the public). She vowed to eliminate any potential conflicts of interest with her Goldman Sachs relationship (Goldman's has major investments in California state finance) and has stated that she will “immediately sell her Goldman stock and put her Goldman-managed investments in a blind trust if elected governor.” Fascinating.

Her focus has been, and will continue to be, keeping rich companies and rich people (like herself) rich. For example, Whitman wants to eliminate California's tax on capital gains (Huff Post blogger Chris Kelly noted that, “people in Meg Whitman's tax bracket make 62.8 percent of their money from capital gains.”). UC Berkeley economist Michael Reich said eliminating capital gains taxes would reduce state revenue by up to \$4.5 billion a year, for five years, exacerbating the state budget deficit that now stands at \$19 billion. And as a board member of eBay in 2008, Whitman approved the layoffs of 10 percent of its workforce while also approving million dollar severance packages for the executives. Whitman calls for cutting 40,000 state jobs. Enough said about Whitman.

Laura Wells says, “We are living in times of powerful movements. The persons in one movement are corporations, and those who profit mightily from them. The persons in our movement are living breathing people. This people's movement has a wide variety of focuses . . . toward more fairness, more health, a sense of more fulfillment in life, a better future for ourselves and the next generations.”

We know what movement Laura is in—her campaign is aligned with social justice issues such as universal health-care, renewable local energy and opposition to government bailouts of large corporations—but what movement is Jerry Brown in?

During his eight-year governorship (1974-1982), Jerry Brown did appear to be a candidate for the people—he repealed a tax break for the state's oil industry (the “depletion allowance”); appointed more women and minorities to office than any other previous California governor; and vetoed the death penalty (but the legislature overrode it). His other campaigns (for President in 1976, 1980 and 1992) also stressed ideas like a flat income tax; increases in renewable energy (rejecting nuclear); and a market-oriented system of universal health care. And more recently, as state attorney general, Brown has sometimes played the supporter of the people: he sided with Prop 8 opponents and sued an e-cigarette maker for selling an unsafe product.

However, in general, as the state of the nation and California has declined over the decades, and shifted to the Right, Jerry Brown has also shifted. Brown helped seal his records as governor, and those of future governors, for a 50-year secrecy period. As Mayor of Oakland, he invited the Marine Corps to conduct war games there, became a friend of developers to help his 10k plan for gentrification of the downtown, became draconian on crime in the city (i.e., probationers were out under a curfew, confined to their homes from 10 pm to 6 am), and focused exclusively on two charter schools as a means to somehow turn Oakland's education system around while the public system languished. These measures appear to have been geared toward his run for Attorney General, and although a variety of crimes decreased, homicides increased.

In two 2006 articles, Oakland writer J. Allen-Taylor describes the debacle of Jerry Brown's education policy for Oakland: “Mr. Brown promised to promote and support quality education in Oakland in his initial campaign for mayor and based upon that promise, Oakland citizens later passed a ballot measure giving the mayor the power to appoint three new members to . . . the Oakland Unified School District board. . . [instead] Mr. Brown put all of his energies into his two charter schools, the Oakland School for the Arts and the Oakland Military Institute, to which he donated many hours of city staff time and many thousands of dollars in city money.

“The diversion of city staff members to Jerry Brown's charter school duty did not end with the approval process. Once the [Oakland Military Institute] was approved and opened, City Manager's office employee Simon Bryce moved his offices from City Hall to the [Oakland Military

Institute] headquarters at the Oakland Army Base, working on the city payroll but spending much of his time coordinating OMI activities. Imagine if Mr. Brown's office had put as much effort trying to help OUSD get out of state receivership?”

But Brown didn't help the Oakland Unified School District. When he had the opportunity, like so many other Democrat and Republican candidates and politicians, he chose to focus on a way to promote a privatization of education over the existing public system that the vast majority of Oakland's children relied on. Former Oakland City Council member, Wilson Riles Jr., in a *New York Times* interview, stated:

“Many of us feel that giving the military, which uses force or threat of force to solve problems, legitimacy through public education, is exactly counter to what Oakland needs.”

Riles also described Brown's bungled crime-fighting policy for Oakland in an NPR interview, noting that Brown had disappointed many liberals in Oakland by taking a “Rudy Giuliani approach” to lawlessness:

“Where there was no recognition of what the roots of the crime were, but an attempt to basically demonize people in the community and to bring increased police enforcement, as if that was going to solve the problem.”

As J. Douglas Allen-Taylor writes: “Just like Jerry Brown, too many high-placed Democratic officeholders too often abandon the traditions and philosophies of the Democratic party when carrying out their official duties these days, hoping that progressives will keep quiet in the November elections to keep from giving aid and comfort to conservatives and Republicans. But if we always keep quiet, how will this pattern ever end?”

We recommend Laura Wells for Governor. Her website is: www.laurawells.org

Lieutenant Governor Jimi Castillo

Jimi Castillo is the opposite of Gavin Newsom.

While Gavin Newsom is a multi-millionaire businessman funded by a multi-billionaire oil heir, Green Party Lt. Governor Candidate Jimi Castillo is a Native American spiritual leader of Tongva/Acjachemen ancestry, the first Native American to run for the office of Lieutenant Governor in California. A Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, as well as a member of the statewide Bear Clan Society, Castillo has a lifetime of hands-on experience working directly with people and communities, particularly in counseling youth at correctional facilities (he was a counselor and Board member for the Southeast Area Counseling Center in Santa Fe Springs), defending and educating on Native American culture in ceremonial and prayer events, and speaking at conferences and classes at UCLA's American Indian Studies Center and the UCLA Native American Student Association.

In contrast, Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco from 2003-2010, has built a career off of news headlines appealing to hot-button emotional issues while the majority of key reforms and innovations occurring in the City were conceived by others working behind the scenes (i.e., “Healthy San Francisco,” a program for low-cost healthcare for low-income SF residents, is described to the public as Newsom's program, but the initiative actually came from then-Sup. Tom Ammiano, and Newsom opposed the key employer mandates that funded it). Although Newsom's strong support for gay marriage is a highlight in his career, most programs he created, such as Care Not Cash, did not bring any meaningful models or methods toward better outcomes, but were nonetheless claimed to have been a huge success. Ultimately, Newsom's efforts are primarily for headlines toward the next political position he seeks. For example, Newsom's recent ridiculous proposal to criminalize sitting or lying on public sidewalks (“Sit-lie”) serves little purpose except as a political tool. As the *SF Bay Guardian* described it: “To the surprise of exactly nobody, Mayor Gavin Newsom is putting his sit-lie law on the November ballot. . . . This way, he not only gets a wedge issue to attack the progressives in the fall; he gets to run his statewide campaign as someone who's cracking down on the homeless.”

While Gavin Newsom has made millions off business and real estate deals in Hawaii and California—initially funded by Gordon Getty, the Republican multi-billionaire son of oil tycoon J. Paul Getty, and lead investor in 10 of Newsom's 11 businesses—Jimi Castillo has long been a spiritual leader in Native American events throughout California. In 1998, Castillo helped organize a walk for peace with 25 others, trekking from San Diego to Sacramento to speak with then-Governor Pete Wilson over his decision to award gambling pacts to a small number of tribes, creating

divisions among them. In 2004, Castillo helped return a herd of buffalo—used in Hollywood productions decades ago, left on Catalina Island—to their native terrain on Lakota Reservations in South Dakota. Castillo has conducted numerous prayer and pilgrimage events on sacred Native American sites in California, in one instance halting construction of a mini-mall in Long Beach with the help of the ACLU and the Sierra Club. His independent documentation of the removals of ancient bones from sacred sites in Long Beach—by reviewing coroner records—refuted claims by developers that only small amounts of remains were removed.

While Jimi Castillo proposes many specific ideas to reform and conserve in California—to save money and restore community across a range of issues from education to crime to water rights—Gavin Newsom's policies are designed to protect the most wealthy businesses while criminalizing homeless people and cutting benefits and jobs of city workers. For example, Newsom steadfastly opposes new taxes on large corporations, despite a \$500 million budget deficit looming for SF. Instead, he accepted hundreds of layoffs, forced furloughs, and voluntary pay cuts (\$250 million worth) from the city's unions. As the *Bay Guardian* reported in July, “despite the fact that just 10 percent of San Francisco businesses pay any business taxes to the city, Newsom opposed and . . . helped kill a measure . . . to reform the business tax system in a way that would increase taxes on large corporations, lower them on small businesses . . . and expand the tax burden to 25 percent of businesses, including the large banks, insurance companies, and financial institutions that are now exempt.”

Among the issues Castillo addresses in his Lt. Governor Platform, the top three that he examines in detail are education, the environment, and reform of the broken criminal justice system. Castillo has a wealth of experience in these areas. For example, his education solution focuses on increasing and making more equitable state and federal funding for public education at all levels, decreasing the student-teacher ratio, reviving and expanding vocational education, etc.—with the long term goal of free education, from preschool through college, graduate and professional schools. A goal of free education is the opposite, for example, of another local Democrat Mayor and Gubernatorial candidate not unlike Newsom, Jerry Brown, who decided to pour millions into 2 charter schools in Oakland while the public system languished toward bankruptcy.

A good example of how Newsom also chooses private over public interests would be his bungled 2004 proposal for citywide free WiFi—Newsom's public-private partnership dealings with Silicon Valley companies resulted in highly secretive closed-door meetings which garnered frustration from city residents. As the *Bay Guardian* noted: “the Mayor's Office needs to be clear that this is, and has to be, a city-run project . . . the idea that the city would be going into business with a company that can't even share the basics of a business plan with the public is unacceptable. Done properly, a citywide broadband system could go a long way toward bridging the digital divide, could be a major boon to the local economy and local small businesses, and could put San Francisco out in front, leading the way on defining a national issue. A secret little deal with Google won't do any of those things.”

Ultimately, the deals came to nothing and today, SF is no different than any other city in the US, where what should have been a free public service for all remains out of reach.

The *Bay Guardian* summed up the contrast this way: “Should the city be pursuing the public-private partnerships favored by Newsom, which can be delivered to voters quickly and at seemingly little cost to government? Or should it be focusing on long-term strategies that will give the city more control over the resources its citizens need—from electricity to information technology—without having to depend on the profit-driven private sector?”

Like the public-private healthcare package passed by the Democrats in Congress which had no public option at all, this is what voters will be in for in California with Gavin Newsom, Jerry Brown, and the rest of the Democrats.

Jimi Castillo, however, believes that the public interests must come first. He opposes private water banking (“profit-making subverts consistent planning for the public interest”), he opposes the use of public funds to pay for private or parochial schools, or any for-profit organization to manage or run a public school, and he believes that private prisons should be illegal.

While career politicians like Newsom and Jerry Brown always have a new and hyped method to sway voters with fear and emotion (i.e., criminalize those who have no place to live, who have mental health issues, or who are recently

continued on page 4

Statewide Offices

continued from page 3

paroled), Castillo's years of experience as a mentor for young men at the Herman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility has informed his detailed solutions for reforming the criminal justice system in California (neither Newsom, nor Brown has ever worked in a prison or with prisoners, as far as we know).

Castillo underscores the fact that prisons are prohibitively expensive for California—costing taxpayers over \$5 billion per year—and typically involve a system that is inhumane and ineffective, with prison terms becoming longer and longer and retribution replacing rehabilitation. Castillo believes he can change that with rational policies not based in the politics of fear. Castillo believes that prison should be the sentence of last resort, reserved only for physically violent criminals, while those convicted of non-violent offenses should be handled by other programs involving community service and restitution. Additionally, the aging prison population—which will lead to huge needless expenditures in the next decade—should be released to less expensive, community based facilities if prisoners are too old or infirm to be a threat to society. Substance abuse should be addressed as a medical problem requiring treatment, not imprisonment, and no immigrant should be imprisoned because of immigration status.

Overall, the choice between Gavin Newsom and Jimi Castillo is fairly simple—a Lieutenant Governor whose constituents are mainly corporations, who seek to manipulate voters via hot-button emotional media hype, or someone whose life work is based in compassion and respect for individuals, families, youth, culture, environmentalism and history.

The Green Party supports Jimi Castillo for Lieutenant Governor of California.

Secretary of State Ann Menasche

Ann Menasche has devoted most of her life to working for economic and social justice, civil rights, environmental sanity, and peace. She has 30 years of litigation experience in civil rights and public interest law, having worked since 2002 in the field of disability rights, and she is a longtime activist in the peace, disability rights, and gay rights movements.

She is running for Secretary of State because she has witnessed how the corporate domination of elections has increasingly undermined the hopes and dreams of ordinary Californians. She notes that each year the legislators from both major parties enact ever more devastating budget cuts that continue to unravel the social safety net upon which many in this state depend.

Yet each year, the influence of big corporate donors and their highly paid lobbyists place out of reach any real solution to the budget crunch. She believes that We The People can take the state back by fixing the way we run elections. She supports publicly funded elections, free equal media access for all candidates, free candidate statements in Voter Handbooks, instant runoff voting (IRV), proportionate representation and other democratic reforms that allow the voices of non-corporate and third party candidates to be heard. She intends to insist on corporate accountability and crack down on corporate crime.

Menasche's vision for California is a place where everyone enjoys a high quality life, with a clean environment, and equal rights under the law; where each person has access to universal quality healthcare, affordable housing, a living wage job, educational opportunity from preschool through college or university, and a strong social safety net that respectfully supports them when they are too old to work, have lost their jobs, or have disabilities and need assistance. She believes that fixing our broken electoral system won't win all these things but considers it a good place to start on the path to a better California. Her focus is on People Power Not Corporate Power.

While the incumbent Democrat is generally not bad as far as Democrats go, she simply can't compare to Ann Menasche's explicit championing of the critical reforms that we now so urgently need in order to transform the existing corporate-dominated economic and political system. For more info, please see: www.voteann.org.

Controller Ross Frankel

Ross Frankel was born in Los Angeles where he has lived all his life. He and his partner of 11 years, Michael, are married and currently live in Lawndale CA. He received a bachelor's degree from Loyola Marymount University and has worked in the field of general accounting for 25 years and as a public school elementary teacher for two years.

He has also been a volunteer with almost a dozen political campaigns—Democrat, Republican, and non-partisan—and several environmental and socially progressive campaigns, such as the Big Green Initiative, and No on Prop 8.

Frankel believes that the government in Sacramento has become corrupted by political machines that fail to serve the citizenry. Their failure to actually fix the problems in society and the economy have motivated him to run for office. He aims to work to restore decent wages to workers, to protect the environment, return business to healthy production and improve the quality of life in California communities. He is self described as a pragmatic, fiscally prudent, and a political aisle-crossing Green.

To bring about improvements in these areas he proposes reform in two critical areas: the State tax structure and the Legislature.

In the arena of taxes he seeks to improve and update Prop 13-era property tax laws. Also, he would improve and favor California's businesses, labor, communities and environment. In the area of the legislature he supports proportional representation, inclusive to third parties and independents, and he supports lowering the 2/3 vote requirement for budgets and revenue/tax reforms.

The current incumbent Democrat has failed to use his office to publicize the major economic policy changes that our state desperately needs. To move California out of our present quagmire, in a forward and enlightened direction, we strongly recommend that you vote for Ross Frankel for State Controller. For more info: <http://www.ElectRoss.com>.

Treasurer Charles "Kit" Crittenden

Kit Crittenden grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, son of the Head of the Department of Archives and History for the state of North Carolina. He studied philosophy at the University of North Carolina where he received a BA and MA. After a brief stint at the Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida he entered a PhD program at Cornell University where he completed his doctorate in 1964. He went on to teach at the University of Florida and Florida State University and California State (Northridge) from which he retired as Emeritus Professor in 2002.

Crittenden points out that the office of California State Treasurer is responsible for investment and finance of the state's funds. The Treasurer is the State's chief asset manager, financier, and banker and is chair or a member of a number of State commissions and boards, among them the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System. It is through the Treasurer's office that important public works projects such as housing, economic development, and student loans are funded, as well as parks and environmental projects. He believes that public money for these projects should be decided in light of such values as social justice, grassroots democracy, and other values that are part of the Green Party's "Ten Key Values."

Sustainability is one of these values: "We support public policies and individual behaviors that will conserve our resources and protect our environment over the long term in order to preserve the quality of life of future generations," as one elaboration puts it. This directly applies to some of the areas over which the Treasurer has control. Ecological Wisdom is another value: "We support sustainable urban growth and agricultural practices that will conserve our planet's resources and protect our environment," also a guideline the Treasurer's office can follow. The Ten Key Values will be a crucial guide in carrying out the duties of the office so as to bring about a just, environmentally sensitive, peaceful society.

Crittenden notes that the disparity in wealth and income in the state is huge and growing. Notably, large corporations do not pay their fair share of taxes, and in the case of firms such as Chevron which take oil from California's soil, do not pay oil extraction taxes as are required in other states, for example Texas and Alaska. California is therefore robbed of an important source of income. Concentrations of wealth, in corporations and individuals, are an impediment to democracy, as they concentrate power which can be used to exercise disproportionate influence over government. Fair taxes must be imposed so that the state can provide the necessary social services; disparities in wealth should be reduced so that all Californians can participate equally in government. The increased revenues resulting from implementing tax reform would enable the office of Treasurer to allocate funds in accord with basic justice and the Ten Key Values, while continuing to offer the opportunities for businesses that want to utilize California's many commercial advantages.

As a professor in a California State University for 32

years, Crittenden has come to see the importance of education for personal development, as well as for its contribution to the commercial processes of the state. Citizens in a democracy must learn to think critically and not accept whatever opinions are put before them. The state's once-splendid educational system must be restored. This will require adequate funding—which can be found in new sources of taxation (adopting an oil extraction tax, and increasing the marginal tax to its former rate of 11 percent as opposed to its present 9 percent level, to mention two obvious possibilities). It has been extremely short-sighted to allow California's great educational structure to become seriously weakened. Crittenden also believes California's great tradition of artistic and intellectual creativity and innovation in ways of living and progressive politics must be continued.

The incumbent Democrat is an entrenched career politician who has utterly failed to significantly challenge the status quo political and economic forces which control California; indeed the many elected offices that he has held during the past 37 years are a monumental testament to his solid commitment to the existing failed system. To help break the utter insanity of yet more 'business as usual' during this time of major crisis, cast your vote for Charles "Kit" Crittenden. For more info, please see: <http://www.crittendenforstatetreasurer.com>.

Attorney General Peter Allen

Peter Allen is an energy and environmental attorney and a former prosecutor, administrative law judge and consumer advocate. An attorney since 1989, he has a broad range of experience in civil, criminal, and administrative litigation.

Allen's positions include: elimination of the death penalty, legalization of marijuana, support for gay marriage, strong protection of our environment, and vigorous prosecution of violent and financial crimes.

A California native, Peter Allen has lived in both northern and southern California, and currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and two daughters. He graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a B.A. degree in American Studies, and received his J.D. cum laude from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Allen began his career at a law firm, where he litigated major securities fraud cases, including cases resulting from the savings-and-loan crisis. He then became a prosecutor for the City of San Diego, gaining significant criminal trial experience. He began working on energy and telecommunications matters for the City of San Diego, then relocated to San Francisco where he worked for the utility consumer advocacy group TURN. In 1998 he joined the California Public Utilities Commission, where he worked as an attorney and administrative law judge on a range of energy, environmental and telecommunications issues, including trying to avert and then resolve the California energy crisis. In 2007, he joined the historic San Francisco firm of Thelen LLP, where he advised and represented a range of clients, primarily renewable and conventional energy companies. Upon the firm's demise in 2008, Allen returned to the California Public Utilities Commission, where he currently is working on renewable energy, greenhouse gas, and other environmental issues.

On the legalization of marijuana, Allen says, "We tried Prohibition once before, with alcohol, and it was a dismal failure. People still drank, but we managed to fund the rise of organized crime in the United States. Now, with the 'war on drugs' we are doing the same thing again—people can still get marijuana, and we are financing (tax-free) a new batch of violent drug gangs. The cost to society of criminalizing marijuana is just too high—it adds significantly to law enforcement and court costs, as well as the huge cost of locking up thousands of Californians, and only the drug dealers profit. This simply makes no sense, especially in these challenging economic times."

Allen also calls for eliminating the death penalty: "Why, 10 or 20 or even 30 years after someone is locked up in prison, are taxpayers still paying lawyers on both sides to litigate whether or not the government should be allowed to kill him? Let's use those resources on criminals that are still out on the street, not those already behind bars. And giving the government the power of life and death over its residents is simply too much power for California government to have. Especially when we can't even pass a state budget."

Kamala Harris and Steve Cooley, the Democratic and Republican candidates, oppose legalization of marijuana and support the death penalty. (Harris even reversed her

continued on page 5

Statewide Offices, Board of Equalization

prior opposition to the death penalty.) There does not seem to be much logic to their positions, other than competing to look “tough on crime,” regardless of the cost.

Allen has a strong background in environmental law, unlike Harris and Cooley, whose only experience is as prosecutors. “When the Cuyahoga River caught fire in the late 1960’s, that acted as a wake-up call that we needed to do a lot more to protect our environment, even if only for our own long-term health. It led to major and significant changes in the law. Unfortunately, we dozed off again, but the Gulf of Mexico catching on fire this year should be another wake-up call. We need to take serious action on global warming and other environmental issues, and the time to do that is now.”

For more detailed information on Peter Allen’s background and positions, please see: www.peterallenforag.com. We strongly support Peter Allen for California Attorney General.

Insurance Commissioner William (“Bill”) Balderston

William Balderston, universally known as “Bill,” is a long-time political activist in the East Bay. Although a retired high school teacher, he continues to be a key organizer for the Oakland Education Association (the teachers’ union in Oakland), especially around labor, community and political involvement. He is also very involved in the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the National Education Association (NEA) Peace and Justice Caucus and is very active in organizing around anti-war, immigrant rights and health care issues, primarily linked to the labor movement.

As a socialist and committed believer in independent working class politics, Bill has been an active supporter of the Green Party and is honored to represent the Party in running for state office. His campaign for state insurance commissioner is not only in line with his commitment to a single-payer health care system, but also with his anger and frustration at the corporate exploitation of basic needs for working people.

While understanding the legal limits of this office regarding health care coverage, especially HMOs, Bill is putting forward key demands and proposed legislation around health care in his program. These include:

- altering existing legislation from a 70 percent requirement to 95 percent as to the amount of premiums devoted to patient care;
 - imposing a graduated tax on the profits of insurance companies to pay claims by patients and providers; and
 - expanding requirements to open the financial books of all insurance companies doing business in California.
- More important is to use this campaign to demand that

insurance companies should have no role in the health care system in California and nationally. This requires not only advocating for a single-payer health insurance approach, but also educating around the long-term need for a national health system.

Regarding other forms of insurance, we should also demand a single-payer auto insurance, paid for by a pay-at-the pump form of funding. For more immediate issues, we should call for:

- legislation limiting an insurance premium increase to COLA and exemptions for the unemployed and low-income workers;
- assessing insurance companies to pay for expanded driver education programs, linked to safety issues around teenage drivers;
- advocating the need for drivers licences for undocumented residents, which would help expand immigrant rights and make the roads safer; and
- reorganizing DMV procedures around threats to revoke licences for lack of insurance.

Beyond auto insurance, we can propose:

- regulating home owners insurance payments relating them to mortgage status and subsidizing the home insurance for owners facing foreclosures; and
- providing state-run earthquake insurance.

If there was ever a time to make these corporate exploiters “share the risk” of this crisis and progressively tax and regulate these wealthy “dominators,” it is NOW! (The candidate of the Democratic Party is another termed-out state legislator looking for his next career move who doesn’t come close to advocating the policies that we truly need and the Republican candidate is yet another right-wing conservative). For politics which represent what is needed in California, we urge you cast your vote for William (Bill) Balderston.

Bill Balderston’s website is: <http://www.healthcareforall2010.net>.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction - No Endorsement

Larry Aceves is the candidate of the school administrative bureaucracy. He is a former district superintendent and past president of the Association of California School Administrators. It is true that he is not a Sacramento “insider” but he is somewhat contradictory in his general approach to the crisis of public education in the state. While calling for class size reduction and more equitable funding (he doesn’t say where the resources will come from), he also repeats the “accountability” mantra aimed at schools and teachers, which usually means assessing by test scores. He has called for “flexibility” in teacher contracts, which he has indicated have limited “innovation.” And his website highlights the

support of Becky Morgan, a former state legislator who is linked to the Commission on the 21st Century, which advocates for a corporate agenda on public education.

Tom Torlakson clearly is the candidate of the teachers/public sector unions; although that in itself is not necessarily a reason to endorse. Unlike Aceves, he clearly opposes basing teacher compensation on test scores, and also calls for assistance for lower performing schools (again the question of test scores), not sanctions. His track record is strong on education funding, having authored legislation supporting after-school programs and funding for textbooks and other instructional materials. He also was a main author of the Quality Education Improvement Act of 2006 which brought \$3 billion to schools in depressed areas. That said, like Aceves, he is not clear where additional funds will be found (i.e. progressive taxation).

Ultimately, both Aceves and Torlakson leave a lot to be desired, so we’re not able to endorse either of them. Their websites are: www.larryaceves2010.com/ and www.tomtorlakson.com/.

State Board of Equalization, 1st District - Sherill Borg

We are endorsing Sherill Borg, the Peace and Freedom Party’s candidate for this position. (There is no Green Party member running.) Sherill tells the truth about the important taxation questions facing California. Her page on the Peace and Freedom Party’s website starts:

“If the State Board of Equalization would do its job California would have plenty of funding for its schools, its programs and services to the people of California!

“The State Board of Equalization (BOE) should serve the public through fair, effective and efficient tax administration. The reason I’m running is because right now that’s not the case. California currently collects about \$56.3 billion in annual taxes—much more is needed to support our programs and education, but the BOE won’t do its job and make the corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

“The marginal tax rate for businesses is 9.5 percent for corporate state income tax. But the effective tax rate for large corporations is much less in practice.

“For example Chevron, based in California, paid no state income taxes in California in 2008—instead sending its taxes—both federal and state—to foreign governments where rates are cheaper. How’d they do it? It’s complicated—sort of—but basically they structure their business so that they take a loss in the U.S. and earn profits abroad. By moving ownership of profitable assets to overseas subsidiaries while incurring expenses in the U.S. Chevron can avoid being taxed here where tax rates are relatively high.”

For more information see: www.peaceandfreedom.org/2010/sherill-borg.

State Propositions

Prop. 19

continued from page 1

aid for education, bank loans, housing, or employment. This especially impacts the African-American community, as the arrest rate for young black men for small amounts of marijuana is three times the rate for young whites in many of California’s largest counties. Presently, blacks make up 7 percent of the state population, yet comprise 750 of 1,515 people in California prisons for marijuana charges. Government studies consistently find lower rates of marijuana use among blacks than whites.

Proposition 19 allows possession of one ounce and cultivation of 25 square feet for personal use. It legalizes use only for adults over 21 and has several articles protecting minors. It limits public consumption to licensed facilities.

The proposition allows each city or county to decide whether to license or prohibit cultivation, sales, and public consumption for adults, at what rate to tax sales, charge licensing fees, and how to punish and prohibit infractions of its rules. Limits on permitted commercial production, as opposed to personal production, are not specified, and only limited by local ordinance. Though sales to individual customers are limited to one ounce per transaction, there are no limits on frequency of transactions, or on sales to retailers or distributors. This proposition does not encourage either existing or new small growers, and we have concern that big businesses can take control of the marijuana industry, pushing out small farmers, as has agribusiness in so many other industries.

Prop 19 explicitly permits state government to pass legislation regarding cultivation and sales. Given the complexities that city and county ordinances will doubtless create, state legislation of some sort is likely to follow

passage.

Opponents of Prop 19 have stated in their ballot opposition argument that Prop 19 does not provide “the Highway Patrol with any tests or objective standards for determining what constitutes ‘driving under the influence.’” However, the same argument could be applied to driving under the influence of any legal drug that can impair driver safety. Further legislation could specify tests to be used, and cannabinoid product levels deemed unsafe. This would clarify standards for bus, truck drivers and school bus drivers, a concern of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Opponents have also stated in their argument that workplaces could not opt to be drug-free. However, the proposition explicitly states that the “existing right of an employer to address consumption that actually impairs job performance by an employee shall not be affected,” and it would seem that the same rights that now allow places of work to not permit alcohol or apparent inebriation on premises would allow prohibition of marijuana or stoned behavior, which could be validated by drug testing. Drug testing revealing past use of marijuana irrelevant to the user’s state of mind in the workplace might be prohibited, and we see this as a good thing. Issues of federal contracts requiring different standards of drug-free workplaces may create difficulties, as will other conflicts with federal law. Whether mandated by state, county or city law, it is also difficult to determine the financial benefits that will accrue from the taxation of marijuana, as there are many variables to be considered. Estimates made by several studies have varied enormously. But despite these many unknowns, we welcome the passage of Prop 19 as bringing progress toward appropriate marijuana legislation in California.

Propositions 20 and 27 No on 20, No Endorsement on 27 Redistricting

In 2008, Proposition 11 changed the redistricting process in California by shifting control from the state legislature to a 14-member commission called the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. In our 2008 Voter Guide write-up on Prop 11, we said: “Creating a redistricting process with unelected, unknown, faceless people chosen by a Kafka-esque process is moving away from accountability.” Unfortunately, Prop 11 passed, barely, and two years later, the status of this alternative redistricting process remains unknown. In other words, our worst fears have been realized.

This November’s ballot offers a choice as we consider the fiasco of Prop.11: while Prop 20 worsens the situation, Prop. 27 eliminates the commission and returns redistricting back to the state legislature.

Prop 20, the Congressional Redistricting Initiative, extends Prop. 11’s reach from the redistricting of Assembly, State Senate and Board of Equalization districts, to the redistricting of California’s US Congressional districts. We don’t want to extend a flawed process further.

Prop 27, the California Financial Accountability in Redistricting Act, would repeal Proposition 11 by eliminating the State Redistricting Commission and giving redistricting back to the legislature. It limits the amount of money the legislature can spend on redistricting and provides that voters can subject any redistricting plan of the legislature to the referendum process. It requires that all districts for the

continued on page 6

Prop. 20 & 27

continued from page 5

same office have the same number of voters, and mandates that the legislature make its own redistricting process more transparent—most notably by requiring 14 day advance public notice for each meeting dealing with redistricting.

However, we also feel the provisions of Prop. 27 are relatively modest, considering the language in the finding and purpose section of Prop. 27; and the Green Party strongly favors, instead, Proportional Representation as a real method for more choices and more participation. Additionally, we don't like the way that the state legislature has operated in the recent past, and is likely to operate in the near future.

Therefore, the Green Party recommends a "No" vote on Prop. 20 and has no endorsement on Prop. 27.

Proposition 21 Yes, with reservations Vehicle Fee for Parks

Proposition 21 (the "State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act") will establish an "\$18 Annual Vehicle License Surcharge to Help Fund State Parks and Wildlife Programs and Grants Free Admission to All State Parks to Surcharged Vehicles."

In principle the Green Party is not for flat type taxes since they tend to affect the poor disproportionately. In this particular case, though, the tax is modest and is levied on cars, which are a major source of environmental degradation, and revenues will be used for the preservation of the natural environment, an important Green Party value. We also dislike dedicated "carve out" taxes, such as this, but California's budget crisis and taxation system are not going to be fixed any time soon, so in order to provide needed funding for the parks system, we endorse Proposition 21, with reservations.

Proposition 21 requires that revenues be deposited in a new trust fund to be used solely to operate, maintain and repair the state park system. The fund, which will protect wildlife and natural resources, requires an annual independent audit and review by a citizens' oversight committee. The Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance estimate its fiscal impact to be increased state revenues of about \$500 million annually from the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) surcharge. Potential state savings of up to approximately \$200 million will occur annually as VLF surcharge revenues are used to reduce support from the General Fund for parks and conservation programs, along with a reduction of about \$50 million annually in revenues from state park day-use fees. These revenue losses could potentially be offset by increases in other types of state park user fees and revenues. See www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures.htm for the full text.

Proposition 22 No, with reservations Dedicated monies for local government & transportation

Proposition 22, according to the official summary, "Prohibits the State from shifting, taking, borrowing, or restricting the use of tax revenues dedicated by law to fund local government services, community redevelopment projects, or transportation projects and services. Prohibits the State from delaying the distribution of tax revenues for these purposes even when the Governor deems it necessary due to a severe state fiscal hardship." The Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance estimate that this will result "higher and more stable local resources, potentially affecting billions of dollars in some years, [along with] commensurate reductions in state resources, resulting in major decreases in state spending and/or increases in state revenues."

At first glance, this looks good. Local levels of government are presumably more responsive to local needs. And there is no doubt that the state government has been somewhat high-handed recently in its approach to struggling cities and counties.

However, this proposition is one more example of "budgeting by ballot-box." We elect representatives to go to Sacramento and make budget decisions, and if those representatives cannot get the job done, then we go to the polls and replace them (in theory).

Yet through use (some would say "abuse") of the direct democracy system, each election cycle leaves our State Senators and Assemblymembers, from whatever party, with less and less room to maneuver when trying to manage our state's affairs. This has led us to more partisanship, more back-room deal making, and more bad government.

The provisions of Prop 22 are mostly concerned with "transportation money"—that is the funds normally used for highways and so forth. There are restrictions of the uses of Vehicle Tax revenue, and this proposition even goes so far as to repeal laws (meaning "budgets") that are passed in the future (between October 2009 and November 2, 2010). But forcing money away from the state to the cities will mean reductions in funding elsewhere. So, one likely outcome of Prop 22 will be even less money state-wide for schools and universities, as well as less funding for other programs that progressives feel are important for the common good, such as health care.

The California Nurses Association (CNA) and the California Teachers Association (CTA) both oppose Prop 22. California is a very rich state in a very rich country, but tax policies for over 30 years have left more and more money in private pockets and collected less than is needed for the jobs government should do—Federal, State, County, and City. Sadly, we have to decide whether fixing potholes is more important than education and health care. Although we sympathize with the plight of local government budgets (hence our reservations), ultimately we'll go with the nurses and teachers and urge a "No" vote on Prop 22.

Proposition 24 - Yes, Yes! Repeals corporate tax loopholes

Republicans and Democrats voted for major tax loopholes for corporations last year, even while facing more than \$20 billion in budget deficit. The loopholes (equating to nearly \$2 billion in lost revenue for California) have only made the state's budget crisis worse.

There are three main features to Prop 24:

- it repeals a law that allows business to shift operating tax losses into the past and future;
- it repeals a law that allows corporations to share tax credits with affiliated corporations (87 percent of these monies would go to 0.03 percent of California corporations, all with gross income over \$1 billion);
- finally, it repeals a law that would allow multi-state businesses to use only sales-based income and not have to include property and payroll.

This proposition has been largely initiated by the California Teachers Association, with much help from the California Tax Reform Association, a progressive research and advocacy organization. Prop 24 is targeted at large corporations and conglomerates, and will have little effect on smaller businesses.

California needs large corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. We strongly urge a "Yes" vote on Prop. 24.

Proposition 25 Yes, with reservations Approval of state budget by majority vote

This measure, emerging from language proposed by state senator Loni Hancock, is also rooted in the state budget process fiasco, but is at best a half-way measure. Unlike the proposed California Democracy Act (which did not make the ballot), Prop 25 ONLY removes the two-thirds requirement for the passage of the state budget without addressing the supermajority for revenues. Its major supporters, including the California Federation of Teachers, maintain it is a step towards democratization of the budget process and that polling indicates defeat on any such initiative dealing with taxation. Those more critical of this measure see it as a potential source of frustration, especially in this age of massive defunding of state social programs, which could actually encourage many Democrats to make greater compromises on progressive spending because a simple majority is all that's necessary to pass the budget.

If one had more confidence in the forces backing this measure to follow up on the revenue equivalent, it would be easier to embrace and not perceive it as a bridge half-built that would leave us floundering mid-stream. In other words, if Prop. 25 passes, we're not sure if a movement to overturn the 2/3 requirement for raising revenues will actually be able to develop. And since that monumental revenue hurdle has arguably been the biggest single factor in destroying California's public sphere over the past 30 years, we're lukewarm in the extreme regarding our degree of support for Prop. 25.

Proposition 26 - No, No! Extends 2/3 vote requirement to all revenue items

Prop 26 would be a big step backwards, extending the two-thirds vote requirement to more government fees (especially fees for environmental clean-up by corporate

polluters) and other income measures not currently requiring it. Prop 26 is the opposite of what we need, and it is undemocratic.

This clearly is an attempt by big business and the right-wing populist/Tea Party forces to hit back at Props 24 and 25, and continue the right's anti-tax momentum. It will make California's budget crisis worse, by eliminating options for revenue sources.

Large corporations, such as big oil, tobacco, and alcohol companies are behind Prop 26, so that they can avoid having to pay for the damages they cause California and this measure is also linked to the reactionary Prop 23 in protecting polluters.

A minority of just 34 percent should not be allowed to have veto power over a majority of 66 percent. That is not democracy.

Prop 26 will make it more difficult for California to balance its budget. We strongly urge a "No" vote on Proposition 26.

Alameda County Supervisor, District 2 No Endorsement

The two candidates, Liz Figueroa and Nadia Lockyer, both returned our questionnaire, but their answers did not differ significantly, and we do not have any convincing information which would lead us to endorse one of them over the other, for this seat.

Liz Figueroa served as State Senator and State Assembly member until termed out. She is currently an Unemployment Caseworker and Educator. Figueroa is known for having authored the bill that created the consumer protection "Do Not Call List" for California, later mirrored somewhat in Federal Legislation. Her record on the environment from the California League of Conservation Voters was usually near the top, and a couple of times 100 percent. Ms. Figueroa also authored a bill that allowed at least a two day hospital stay for mothers with newborns, and a bill giving the right to patients to sue their HMO. She also received high marks on Animal Protection Legislation.

On our questionnaire she stated her opposition to spraying of pesticides related to the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), support of the Restorative Justice Plan (though she wants to further study the specific Alameda plan before committing to it), support of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and Bus Rapid Transit. Her website is www.lizfigueroafor-supervisor.com

Nadia Lockyer, wife of State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, is currently Executive Director of the Alameda County Family Justice Center, appointed by Nancy O'Malley, Alameda County District Attorney candidate. O'Malley was instrumental in creating this center which assists survivors of child abuse, domestic abuse, and elder abuse. Ms. Lockyer was also past president of a school board.

Since Lockyer has not held prior office, we are not able to provide a voting record for her. She responded to our questionnaire very comprehensively, and appears to favor most Green Party positions, including opposition to spraying of pesticides related to the LBAM, support of the Restorative Justice Plan, RCV, and Bus Rapid Transit. Her website is www.nadiaforsupervisor.com/.

Measure F - Yes, with reservations

\$10 per Vehicle Transportation Fee

The Alameda County Congestion Management Agency board—a panel of elected city, county and transit district officials has put this measure on the ballot, seeking an extra \$10 on the registration fee of each vehicle in the county for the purpose of funding road maintenance, and improving public transit and pedestrian and bicycle routes. A state law passed last October empowers county congestion agencies to sponsor such ballot measures. The law also requires that expenditures be specified and monitored. Alameda County intends to spend sixty percent of the fee on city and county roads, twenty-five percent on measures that encourage use of public transit, ten percent on technology improvements and five percent on improvements to make pedestrian and bicycle travel faster and safer.

The measure is expected to bring in about \$11 million per year, which would compensate for a decline in county assistance from the state, and lower tax revenues due to the recession. We wish that the fee were higher for corporate semis than for old cars driven by people barely scraping by, but as for most of us this \$10-per-vehicle fee is not prohibitive, and Alameda County's roads have very poor ratings, we think it makes sense to support this imperfect measure.

Federal Offices, State Assembly

U.S. Senate Duane Roberts

After 10 years in the House of Representatives, Barbara Boxer became a U.S. Senator in 1993 and has earned a reputation as a fighter to many on the Left. Boxer currently holds the position of Chief Deputy Whip of the Democratic Majority, and chair of the Select Committee on Ethics. Consequently, she has often been seen asking the tough questions of bankers, election officials and Bush appointees like Condoleezza Rice or John Bolton on C-SPAN, or calling for impeachment to be “back on the table.” She appears, to most, to be a strong fighter for civil and human rights in general. In some ways she has been.

But in many ways, also, she has not been the fighter she appears to be. In 2006 she voted to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act, in part because she felt the problematic aspects were less important than what was needed in it. Many are unaware that she has also supported three strikes legislation and the war on drugs. And in 2010 she voted to support the health care reform agenda of the Obama Administration, telling an audience a year earlier at a 2009 fundraising event in San Francisco, that health care reform would not be single-payer.

Duane Roberts, the Green Party U.S. Senate Candidate running against Boxer, is a long-time community organizer from Anaheim and has been a Green Party County Councilor in Orange County. He describes the health care reform bill as “yet another taxpayer bailout of Wall Street billionaires.” In contrast to the Democrats’ plan, Duane sees health care as “a fundamental human right deserving of all people and not a commodity to be sold at a profit to the highest bidder.” Duane believes that the role of the Democratic Party has been to come to the rescue of private health insurers—who have lost more than 9 million customers since 2000—with a “scam to prop them up by forcing millions of new people to purchase their defective, over-priced policies and subsidize their obscene profit margins with public funds.”

Similarly, Marsha Feinland, the Peace & Freedom Senate candidate who often works closely with Bay Area Greens and shares many Green values, a retired public school teacher of 25 years and former Commissioner on the Berkeley Rent Board, also supports a single-payer health care. She notes, “The only member of the U.S. Senate to support single payer health care was an independent, Bernie Sanders, of Vermont. Our Congress gave us a costly plan which requires everyone to buy private insurance.”

In 2008, Barbara Boxer voted to support the bailout of the big banks, despite receiving nearly 17,000 e-mails and 3,000 phone calls from constituents, nearly all opposed to the bailout. In contrast, the Green and Peace & Freedom candidates actually represent the views of those voters. Roberts opposes the bailouts in general and Marsha Feinland, who was instrumental in the passage of the Just Cause for Eviction ordinance in Oakland, states, “We must protect people who live in foreclosed properties instead of bailing out the banks.”

Duane Roberts, like most Green Party candidates, supports the legalization of marijuana and, if elected, would repeal all federal laws that prohibit marijuana and hemp from being used for medicinal, recreational, and industrial purposes. Peace & Freedom’s Marsha Feinland, too, would legalize marijuana, decriminalize drug use, and make substance abuse treatment freely available. These views are likely shared by the vast majority of California voters.

Boxer, however, as *Raw Story* reports, has a message for marijuana law reform activists: “Just say no.” An interesting contrast between the candidates is reflected in their campaign statements on legalizing marijuana:

Boxer’s statement: “Senator Boxer does not support this initiative because she shares the concerns of police chiefs, sheriffs and other law enforcement officials that this measure could lead to an increase in crime, vehicle accidents and higher costs for local law enforcement agencies. She supports current law in California, which allows for the use of medicinal marijuana with a doctor’s prescription.”

Roberts’ statement: “Legalizing marijuana not only will allow us to regulate it and thus make it much safer for consumers to use, but will bring in billions of dollars in new tax revenues to cash-starved local, state, and federal governments, and help facilitate the development of industrial hemp as a valuable agricultural commodity.”

Boxer’s rejection of the legalization of marijuana likely comes as a surprise to many of her supporters who view her as a progressive Senator, a fighter for women’s rights, against war, for the environment, etc. However, little of what Boxer fights against on TV ever becomes tangible opposition. Although Boxer called her objection to the 2004 Ohio Electoral College votes her “opening shot to be able to focus the light of truth on these terrible problems in the electoral system,” after numerous hearings and many hours of shocking testimony later (Boxer even received 4,500 roses on Valentines Day just for calling attention to the

rigged system), nothing came of her efforts and the black box electoral system remains largely unchanged.

Boxer supported Hillary Clinton’s “Count Every Vote Act of 2005,” which would have provided a voter verified paper ballot for every vote cast in electronic voting machines, but the bill didn’t make it through committee and was never reintroduced again. Looking back, one finds that Boxer also voted to support the original 2002 scam bill, “Help America Vote Act,” the disaster which brought the black box voting machines to every precinct in the US in the first place.

This strategy of the Democrats is to carefully manage the public’s anger while maintaining the status quo. During elections and in hearings, voters are overjoyed to see that their Democrat candidate appears to genuinely share their views—inevitably, Kucinich, Lee, Boxer—and they shower donations and volunteer time onto their campaigns, spend countless hours on emails, letters, visits to offices, etc., however, when the time comes to take action, the relevant number of Democrat Senators and Representatives cave to corporate interests. And for a few months, the wind is taken out of constituents’ sails . . . until the next election. This way, little ever changes, profits are protected, and thousands of lives continue to be lost to the imperialist US war machine around the world.

Duane Roberts supports Green values across the board: tuition-free public university education; withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan; same-sex marriage; immigrant rights; and solar power, among other positions. While Barbara Boxer has done some important work in Congress, we believe Roberts’ votes in the US Senate could best represent the people of California instead of the agendas of wealthy corporations and investors which the Democratic Party is committed to.

The Green Party recommends a vote for Duane Roberts for US Senate. Please see his website: www.voteforduane.org/.

U.S. Representative, District 9 David (Dave) Heller

Dave Heller grew up in Upstate New York, acquired a degree in physics from Bard College and moved to California to study organic architecture 18 years ago. He is a carpenter by trade and has been a Green Party member since he moved here 18 years ago. In 2004, Heller was the Campaign Coordinator for Berkeley’s RCV Measure, the system finally being used this year for the first time.

In 2008, Heller became so disillusioned with Representative Barbara Lee’s votes for nearly \$800 billion to bail out billionaires, over \$100 billion for the wars and occupations, and support for a health care system that will mainly benefit the health insurance industry, that he ran against her as a write-in candidate. And today, the actions of the Democrat Obama Administration continue the Bush Administration’s failed policies: still prisoners at Guantanamo, a failing occupation of Afghanistan, increasing the staggering national debt for war while neglecting US infrastructure and slashing education budgets.

Heller believes these problems all have a basis in the events of September 11th, 2001. The 9/11 attacks, a definitive moment in American history, served as the excuse for the illegal and immoral occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, the assault of civil rights, the eradication of Habeas Corpus, and wire-tapping, etc.

But what really happened on 9/11/01?

With a degree in physics, Heller has focused on the destruction of the WTC Towers. Along with over 1200 credentialed architects and engineers at Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth (AE911truth.org), Heller calls for a new investigation of the attacks. “Buildings cannot disintegrate themselves, breaking thousands of weld joints and pulverizing concrete into fine dust at the same rate as a free falling object in midair. It’s physically impossible without another energy source.” Scientists analyzing dust from the three WTC towers that fell on 9/11/01 found military-grade nano-thermite, a rare explosive. Where did it come from? With hundreds of unanswered questions remaining, the US Green Party has continued to call for a new investigation into the 9/11 attacks.

Heller is a strong supporter of renewable energy, and believes there is hope to offset calamities such as global climate change if we work quickly and decisively. “We all need to do our part to wean ourselves off coal and petroleum by using public transit, zip cars and bikes,” Heller says. “We need to create safe bikeways throughout our cities, towns and countryside, promote Wind, Solar and Tidal.”

Heller advocates election reforms such as Proportional Representation and Ranked Choice Voting. “And we also need to change FCC rules to allow all candidates for public office some free air time,” Heller says. “Our democracy cannot function properly if we elect our representatives

based on which candidate has the most money. Too many billionaires are buying themselves into office.” Vote for Green Party candidate Dave Heller for 9th Congressional District. Dave Heller’s website is [GoTo Heller.org](http://GoToHeller.org).

District 10 Jeremy Cloward

Jeremy Cloward is a Green Party member running for the Congressional seat currently held by John Garamendi, a Democrat who voted with the Republicans to approve an extension of parts of the Patriot Act which allow “our” Government to spy on us. (Most of District 10 is in Contra Costa County but there’s a piece around Livermore that’s in Alameda County.)

Jeremy stands for single-payer universal health care, free education from kindergarten through graduate school, free daycare for all children, reducing the US military budget by 6/7ths, nationalizing all US banks that received bailout money, nationalizing the “Big 3” US automobile makers so their facilities can be converted to making more fuel-efficient and electric cars, paying reparations to all African-Americans, a general Federal fund for the research and development of alternative energy sources, a living wage of \$20/hour and a \$250,000 limit on executive pay. And that’s just the highlights from the “Why I Am Running” page of Jeremy’s refreshing website.

Jeremy grew up in Pleasant Hill and it’s a pleasure to see this “local boy” still here and raising his voice for the issues that are most neglected by the two corporate parties. Jeremy has been a truckdriver and a teacher, and currently is an adjunct professor of political science at Diablo Valley College. He ran in the special election in 2009 (to replace Ellen Tauscher) and is back for another try. Jeremy’s campaign is thoroughly Green; his website has a page with “Our Ten Key Values.”

Please visit www.jeremycloward.com for more, much more, information, and to get involved in Jeremy’s campaign. Vote for Green Party candidate Jeremy Cloward for 10th Congressional District.

State Assembly, District 14 No Endorsement

Democrat Nancy Skinner is running for re-election in this district that covers Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, parts of Richmond and Oakland, as well as Orinda and Moraga. There is one other candidate on the ballot, a Republican whom we can not recommend.

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 has also 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 are also particularly disappointed that she actively participated in last year’s campaign against the downtown plan referendum, where Greens and other progressives were successful in halting the city council’s ill-conceived scheme for the center of Berkeley. Nancy Skinner will undoubtedly be re-elected without any difficulty. However, we do not recommend that you vote for her.

State Assembly, District 16 No Endorsement

California’s 16th Assembly District serves most of Oakland, Piedmont and Alameda and has been held by Sandre Swanson since 2006.

Swanson had 30 years of political experience before he ran for this office. He spent 25 years as Ron Dellums’ district staff and then became Barbara Lee’s chief of staff in 1998. Now running for his third (and under term limits, his final) 2-year term in the state assembly, Swanson again chairs the Labor and Employment Committee. He has been a reasonably strong advocate for the people.

However, we are very disappointed with the extremely weak campaign mounted by the Democrats against Prop. 14 (the “Top Two” primary) in this past June’s election (despite their “official” position of opposing it). And this was despite Swanson being a supposed “leader” among the Democrats in opposition to Prop 14, and with local Green Party members meeting with Swanson to collaborate on opposing 14. However, only \$250,000 was raised to fight Prop. 14, while the proponents raised over \$5 million to make sure it passed.

We also would have liked for Swanson to have been more outspoken in challenging the Democratic Party’s “status quo” positions in such areas as progressive taxation or electoral reform. Although Swanson has been relatively good as far as Democrats go, we really need much, much more than that, so we are not endorsing him (or anyone else) in this race.

Emeryville Measure J (School Bond) No, with reservations

This \$95 million bond measure is for the purpose of constructing a unique joint-use facility which will contain not only k-12 classrooms, job-training, after-school and pre-school programs, but also community services such as a rec center, senior center, and social services. Presently referred to as the "Emeryville Center for Community Life," the project name is expected to change if this measure passes, in order to emphasize the K-12 element.

The measure states that the facility will enable the district to maintain academic excellence, and attract and retain quality teachers. Perhaps, as the measure surmises, up-dated classrooms, science labs, computer labs and technology will enhance student performance and maintain academic excellence, and quality teachers may better be retained in a better building with the above enhancements, but the bond money must be spent only on capital costs of the facility. Supporters of this measure depend on the new facility to attract additional grant money which could be spent in other ways to fulfill these goals. Emeryville's schools, despite the recent \$9 million spent on renovating the elementary school, are not up to current seismic code, the high school does need replacement, and money will need to be spent.

The question is whether a project of this expense and scope is required, and whether investing now will save money over the long run. Supporters state that consolidating facilities would be more efficient and less costly in on-going operating expenses. Four different plans were presented at a recent town meeting. Unfortunately, citizens committees to examine varying plans have been disbanded, and the conclu-

sion of the presenters represented the thinking of the City Council, Board of Education and Chamber of Commerce, all of whom presently support this measure.

We believe that grassroots input should have been included in examining alternatives, and the city's failure to include its residents in examining alternatives runs counter to Green values. This could be reason not to support this measure. In addition, passage of this measure will result in an increase of \$60 per \$100,000 value assessed property tax for Emeryville residents. Bond measures do not allow an exemption for fixed income seniors. At present the Emeryville schools are supported by OUSD since 40 percent of Emeryville students come from Oakland. The city's recently adopted twenty year general plan anticipates additional population, as it requires the building of additional housing. The measure's supporters believe that families with children will move into this housing either due to the appeal of the new facility, or to make use of hoped-for expansion of child care. (This year the city came close to outsourcing its present child-care program due to lack of funds.)

Unless units built are larger than those presently being marketed, and unless families who may move in choose public school for their children, this prediction may or may not be fulfilled. While we recognize that all children are entitled to schooling in good buildings, we note that Oakland taxpayers will not contribute to the price of the project.

We wish that a more thorough study by Emeryville residents who are not in positions of power had been undertaken, and that the response of the community had been more broadly elicited, so that we could feel more confident regarding the wisdom of now undertaking a project of this scope.

Peralta Community College, Areas 3 and 5 No Endorsements

The Peralta Community Colleges—Laney, Merritt, College of Alameda, and Berkeley City College—play a critical role in educating local students, most of whom are working people, children of working people, and people of color. The Peralta Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for watching over the Peralta District Office and its four colleges. We wish they would watch more carefully, giving more serious attention to what they say is their focus—students. Current problems—which are not new—include a lack of accurate and current budgets, transparency, and fiduciary awareness; as well as spending priorities that do not serve students, inappropriate expenditures by administrators and Trustees, a dysfunctional computer system, and flawed bond investments that were designed to fund post-retirement benefits for employees. Recently, the District received a critical report from the Alameda County Grand Jury, and the regional Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges put the four Peralta colleges on probation.

Three of Peralta's seven Trustee seats are up for election in 2010. In area 7 (Chinatown, Lake Merritt, Adams Point, West Oakland, Temescal), Abel Guillen, incumbent and current Board President, is running unopposed. Because local public entities can opt not to pay for an election when there is only one candidate, this race will not appear on the ballot.

Peralta Board Area 3 (San Antonio, Fruitvale, Brookdale, Seminary, Maxwell Park, Fairfax) No Endorsement

Linda Handy, 2-term incumbent, is the second longest-serving member of the Peralta Board. Greens endorsed her in 2002, when she was successful in ousting a two-term incumbent. In 2006, she ran unopposed. Handy's responses to our questionnaire show that she has learned a great deal about Peralta issues while serving on the Board. As the Chair of the Board's Student Services Committee, she has promoted the development of the District's first ever, full service Student Health Center, in collaboration with Alameda County. She is an active Board member who promotes initiatives and projects. However, she lacks financial acumen, and during her current term, many Peralta faculty, staff, and students have found her mercurial and unsupportive.

Monica Tell has a professional background in public affairs and community relations, currently at PG&E. She has served on the Boards of numerous local organizations, including several focusing on women, girls, and Latinos. Tell presented a long and detailed response to our questionnaire. Tell emphasized that students should have access to technical education and job preparation. We were impressed with her proposal to facilitate students' job searches by requiring all District vendors and contractors to post their job openings and applications on a special page linked to the Peralta web site. Tell seems to know about Peralta's administrative problems, but has little familiarity with their depth, and would face a long learning curve. Tell worked as Constituent Liaison for then State Senator Don Perata. He and Councilmember Ignacio DeLaFuente support her. Because of this support, plus Tell's limited experience in community colleges, we are reluctant to endorse her.

The Peralta Federation of Teachers PAC and the Alameda County Central Labor Council have endorsed Linda Handy. See www.handy4trustee.com/.

Peralta Board Area 5 (Upper Rockridge, Glenview, Dimond, Laurel, Montclair, East Oakland Hills, City of Piedmont) No Endorsement

Bill Riley, 3-term incumbent and senior member of the Peralta Board, was first elected in 1988. Riley has had a long career in education, but his 12 years on the Board have been undistinguished, and Peralta's problems persist. We have not endorsed him in the past and cannot endorse him now. Riley ran unopposed in 2002 and 2006. This year he is in a contested race.

William Maddox is a Human Resources professional who has worked in both the private and public sectors. His responses to the Green questionnaire were brief, showing some awareness of Peralta's problems and offering commitment and skill to provide leadership. However, his knowledge about Peralta is limited, and his working experience in higher education consists of a year as a part-time community college instructor. Maddox did not mention receiving any endorsements; he did not provide a biography or resume. We cannot endorse him either.

The Peralta Federation of Teachers PAC and the Alameda County Central Labor Council have endorsed Bill Riley.

City of Alameda

Mayor - Doug de Haan

City Council Jean Sweeney

Bev Johnson, with reservations

There are two outstanding candidates in the Alameda city election. The critical issue is to prevent developers SunCal/DE Shaw from returning from the near dead and funding candidates who will go against the 85 percent of the voters who rejected the developer takeover. Already the out of town surveys are sizing up the community with their push polls. There are two candidates who stand out for a positive plan for a green Point that would benefit Alameda. They are Jean Sweeney (for City Council) a community activist, and Doug de Haan (presently on the Council, now candidate for Mayor). Steady, honest and trustworthy: they have done their research and have taken the correct stand since day one. They can be counted on not to shift their views and will not take big campaign contributions (bribes) from the developers.

For Mayor, not quite as strong as de Haan is Frank Matarrese. When the developer first swooped down on Alameda, Matarrese was a strong supporter of their proposed density housing but as time passed and the opposition in town mounted with many educational meetings and factual reports, Matarrese began to change his mind. He now stands on the side with the plan for the Point based on adaptive reuse of the existing facilities, working with the Veterans administration, the Navy and the State Tidelands Trust, and he clearly expresses these ideas in his questionnaire.

Matarrese expresses ideas of bringing technological innovation and taking care to keep the city solvent. To his credit he has been holding regular meetings open to all Alamedans for the past several months honing his understanding of the issues concerning local residents. He also expresses concern over the cost of the pensions of our public safety personnel and a willingness to work cooperatively with the unions on this matter. While Frank came to the table later in the game than de Haan, he comes across in his written interview as an acceptable choice.

Regarding a second City Council candidate to be considered? It's hard to call but we must say for city council vote "no" on Lena Tam and Izzy Ashcraft as the developer candidates. Bev Johnson, now terming out as mayor but eligible for council, is now independent of SunCal, having realized the highly risky plan. She would be our next choice. Bonta is a bit of a puzzle as he had been regarded as a Lena Tam protege. However when Tam was suspected of passing secrets to the developer and violating the Brown Act with majority emails, he distanced himself from her, and claims he voted against the SunCal plan. Also, be prepared for a possible 3/2 split to try and get SunCal back in play in which case a recall election will be in order!

Definitely vote for Doug de Haan for Mayor and for Jean Sweeney for City Council. If you want to cast your second City Council vote, then vote for Bev Johnson.

School Board

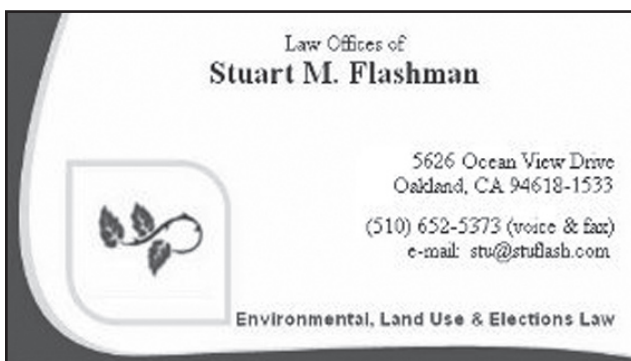
Marjorie ("Margie") Sherratt

Margie Sherratt is a seasoned educator, having gone through the ranks of classroom teacher and high school principal in the Alameda schools. She was always well thought of, and she maintained positive relationships with her colleagues and students. Her questionnaire shows a willingness to be open and creative; and in these difficult times that is a positive approach. She also indicates a willingness to be open and available for those who wish answers. Her idea to expand educational resources with the community colleges is an idea that has merit as well. The Alameda County Green Party is pleased to endorse Margie Sherratt for School Board.

Healthcare District Robert Deutsch

Dr. Deutch should probably be returned to the Alameda Hospital Board for his efforts with the hospital board to bring the hospital out of the red and into the black and that is a good thing. However there has been some question about the large salary (over \$400 K yearly) the top hospital administrator earns when compared it to our the Alameda city manager, who earns only \$250,000 for running the entire city! Alameda Hospital has been a problematic endeavor from the start. It has its limitations, such as lack of stroke emergency response—something the hospital is working to bring on board. Kaiser has recently pulled out of their working relationship, and leaving the Alameda hospital to double their efforts to make up the loss. The VA is serious about bringing vets to Alameda hospital for care, but that won't happen for awhile.

We were not impressed with the other candidates, so we are only endorsing Green Party member Robert Deutsch for the Healthcare District.



Oakland Mayor, City Auditor, City Council

Oakland Mayor

continued from page 1

fundamental situation, including the budget crisis, employment needs, and public safety problems. His Green Key Values orientation shows through in his approaches to sustainable economics, including an innovative local currency program, and in dealing with crime and police-community relations. He has a sophisticated understanding of such crucial issues as alternative energy production, urban planning and redevelopment, public health services, and school funding. His honesty and integrity are immediately apparent in conversation, where his even-handed manner and focused attention let you know that you are being heard and understood. We are pleased to note that Orlando Johnson, Green Party member and activist with Oakland Community Action Network (Oakland CAN), has moved from developing his own candidacy to be Macleay's campaign manager. This bodes well for an inclusive and powerful Macleay administration at City Hall. Please vote for Don Macleay as your first choice for Mayor.

The apparent frontrunner in the race, however, is long-time Bay Area Democrat, Don Perata (www.perata4mayor.com). Perata served two terms on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, before winning the 16th District seat in the State Assembly in 1996. Two years later he was elected to fill an unexpired seat in the State Senate, and over the next decade he served three terms as President Pro Tem, before being termed out in 2008. To his credit, Perata supported California's assault weapons ban. As an East Bay Democrat success story, Perata has been endorsed by icons Jerry Brown and Dianne Feinstein, as well as by his pet construction industry unions, and the Oakland Police Officers Association. Alas, Perata is less than he appears.

Robert Gammon, writing in the popular *East Bay Express*, has catalogued Perata's many financial and political misdeeds, including a series on Perata's FBI fraud investigation. Greens encountered him two years ago, while fighting the ecologically disastrous Oak to 9th condo project: then-State Senator Perata, always the developer's best friend, arranged a public land swap so that Signature Properties could avoid some pesky environmental restrictions. Even the *New York Times* has noted Perata's problematically "close ties to developers and the state prison guards union." More recently, he was accused of spending non-profit money on a glossy mailer that indirectly benefited his mayoral campaign, slyly skirting Oakland's campaign finance rules. His powerful corporate money machine makes him the best funded candidate in the race. In addition, Perata tried to block implementation of RCV in Oakland. Despite our entreaties to his staff, Perata never returned the Green Party candidate questionnaire. More interesting Perata stories can be found at (www.notdon.org).

Along with Macleay, two Oakland City Council Members, Jean Quan and Rebecca Kaplan, are challenging Perata's lead. The stronger competitor is Quan (www.jeanquanoakland.org), a two-term City Council Member from District 4 (The Hills), with century-old family roots in Oakland's Chinatown. Quan entered public office in 1989 as a concerned parent, serving three terms on the Oakland School Board. On the Council she has sponsored such progressive issues as saving the libraries, expanding youth programs, encouraging affordable housing, and Measure Y funding. She is especially sensitive to the environment, and has worked to preserve open space and to ban Styrofoam packaging in the city. Green allies such as Berkeley's Kriss Worthington, San Francisco's Eric Mar, and Oakland's James Vann have endorsed her.

But in 2006, Quan failed to oppose (she abstained) what Greens saw as the fatally flawed Oak to 9th development project, which we fought by gathering signatures from 25,000 Oaklanders who agreed with us. Furthermore, she wants Oakland to hire 1,000 police—an expensive exercise in gun-toting enforcement, when most Greens think that city money would be more effectively spent on preventative and ameliorative solutions to crime. She reportedly can be aloof and difficult to work with. These are important issues for Greens, and preclude an outright endorsement, but her high ethical standards, her generally progressive approach, and her vigorous challenge to Perata encouraged us to give Jean Quan our second place ranking for Mayor.

Rebecca Kaplan (www.kaplanformayor.org) is also a credible, if weaker, candidate. A lawyer and activist from the LGBT community, she first ran for City Council in 2000 as a registered Green and lost, but was finally elected to the AC Transit Board in 2004. She is clearly intelligent and a philosophical progressive, but desire for higher office seems to be her primary motivation. On the AC Transit Board, she disappointed us by supporting the overpriced and underperforming Van Hool buses. During her race for the At-Large City Council seat in 2008, she quietly changed her party registration from Green to Democrat, apparently in exchange for an endorsement from the Alameda Labor Council. And

though she has been a fairly consistent progressive voice on the Council, she can also join with repressive forces when politically expedient. On the issue of the North Oakland Gang Injunction, for example, she sided with City Attorney John Russo to support the measure, in spite of its socially divisive effects and vulnerability to police abuse. Along with Ignacio de la Fuente, she opposed public funding of candidates in local elections.

While Greens may still agree with her on many policy issues, it is her extreme political ambition that gives us pause. Before completing even one term on the Council, she is ready to drop that important work to compete for the Mayor's office. Some observers say that her late entry into the race—a contest she is unlikely to win—is designed merely to build name recognition in preparation for a run at Sandre Swanson's termed-out Assembly seat in two years. Nevertheless, Kaplan has an outside chance for the office, and as she would clearly be less corrupt than Perata, we recommend her for the third position on your Ranked Choice Voting ballot.

Thanks to RCV, where—money and media inequities aside—every candidate has a fair chance for votes, we are happy to see a broad mix of ages, genders, ethnicities, and philosophies in this year's race, which reflects the rainbow of diversity that is Oakland's hallmark. To varying degrees, each candidate is courageous, energetic, and truly feels that she or he can do something valuable for the city. They all should be commended for making the effort to run. The others are, alphabetically:

- Terence Candell (www.candellformayor.com), Executive Director of a College Prep Academy and lifelong Oakland educator
- Arnie Fields (no website yet), veteran of the 2006 mayoral race and a man of the people
- Greg Harland (www.harland4mayor.com), independent Oakland businessman and real estate investor
- Marcie Hodge (www.hodge4oaklandmayor2010.com), two-term Peralta Community College District Trustee
- Joe Tuman (www.joe4mayor.com), San Francisco State professor and former TV commentator for CNN and CBS
- Larry Lionel Young, Jr. (no website yet), 30-year-old MBA graduate and real estate broker

So, voters, rank your choices. We enthusiastically endorse Donald Macleay, who would be a Mayor with the right values, the right skills, and the right attitude to help build a fair and sustainable Oakland community of the future. And in case Macleay does not win, please use your backup votes to stop the Don Perata machine from having its way with our beloved city.

Oakland City Auditor No Endorsement

Courtney Ruby is running for re-election after one term as Auditor. Ms. Ruby's questionnaire answers show she feels she has made a lot of progress in exposing nepotism, unfair hiring practices, payroll abuses and other problems with the City Administration. She states that her whistleblower program has increased reports of abuse by 600 percent. She seeks another term in order to "work to reform the outdated business processes that are driving away investment." She has other projects planned as well. Courtney Ruby's website is www.electRuby2010.com.

Michael Kilian is challenging the incumbent. According to his questionnaire, he is more qualified to be City Auditor than the incumbent. He has served as Chief Deputy City Auditor. He refers to "deficiencies in the staff prepared reports arising from erroneous assumptions and poor methodology" under the present Auditor. Mr. Kilian's campaign website (www.mkilian4auditor.com) suggests that this is "round two" of the 2006 election in which Courtney Ruby defeated the previous Auditor, Roland Smith. Mr. Kilian says: "The current City Auditor isn't getting the job done. In the last four years the Office of the City Auditor has issued only 28 reports. Three of these reports were prepared by outside firms. In contrast, under the former City Auditor's team (when I was the Chief Deputy), 190 reports were issued, all staff prepared."

Unfortunately, we are not able to evaluate the assertions of either the incumbent or the challenger, and cannot offer the voters an endorsement for this office.

City Council, District 2 - Jennifer Pae, with reservations

The current district 2 incumbent, Patricia ('Pat') Kernighan, has now been a member of the city council for over five years. While she can certainly take credit for some rather modest achievements, we are very disappointed that Kernighan has completely failed during the past half-decade to become an advocate for the major large-scale changes which we urgently need in order to solve our city's problems—problems that have now clearly reached crisis levels.

Jennifer Pae is the only challenger for the district two seat. Pae is the Outreach Director for the East Bay Asian Voter Education Consortium, a member of the Oakland Community Policing Advisory Board, and a consultant with OaklandSeen (which was founded by Green Party member, KPFA radio host, and former District 2 candidate Aimee Allison).

continued on page 10

Ranked Choice Voting in Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro Strategies for Ranking your Votes

The Green Party has advocated Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for years, and now that we finally have achieved that goal, it's time to discuss how to get the results we want with RCV. Just as importantly, we need to talk about not to get what we don't want.

RCV gives us the chance to vote for the best candidate without worrying that we might be helping elect the worst one. In the RCV system for local offices in Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro only (RCV does not apply to any other races), each voter may give up to 3 choices for each local office. Here are the basic rules:

- Voters may list their 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd choices for each office by giving a ranking to each candidate.
- Voters may vote for only one candidate if they wish, or give a ranking for just 2 candidates.
- The ballot has 3 columns for listing the rankings, but voters cannot vote for more than one candidate in each column, or that choice will be invalidated. Nor can voters vote for the same candidate more than once.
- If your 1st choice does not get enough total 1st choice votes to come close to winning, then your 2nd choice vote is counted as if it were your 1st choice. Similarly, if your 2nd choice then does not get enough votes, your 3rd choice is counted. So your 2nd and 3rd choice rankings can be very important.

Let's use the Oakland Mayoral race for an example of differing voter strategies under RCV—there are 10 candidates, with 3 well known "leading" candidates. One is a Green whom we highly recommend, Donald Macleay. Another is former State Senator Don Perata, a man who appears to have his fingers in every dirty development deal in the East Bay, and who we believe would be a disaster as Oakland's Mayor. Two City Council members, Jean Quan and Rebecca Kaplan, are considered the leading opponents by mainstream media.

As an example, we ask two strategy questions:

1. Should I vote for my favorite candidate, even though I believe he/she has little chance of winning? The most important advantage of RCV is that you can always vote for your favorite candidate, without fear that it will help another that you don't like. So YES, ALWAYS rank your favorite #1!! Your #2 and #3 choices will also get your vote if your #1 candidate gets less total first choice votes than they do.

2. How do I best vote for the defeat of the worst candidate? Most importantly, NEVER GIVE ANY RANKING to any candidate you really do not want. Do not rank Don Perata, for example, if you believe he is as awful a candidate as we do!!

3. Should I just rank my #1 choice and not rank any others? If you believe in voting only for a candidate you can fully support, then this is what you should do. If you prefer this strategy (called "bullet voting"), then the Green Party recommends you rank Donald Macleay as your #1 choice only, and give no other rankings. If you are willing to vote for a "lesser of two evils" to defeat the "most evil," then you should rank #2 and #3 choices. In this example, the Green Party recommends you rank "lesser evil" candidates Jean Quan as your #2 choice and Rebecca Kaplan as your #3 choice, as they probably have the best chance to defeat the "most evil" candidate, Don Perata.

For detailed information on the mechanics of how to vote using Ranked Choice Voting, refer to: www.acgov.org/rovlrcv/video.htm.

Oakland City Council, School Board

continued from page 9

Pae wants to implement a jobs and economic development plan that encourages fiscally and socially responsible lending and investments in our local workforce economy. She supports successful violence prevention and intervention programs, and advocates developing a long-term strategic plan for land use and zoning that will build a more sustainable and prosperous Oakland.

She has received many endorsements from a host of local elected officials and community members, including Supervisor Keith Carson, Berkeley City Council members Jesse Arreguin and Kriss Worthington, Oakland School Board member Jumoke Hinton Hodge, Port Commissioner Margaret Gordon, Grand Lake Theatre owner Allen Michaan, former Laney College Student Body President Ju Hong, and Jakada Imani, Executive Director of the Ella Baker Center.

We believe that there's a far better chance that Jennifer Pae will be an advocate for the policies which the Green Party supports, so we are endorsing her candidacy and we urge you to vote for her. However, Pae's answers to our questionnaire were not quite as strong as what we were hoping for, and we're also somewhat nervous about Pae's close ties to a number of official Democratic Party organizations, so we are endorsing her with those stated reservations. Nevertheless, Pae will certainly be a much better city council member than the current incumbent, so please vote for Jennifer Pae for Oakland City Council, District 2.

City Council, District 4

1 - Ralph Kanz

2 - Daniel Swafford

3 - Libby Schaaf

In the Laurel, Dimond, Montclair area seven candidates seek to replace Councilmember Jean Quan. All are registered Democrats. All but Melanie Shelby returned Green questionnaires. We have ranked 3 candidates:

1. Ralph Kanz is closest to Green values. He is a 30-year resident of District 4 running to create a more ethical City government that makes decisions for the good of the residents, rather than for political reasons. He served on the Oakland Public Ethics Commission, including as chair. He is an environmentalist and works at the Alameda Creek Alliance. Kanz is a proponent of green technology that is truly green. He understands that public safety includes social programs that lessen the need for police. He wants development policies that recognize long-term impacts and that properly integrate all the various land uses with the right balance of industrial, commercial, retail and residential. Kanz is concerned that redevelopment funds have primarily subsidized developers and land owners. He believes that Oak to-Ninth must provide full public access to the waterfront; that the density of the project should be revisited to see if it is an appropriate location for so many units. He questions how sea-level rise will affect the Oak-to-Ninth site. Kanz supports single payer healthcare and public campaign financing. He declared that he would not take contributions from city contractors doing business with the City. He has been endorsed by a creditable set of neighborhood activists. www.Kanz4Council.org

2. Daniel Swafford grew up in District 4 and returned after college to become a community leader in the Dimond neighborhood. He is an organizational design professional who combines vision, energy, and facilitation skills with experience as Chair of the Dimond Improvement Association and the Neighborhood Coalition for Positive Change (NCPC Police Beat 22X). Swafford wants to unite residents to understand and address the root causes of crime. He is an advocate for community policing, youth services, restorative justice, neighborhood businesses, job creation, beautification efforts, public art, and community gardens. Swafford supports inclusionary zoning and sustainable resource management. He will work toward a more equitable relationship with the Port. With the goals of improving City services to the public and socially conscious businesses while dealing with budget constraints, Swafford recommends a full audit of each department, performance standards and reviews. His questionnaire responses show that he wants to balance the interests of residents, merchants, developers, and other businesses. We think that Swafford, like several other candidates in this race, relies too much on corporate strategies to solve the city's problems. We will work with him so that his emphasis on efficiency within City departments won't lead to contracting out of union jobs, and his efforts to create a business friendly environment won't lead to giving the city away. Swafford has endorsements from an array of neighborhood activists. www.votedaniel.org.

3. Libby Schaaf, born and raised in Oakland's District 4, sits in the center of liberal Democrat politics. She has served as staff for politicians we wouldn't vote for – DeLaFuente and Jerry Brown. She is supported by some progressives – affordable housing and tenant advocates, as well as by folks to her right such as Oak-to-Ninth developer Michael Ghilmetti. In her response Schaaf said that we need to improve the reality and perception of Oakland's crime problem. She supports community policing. As Special Assistant to Mayor Jerry Brown, she worked with a parolee reentry project, and helped draft the Measure Y violence prevention plan. As Senior Policy Advisor for the City's Community and Economic Development Agency, Schaaf was involved with the final development and adoption of a Green Building Ordinance. She advocates for community benefit and project labor agreements, transit-oriented development, clean elections and a responsible budget. Schaaf supports a Port container fee to help pay for pollution reduction and infrastructure improvements, and making Port truckers employees. She believes that Oakland Redevelopment funds are being used well for neighborhood and downtown revitalization, affordable housing, and public services; we disagree. The only campaign contributions she said that she would not take are from companies blacklisted by labor. We believe Schaaf is open in her values and can probably be reached by a Green approach. www.LibbyforOakland.com.

City Council, District 6

Jose Dorado

The district 6 incumbent, Desley Brooks, has now held the seat for over seven years. We find her to be an inconsistent representative, at best. It's time to replace her with someone whom we can rely on.

There are two challengers for the seat. Nancy Sidebotham has run several times before, but we're still not very impressed with her, and we disagree with her enthusiastic support of the police. However, the other challenger, Jose Dorado, is a much brighter prospect.

Dorado is a native of Oakland and has been the Chair of the Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council for the past 12 years. He is also the current Chair of the Measure Y Oversight Committee, and co-founder of the United Neighborhood Councils of Oakland. In his responses to our questionnaire, Dorado noted that he wants to serve "constituents with respect and transparency," and that he would "advocate for and support the funding for public financing of elections." He believes that the City would "benefit greatly from the implementation of Community Policing" and he also supports the re-establishment of a Human Rights Commission and an Oakland Environmental Affairs Commission

Dorado has already demonstrated his willingness to stand up for principles. For example, he opposed the position of the City Council member who appointed him to the Measure Y Oversight Committee regarding the shifting of \$10 million in Measure Y funds, and he believes that the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils (NCPC's) should be about problem solving and prevention, and not just a "rubber stamp" for the police.

The Green Party endorses Jose Dorado for Oakland City Council, District 6, and we urge you to vote for him and support his campaign. For more info, please see his website: www.doradoforcycouncil.com.

School Board

District 4

Benjamin (Ben) Visnick

Districts 2 and 6

No Endorsement

The current incumbents in School Board Districts 2, 4, and 6 are all running for re-election. They are, respectively, David Kakishiba, Gary Yee, and Chris Dobbins. Kakishiba and Dobbins are running unopposed, while Yee is being challenged by the former president of the teachers' union, Ben (Benjamin) Visnick. We are not endorsing any of the incumbents, but we strongly endorse challenger Ben Visnick for the District 4 seat.

All three of the current Board members have shown little, if any, willingness to oppose cuts, to advocate for ending the Oakland Unified School District debt to the state, or to resist the federal measures coming down from on high. They all strongly support Measure L, which provides money for charters and does not have a progressive means of assessing the parcel tax. They all voted to impose contract language on the teachers' union, which would freeze wages and have a potentially detrimental effect on class-size. In short, they have shown little leadership in a time of crisis. In addition, Kakishiba has engaged in a questionable practice

of supporting contracts that have aided organizations with which he is affiliated; this is a clear conflict of interest.

Hopefully in the future, labor and community forces (with involvement from the Greens) can mount a united slate for the Oakland School Board, dealing with key issues of progressive funding and labor/community control. In the meantime though, we do have one excellent School Board candidate this year, Ben Visnick.

Visnick has demonstrated a long-term commitment to defend and improve public education here in Oakland, as well as at the state and national levels. He is the former president of the teachers' union, the Oakland Education Association (OEA), and has also served the educational workers in many other ways (heading up work on scholarships, representing the OEA in the Central Labor Council and the California Teachers Association State Council, on the annuity board, et al). It is significant that he is the only former OEA president in the last three decades who returned to the classroom. He also is a parent in the District and an activist in District 4.

The qualities that stand out with Visnick are manifold. First, he has always prioritized equity in the Oakland schools, not only by stressing the need for staffing and funding equity for the "flatlands" schools, but by advocating ways to unite the hills teachers and parents with those in the "flats." This includes maintaining full curriculums in the arts, languages, "school to career/vocational" program and driver education.

He has also been a major advocate for progressive funding for schools and other public services by calling for assessing the businesses functioning in the Port and for state-wide progressive taxation. He also has spoken out in opposition to the neo-liberal ("No Child Left Behind") program for attacking public education through testing, charters, and downsizing.

As a long-time labor activist, he has always backed solidarity with other unions and has a broad political and social perspective, being active around anti-war actions, defense of political prisoners, immigrant rights and multiple other arenas to build an just, egalitarian society.

Last and certainly not least, Visnick is a fighter; he has never been fearful of defending what he believes and is ready, if necessary, to stand alone for his beliefs. That said, Visnick has often tried to bring people together within the OEA for a common project and is not sectarian.

Visnick's website is www.visnick4schoolboard.org and his campaign phone number is: (510) 336-9839. Please support and cast your vote for Ben Visnick for Oakland School Board.

Measure L - No Endorsement School Parcel Tax

There are a number of major problems with Measure L. First, it designates 15 percent of the monies generated for charter schools. Second, it is regressive, being a flat tax and not providing for assessments based on the size of the property; we have long advocated for either basing the parcel tax on the size of the property or having a tax on businesses operating on Port lands/facilities. Third, tactically it is problematic since there is another parcel tax on the ballot (to maintain police staffing); this all will likely feed into the anti-taxation ideology. Finally, the language could be used in opposition to the Oakland Education Association (OEA) bargaining position (it is backed by pro-corporate institutions like the Rogers Foundation), calling for funds to retain "effective" teachers (which currently is code language for "success based on testing").

It is true that Measure L would provide funds for classified workers (unlike previous parcel measures). There is also a "low-income taxpayer exemption" (approximately \$40,000 a year income-level for a family of four), which would exempt a significant portion of Oakland's population (if they are aware of opting out). There is also a prohibition on using funds for the pay of senior management.

There are currently parcel taxes which provide funding for a variety of Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) programs. However, during the years of state control, these funds have been abused to support regressive policies such as decentralized funding (which is based on a competitive corporate model and has resulted in significant cuts at sites) and linking services that should be guaranteed (like counselors) to this form of funding.

The best position at this time is to acknowledge the need, especially at this time of crisis for the public sector, and the past use of such funding, but to balance that with the above-mentioned negatives and therefore neither formally support nor oppose the measure.

City of Oakland Ballot Measures

Oakland's City Council placed four measures on the November ballot.

Oakland is not a poor city, but poor decisions have made our city budget problems worse than necessary.

Measure V - Yes Cannabis Tax

Measure V would increase the "Medical Cannabis Business" tax rate from its current 1.8 percent rate to a 5 percent rate. It also establishes the concept of a "Non-Medical Cannabis Business Tax" (at 10 percent of gross receipts) which would become effective when such businesses are authorized by state law. (This could happen if State Proposition 19 passes this November.) Measure V requires a majority vote, and the revenue would go into Oakland's General Fund. This measure is expected to raise \$889,809 yearly (in addition to the \$500,518 currently being raised) from the medical cannabis dispensaries. Nobody can predict how much revenue could be raised from non-medical cannabis businesses when they become legal. (The ballot argument against this measure was submitted by an individual who opposes the use of drugs and alcohol.) Oakland needs revenue, so we urge a vote of YES on Measure V.

Measure W - Yes Telephone Tax

Measure W proposes a "telephone access line tax," also requiring a majority vote and also to be directed to the General Fund. The new tax would cover all telephone service (residential and business, landlines and mobile phones). The tax would be \$1.99 per month per access line and \$13 per month per trunk line, and would increase yearly based on the Consumer Price Index in the Bay Area. Lifeline service

customers would be exempt from this tax. The City, County, School District, State, and U.S. Government would also be exempted. The City estimates about \$8 million would be raised yearly. The argument against was signed by a couple of angry anti-tax individuals. Oakland needs revenue, so we urge a vote of "Yes" on Measure W.

Measure X - No, No! Parcel Tax

Measure X proposes a large parcel tax increase that would affect almost everyone, to fund more police. Oakland does not need more police.

Measure X is controversial for several reasons. It proposes a parcel tax that applies to all parcels in Oakland (unless that parcel is legally exempt from taxation). Owners of single family residential parcels will pay \$360 yearly, except for very-low-income homeowners who apply for the exemption annually. Owners of commercial properties could pay more, or less, depending on size (frontage and square footage). Most Oaklanders are renters, and landlords can pass half the tax on to renters (with an exception for very-low-income tenants living in single-family homes that have been foreclosed upon). So one problem is that the tax is regressive. Million-dollar homes in the hills would pay the same parcel tax as modest homes in the flatlands; homeowners with million-dollar incomes would pay the same as homeowners with \$50,000 yearly incomes. We think that if the commercial parcel tax can vary depending on frontage and square footage, the residential parcel tax could also have been different rates for different size lots.

The ballot arguments show the measure is supported by City Councilmembers Jane Brunner and Larry Reid, Phil Tagami ("Oakland resident" and well-known developer),

Geoff Collins (Oakland Gang Prevention Task Force), Dom Arotzarena (President of the Oakland Police Officers Association), Mayor Ronald V. Dellums, and Barry Luboviski (Labor Activist). Measure X is opposed by Don Perata (Former State Senator), Councilmembers Ignacio De La Fuente and Desley Brooks, John Protopappas (Business Owner), Charles Porter (Former member of the Policing Advisory Board), and Kathy Kuhner (Oakland Builders Alliance).

The opponents say that even if the funds are spent to hire more police, "there's NO guarantee that more money will translate into increased public safety." When you receive your official Voter Information Pamphlet from the County, save it. That statement—what we have been saying for years—is rarely acknowledged by Councilmembers.

"It gives the public an opportunity to make that evaluation, rather than us making it for them," said Councilwoman Nancy Nadel, quoted by the *S.F. Chronicle* (July 27, 2010). That doesn't show much imagination or leadership by our Council. Jane Brunner, Jean Quan, Pat Kernighan and Larry Reid also voted for it. We strongly oppose Measure X.

Measure BB - Yes Amend Measure Y Funding

Measure BB, which is a revision of the Measure Y that passed in 2004, would suspend until 2015 a requirement that the city budget for at least 739 police officers in order to receive proceeds from that parcel tax. This would require a 2/3 vote. If we suspend that provision, we can continue to collect revenue which can go for violence prevention programs, even though we have fewer police officers. Oakland doesn't need more police, and Oakland needs revenue. We urge a YES vote on Measure BB.

City of Albany

Albany City Attorney No Endorsement

Robert Zweben is running uncontested for Albany City Attorney, a position he has held for more than 30 years. The Albany Greens did not undertake an endorsement process for this race.

City Council - Joanne Wile

Joanne Wile was elected to the Albany City Council in 2006 with Green Party endorsement and is currently mayor. She has consistently supported initiatives in keeping with Green values, particularly related to sustainability and community-based economics. She initiated the Clean and Green Task Force that subsequently became the city's Sustainability Committee and oversaw the drafting of Albany's Climate Action Plan. She also advocated for Styrofoam and plastic bag bans in the city and has worked hard to advocate for both local fiscal and environmental sustainability.

Of the remaining three candidates for the two open council seats, Caryl O'Keefe returned a complete endorsement questionnaire. Incumbent Marjorie Atkinson did not submit a questionnaire, and Francesco Papalia did not respond. Atkinson won office in 2006 and had the endorsement of the Green Party. Caryl O'Keefe and Francesco Papalia ran in 2006 as well. The Green Party did not endorse O'Keefe and Papalia in 2006 mainly because of their support at the time for a proposed large shopping development on the Albany waterfront. O'Keefe's 2010 endorsement questionnaire responses and the public record of both O'Keefe and Papalia do not indicate any deviation from this position. O'Keefe's stated goal is solely to expand the local commercial tax base.

With regard to their public records on specific matters that may be of interest to Green voters, O'Keefe publicly supports ranked choice voting, which is intended to provide for proportional representation on the council, and served on the city Sustainability Committee. Atkinson's record on the council has demonstrated support for issues including: community-based waterfront planning, the Clean and Green Task Force, plastic bag and Styrofoam bans, and an integrated pest management ordinance to minimize or eliminate pesticide use on city property. She voted against an alternative electoral method that was proposed to provide for more proportional representation on advisory bodies.

Please cast one of your votes for Joanne Wile, and we hope the above information helps you decide how to cast your second vote.

Measure N - No Endorsement Appointed City Attorney

The Greens were not able to reach consensus on a recommendation for Measure N. The differing viewpoints are printed below.

Favoring Measure N:

Measure N would change from an elected City Attorney to one appointed by the City Council. This is a difficult measure to evaluate based on Green Party values. Election of the City Attorney is in accord with grassroots democracy and decentralization.

Practically however, Albany is the only city of hundreds with a population less than 58,000 that still elects its city attorney. The reason is simple: small cities do not consistently contain attorneys with appropriate municipal law experience. This is particularly so now as Albany's current city attorney has conveyed that municipal law became significantly more complicated during his greater than 30-year tenure.

Election of numerous city officials was the norm until about a century ago, as was the case with Albany. These elected positions were a source of corruption however, and the Progressives successfully implemented reforms leading to the professionalization of municipal government.

The position of city attorney is such a profession. This profession requires the attorney to provide advice in the best interests of her or his client. In Albany, this is reiterated in the city charter by defining the sole duty of the city attorney as providing advice to the city council as a whole. This is necessarily so as the city council is the body elected to represent the people, not the city attorney. The election of the city attorney confuses these lines of responsibility by making the attorney legally and ethically beholden to the council but politically beholden to the electorate.

Appointment of the city attorney will provide for a wider pool of candidates and locate responsibility firmly with the city council, which is itself held accountable through elections.

Opposing Measure N:

Measure N would change from an elected City Attorney to one appointed by the City Council, taking away Albany voters' democratic right to select, from among Albany residents, the attorney who serves and represents the community. In other words, Measure N would turn the City Attorney into an employee appointed by and answerable only to the City Council. Bureaucratizing this position and removing the City Attorney's obligation to be accountable to the voters is in direct conflict with the Green Party values of grassroots democracy and decentralization.

The City Attorney is not simply an administrative functionary; he or she should provide independent, unbiased advice in the best interests of the community, including volunteering advice or raising legal concerns that might be unpopular with the council. An attorney who is not a city resident and who works only at the council's direction is far less likely to serve the community's interests in this way than one who is responsible to the voters.

The appointed City Attorney proposal has been on the Albany ballot (unsuccessfully) twice before, in the 1980s

and 1990s, at times when the council was unhappy with the elected City Attorney's advice and wanted more direct control over the position.

One of the stated arguments for an appointed attorney is to widen the choice of attorneys, allowing for the hiring of a firm from outside the city that might have more municipal experience than Albany candidates might have. If taken to its logical conclusion, this argument suggests we should hire outside professionals with city governance experience to run the city rather than relying on council members elected from among city residents.

Measure O - Yes Utility Users' Tax Reauthorization and Update

There is currently a 7 percent tax on energy and communication utility services in Albany. Revenue from this tax generates approximately 10 percent of the city's general funds. This tax was instituted by the City Council in the early 1970's. Measure O proposes to institute this tax by ordinance and modernize it by applying it to all communication services. Given this expansion of the scope of the communication utility tax, its rate is proposed for reduction to 6.5 percent so that the measure will be approximately revenue neutral for the city. The energy portion of the tax would remain at 7 percent.

The main impetus for this measure is concern that the current tax is becoming increasingly vulnerable to legal challenge due to changes in provision of communication services and outdated references to federal law. An example of the former is bundling of services that are currently subject to the tax with services that are not. Passage of this measure would secure this source of significant funds.

Utility taxes are more progressive than other funding sources that the city has control over, such as parcel and bond taxes. In contrast to parcel and bond taxes, utility taxes are at least based upon usage, which presumably scales more accurately with economic status, and over which users have more control. In addition, because of lifeline programs for low-income households, the absolute amount of the tax is lower for households that enroll in these programs.

This measure would make the tax slightly more progressive by adding cable television to the services taxed while at the same time reducing the communication tax rate, which effectively lowers the tax burden for households that use other basic services such as telephone but do not subscribe to cable TV. To the extent cable television is more discretionary than other communication services such as telephone, and to the extent that utilization of cable television scales with income, the measure would shift revenue generation somewhat to higher-income households.

Finally, the energy utility tax rate remains the same

continued on page 13

Berkeley Measures, City Council, Rent Board

Berkeley Measure R

continued from page 1

years to craft a compromise that allows for intensification of development in exchange for real community benefits would be gone. Instead, this new plan would significantly raise building heights, requiring several as tall as the unsightly Great Western building (now Chase), undermine landmarks protections, and “expedite” permit processes that restrict the public’s ability to challenge new developments. There are no requirements to actually build affordable housing downtown, provide open space, or mitigate impacts on the neighborhoods adjacent to downtown—these are things to be “encouraged,” “promoted” or “avoided.” The green building standards the measure promises to implement could be enacted right now by Council vote—and not just for Downtown!

This Council could have chosen many other ways to move forward rather than placing this masterful piece of green washing on the ballot. Councilmember Kriss Worthington urged the Council to pass an actual plan with the 90 percent we can all agree on (green buildings, affordable housing, labor protections in construction, the highest standards in energy efficiency and sustainable amenities, plazas/open space, wider sidewalks, tree-lined streets, bicycle friendly amenities, rainwater catchments, recycling, etc.) and placing the truly controversial issues on the ballot. The Council also refused to place the alternative (and real) Downtown Plan developed by Councilmember Jesse Arreguin on the ballot. Councilmember Linda Maio actually implied that the voters aren’t smart enough to read and understand a real plan— that something more general, simpler was in order— like Measure R.

Many of us who worked on the referendum against the previous downtown plan just don’t trust the current City Council to not leave in loopholes large enough to drive a skyscraper through in this next one. And that means another referendum.

So don’t be taken in by the green trappings or politicians who think we’re too stupid to understand what we’re voting on. Vote No on Measure R.

Berkeley Rent Board

continued from page 1

boards. At a critical juncture, tenants and affordable housing supporters were not unified, and a landlord-funded majority was able to take over the Rent Board for four years. The result was unconscionable rent increases for Berkeley tenants. To prevent the progressive/pro-tenant vote from being split and inviting a landlord slate with the ability to win, we have always asked potential candidates to pledge that if they weren’t selected at the convention they would not run against the slate.

This is a critical election. Two candidates who participated in the convention have chosen to run against the slate anyway: George Perezvelez and Marcia Levenson. Perezvelez stated from the outset that he would run no matter what, because his own election was crucial “for the

good of Berkeley.” Levenson, on the other hand, pledged to the convention not to run if not chosen for the slate, but is running nonetheless. A third candidate, Tamar Larsen did not participate in the convention.

Electing the slate is essential. The clear direction the Board provides the rent stabilization program administration assures the program’s continued adherence to the aims of the ordinance, an adherence that suffered dramatically during the four non-tenant controlled years. To make sure that members of the Board have been thoroughly vetted as to their abilities and devotion to protecting tenants and the Rent Stabilization program, be sure to support the slate: Stephens, Dodsworth, Blake, Webster, Harr and Townley. Trouble remembering all the names? They are the only candidates with last names that end with S.H.E.R.R.Y. (She-e-e-e-rry baby, Sherry Baby, won’t you come out tonight!)

City Auditor No endorsement

The current City Auditor, Ann-Marie Hogan, is running unopposed. The people of Berkeley intended the elected auditor to be an activist city watchdog office. Berkeley Greens should be working seriously to return this office to that role.

City Council, District 1 Jasper Kingeter

Of the four candidates running, we are endorsing Jasper Kingeter. Jasper is an enthusiastic young Green making his first run for political office. He grew up in Berkeley, and seems to have a good understanding of the major issues facing the city and his district. His priorities include a greater focus on the environmental and health impacts of Pacific Steel; protecting West Berkeley from further rezoning for R&D and maintaining the current industrial zoning protections; saving existing manufacturing, wholesale trade, warehouse, and craft spaces; and promoting green collar jobs for West Berkeley. Jasper wants to be part of a Council that can unanimously pass a Downtown Plan that reflects the values and vision of the citizens of Berkeley, that includes sustainable green businesses and open space, less traffic with increased bicycle use and a farmers’ market shopping plaza on a tiny piece of Kittredge during peak hours once a week. He opposes more UC expansion into the neighborhoods and is “tired of being bullied by big time developers.”

We cannot recommend voting for Merrilie Mitchell. Although we appreciate her dedication to many important issues over the years, we do not believe she has either the temperament or skill to be an effective representative. Anthony Di Donato refused to provide us with any information whatsoever because he feels the Green Party is biased against him.

We are also not recommending incumbent Councilmember Linda Maio. Over the years, Maio has been a defender of the community-created West Berkeley Plan, ensuring economic diversity between San Pablo Avenue and

the Bay. Unfortunately, in other areas, Maio has become seriously less progressive over the years. She has also allowed herself and her husband to become financially involved with for-profit developers—something that has clearly affected her decision-making. Maio voted for multiple plans for the Downtown that would increase building heights and density with no corresponding guarantee of creating new affordable housing or other public benefits. She also voted for reducing the fees for converting rental units to condominiums, thereby reducing income for the Housing Trust Fund. She has endorsed against Kriss Worthington and Jesse Arreguin, the two most progressive members of the City Council up for reelection. She also declined to endorse the slate of candidates for the Rent Board selected by the Berkeley Tenants’ Convention in July.

So vote for a change, vote Green – Vote for Jasper Kingeter.

City Council, District 4 Jesse Arreguin

We supported Jesse Arreguin in 2008 to fill out the term of Councilmember and Green Party leader Dona Spring, who died in office. As an incumbent for the past two years, not only has Jesse fulfilled his promise to continue Dona’s work, he has done an excellent job in his short time in office in establishing his own green/progressive record. His responses to our questionnaire show a depth of understanding of the controversial issues facing the city and a commitment to green values and programs that merit our wholehearted support.

Jesse has been a political activist for 15 years. At the age of 9, he worked on the campaign to rename a street in San Francisco after his hero Cesar Chavez. In the eight years prior to his election to the Council, he was the ASUC City Affairs Director, he served on numerous city commissions, as a City Council aide, and as Chair of the elected Rent Board. Over the last year and a half, Jesse has been an independent progressive voice on the council both for District 4 and citywide, standing up to the moderate and increasingly corporate development-oriented Council. He has introduced legislation on a wide range of issues including immigration, affordable housing, the environment, and workers rights. Working with community leaders, Jesse was able to get the Berkeley Police Department to adopt a policy discouraging the impoundment of vehicles of unlicensed and undocumented drivers. He has also supported the student and UC employee movement on campus for UC reform and has introduced legislation calling for UC accountability. When the Council failed to act in any responsible way on the Downtown, Jesse sponsored and passed legislation that allow the car-free pedestrian plaza and creek restoration on Center Street to move forward.

The future of the Downtown and the impact of new development on the neighborhoods surrounding it is currently one of the most contentious issues in Berkeley. Jesse’s steadfast support for a real community-developed plan for Downtown—a plan that is truly green and promotes sustainable development at a human scale—has earned him not one but two challengers backed by the mayor and others interested in easing the way for big development: architect and beekeeper Jim Novosel and environmental analyst Eric Panzer. For this reason alone we could not recommend voting for either of them as a 2nd choice. Engineer and professor Bert Wahl did not respond to our questionnaire and the anecdotal information we have about him indicates we cannot recommend voting for him.

City Council, District 7 Only Vote for Kriss Worthington

We have endorsed the incumbent, Kriss Worthington, in every previous campaign, and he continues to represent us well. Kriss has been the consistent and unwavering voice of progressive leadership on the council. He has a strong legislative record and pending agenda that reflect his continued commitment to the issues of his district, the environment, open government, labor, affordable housing, tenants and responsible development. He continues to be the Councilmember with the greatest diversity in his appointments to commissions, and has appointed more women than anyone else.

Kriss says his number one qualification for the council is that he is “ready, willing, and able to stand up and speak out for progressive values, when it is popular and easy, and also when it is difficult and involves alienating the power elites locally, regionally, statewide and nationally.” Doing this has earned him two opponents promoted by our local power elites: 3rd time challenger George Beier, and small business owner Cecilia “Ces” Rosales. Both candidates’ questionnaires reflected genuine passion and a desire to

Dear GREEN Friends & Green Sympathizers;

The Green Party says to vote for me
And who am I to disagree?
In District 7, I face an incredible attack.
I need your help to stand up & fight back.

There’s so much work we need to do
to counter his “facts” that are not true.
With your help, I think we can get it done
and while we do it, we can have some fun.

Come to “Workers for Worthington”
or some stuff like this:
“Wheelchairs for Worthington”
or “Kids for Kriss”

Please Endorse, Donate and/or Volunteer!

Kriss Worthington for City Council 2010
Office: 2242 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
(510) 548-8796; id # 1329058
www.krissworthington.com

continued on page 13

Berkeley School Board, Measures, City of Albany

tackle district and city problems creatively.

In other circumstances or another district, either of these candidates might be worthy of consideration for 2nd and 3rd choice voting under IRV. Ironically, this is the race where IRV will be used in a concerted attempt to unseat arguably the most progressive and green in-all-but-registration Councilmember in favor of any other candidate.

City Council, District 8

1 - Stewart Jones

#2 - Jacquelyn McCormick

The District 8 City Council race is an ideal opportunity to exercise the green/progressive advantages of IRV. Incumbent Gordon Wozniak has moved steadily since his first election to become its most conservative member. He has two challengers, Berkeley native and teacher Stewart Jones and small business owner Jacquelyn McCormick.

We are recommending Stewart Jones as our 1st choice in this race. A life-long resident of Berkeley and District 8 and a registered Green, Stewart is young, energetic and actively involved in issues impacting his neighborhood, which he sees as directly related to broader city issues. He is employed as a teacher and he has also worked directly on grassroots efforts like the preservation of the Landmarks Ordinance and the Downtown Plan Referendum that the Green Party has actively supported. His responses to our questionnaire reflect a good understanding of how the city works, both inside and out of City Hall, as well as commitment to green values and solutions to complex and controversial issues.

We are recommending Jacquelyn McCormick as our 2nd choice in this race. Currently a small business owner, she sees her major asset in her ability to serve effectively on the council as 20 years in commercial real estate and banking, which give her great supervisory and budget skills. Her answers to our questionnaire do reflect a good understanding of many neighborhood and city-wide issues with positions that appear to be mostly in concert with Green positions. Although somewhat of an unknown, those of who have met her found her to be energetic and open-minded, and certainly more likely to be responsive to our concerns than the incumbent.

Berkeley School Board

Karen Hemphill, Julie Holcomb, and Leah Wilson

Berkeley has six candidates qualifying for the ballot, vying for 3 seats on the Board. There is only one incumbent running, Karen Hemphill, currently Board president, who we have endorsed and recommend one of your three votes in this race. Karen Hemphill, though not without some reservations and disagreements, has been a consistent advocate for student achievement, as well as equity and fair-resource issues. However, she has been somewhat aloof on some issues, and has on other issues appeared dogmatic. She has added a necessary voice and constituency to the Board, has served relatively well as Board president, and has moved the District's priorities generally in a forward position. For this we urge your vote.

Julie Holcomb has served admirably as the District's Planning and Oversight Co-chair, has served on the District's Budget Committee, has been an advocate for the District's music and arts programs, and has also consistently advocated for and supported achievement gap resources. She is thoughtful in her analysis and responses, she has a long history of supporting and improving our schools, and she deserves your utmost consideration and vote.

Leah Wilson is our third choice for this election. You can vote for three candidates, and although Leah Wilson has much to offer (children in the Berkeley public schools, some experience in her individual schools, a balanced and intelligent approach to our questions though she does seem to favor Charter Schools, a position which we do not generally support) she has very little District or City experience on which to draw any conclusions about her positions or capabilities. We still urge you to give your third vote to Leah Wilson.

Josh Daniels does not seem, to us, to have the necessary experience yet to hold public office. He may still have a future in Berkeley politics, but we recommend that that future not be now.

Priscilla Myrick and Norma Harrison have very little support from us, and we recommend that you do not support them. Neither has a real understanding of the needs of a School District in the state of California in the current fiscal crises, and neither offers any practical solutions to the issues that face us as a community and as a state. Please do not vote for either of these candidates.

Measure H - Yes School Parcel Tax

Measure I - Yes School Bond

Measure I is a Prop. 39 school bond, roughly \$170 million, which over a ten year period would complete the Berkeley High renovations and improvements, provide science, computer, and school-to-careers lab spaces, renovate aging facilities, and replace roofs, heating, and other systems as needed, as well as provide up to about \$6.5 million specifically for solar installation and replacement. This bond measure will not tax Berkeley residents any more than the level they have seen on their taxes over the past ten years; it is a continuation of past bond taxes.

Measure H is a parcel (special) tax based on square footage on each residential and commercial property in Berkeley, which generates about \$4.5 million per year for the school district's grounds and building maintenance. It is a continuation of an existing parcel tax first passed in 2000, would continue another ten years, and would not increase taxes other than a cost-of-living adjustment.

Please support and vote yes on both these measures.

Measure S - Yes Tax on Cannabis Businesses

Measure S establishes a square foot tax on medical cannabis providers of \$ 25 for the first 3,000 square feet of space and \$ 10 per foot thereafter, and a gross receipts tax of \$25 per \$1000 phased in over two years. If Proposition 19 passes this November, it also establishes a tax on businesses that provide recreational marijuana at a rate of \$100 per \$1,000 of gross receipts. The purpose of Measure S is to capture a portion of the revenue stream generated by the cannabis business, similar to taxes approved by voters in Oakland. Proceeds from the tax will go to the General Fund, which is projected to face multi-million dollar deficits in the years ahead due to cuts in state funding and declining revenues from other sources.

The Medical Cannabis Committee, which is the peer

review committee of representatives from medical cannabis dispensaries, recommended a different taxation rate, and concerns were raised about the indirect impact of the tax on low-income patients. However, the final form of this measure has no opposition and the unanimous support of the Berkeley City Council. Vote Yes on Measure S.

Measure T- Yes Medical Cannabis Ordinance Amendments

Measure T is a series of amendments to Berkeley's Medical Cannabis Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance sections regulating medical cannabis dispensaries.

Measure T is in response to the amendments approved by the voters in 2008 as Measure JJ. The Medical Cannabis Peer Review Committee recommended changes to the law. After hearing concerns from Wareham Development—one of the biggest commercial landowners in West Berkeley—and the parents of some private schools in West Berkeley, the City Council created a their own subcommittee to review the Committee recommendations and make their own. The recommendation of the Mayor and the subcommittee (some of which differed from those of the Committee) became Measure T.

Although not necessarily everything the medical cannabis community might have wanted, Measure T is a major step forward: it legalizes collectives (groups that grow and provide medical cannabis directly to patients or to dispensaries), adds one more dispensary and puts procedures in place to allow for cultivation and non-dispensing uses in the future. Changing the Medical Cannabis Committee from a peer review body to a regular city commission with nine political appointees has both positive and negative implications; we'll just have to see how it plays out.

The opposition to Measure T is largely scare tactics and untruths. With a citizen's commission in place, and Council ability to amend the ordinance and apply new regulation, marijuana policy in the city is just as likely to become more restrictive than liberal. If any real problems develop, the Council has ample ways to address with them.

Vote Yes on Measure T.

City of Albany

Albany

continued from page 11

at 7 percent, and as such continues to make energy more expensive. This is consistent with Green Values of future focus, sustainability, personal and global responsibility, and ecological wisdom. Currently, many of the costs of energy production, impending climate catastrophe among them, are not reflected in the actual cost of energy. In addition, the measure exempts self-generated energy, such as electricity from on-site solar photovoltaic systems, from the tax, thereby not penalizing those who take personal responsibility for installing a form of energy generation that reduces climate impacts.

Measure P - Yes, with Reservations Paramedic, Fire Engines, and Ambulance Tax

Measure P amends an existing special tax that enables a relatively small city such as Albany to maintain excellent paramedic and fire protection services in spite of statewide government services funding malaise.

Approval of Measure P authorizes an increase in the Advanced Life Support Special Tax that was passed in 2000 and is currently set at a flat \$18 per parcel per year. The City Council is directed to reauthorize this tax each year, depending on need, and 2/3 passage of Measure P would allow the \$18 to be increased in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (for the greater San Francisco area), not to exceed 4 percent per year, for the years 2011-2012 through 2014-2015. If increased at this maximum, the tax would go from the \$18 it is today to \$21 in 2014-2015.

Our reservations here, "as always," stem from inequities created by Proposition 13 coupled with the state's financial squeeze on local governments and the need to use devices such as parcel taxes to fill the shortfall. However, in light of the high value of this service to the community in comparison to the relatively small increase, we reservedly recommend a vote of "yes."

Measure Q - No Endorsement Special Business License Tax for Cannabis Business

The Greens did not reach consensus regarding Measure Q, but similar measures in Berkeley and Oakland have

been endorsed by the Green Party. The perspective below discusses the "con" argument regarding this measure, while the "pro" arguments can be found in the articles in this Guide about Berkeley Measure S and Oakland Measure V.

Opposing Measure Q:

We recommend a vote of "no" on the special cannabis business tax for several reasons. First, the tax could, curiously, have the net effect of simultaneously encouraging and disincentivizing a marijuana dispensary in Albany, neither of which outcome is presumably its intended purpose. Anticipation of tax revenues could cloud the evaluation of the merits of a particular application while the tax itself could drive qualified applicants to look elsewhere to establish a dispensary.

Currently, Albany has a Medical Marijuana ordinance that allows one dispensary to locate in the city. As "medicine" marijuana should not be subject to a "sin" (or "recreational") tax, such as one might have on alcohol. Sales of other medicines are not taxed in Albany; there is, for example, no special tax on pharmacies or sales of prescription or over-the-counter drugs.

The effect of the proposed cannabis business tax depends significantly on the fate of state Proposition 19, the measure on the November ballot that would legalize marijuana in California. If Prop. 19 passes, marijuana would change from a medicinal drug to a recreational one, and Albany's proposed special tax would no longer single out medical cannabis dispensaries. However, there is no mechanism in Measure Q that would enact the tax only if Prop. 19 passes. If Prop. 19 fails and only a medical marijuana dispensary would have to pay it, it seems likely that the proposed tax (\$25 per thousand dollars of gross receipts for a for-profit dispensary, or \$25 per square foot of business space for a non-profit dispensary) would get passed on to the purchaser, thereby making the medicine more expensive. Placing economic limits on access to medicine directly conflicts with Green Party values of equal opportunity and economic justice.

While some perceive the term "medical marijuana" as dancing around the federal ban, medical reasons nonetheless remain the primary justification for marijuana's use as stated in the current state law and in Albany's ordinance allowing a dispensary. Given these current circumstances, a special tax is unjustified.

Should the state ballot measure pass, perhaps then a special tax on marijuana as a recreational drug should be considered.

Special Districts

A.C. Transit, At-Large Joel Young

Joel Young was appointed by the AC Transit Board of Directors in February 2009 to fill one of the District's two At-Large positions (after Rebecca Kaplan resigned). He is now running for re-election to continue pushing some initiatives which he has sponsored. "These initiatives include: implementing a climate action plan that provides a long term strategy to reduce AC Transit's carbon footprint; increase the amount of contracting dollars that go to local businesses; push for a free bus ticket program for all Alameda County children; and promote innovative programs like the Freedom Bus Project, which celebrates the civil rights movement." In addition to those initiatives, during his period on the Board he is most proud of "Not voting for imposing a contract on our Bus Drivers." Mr. Young issued a public statement calling for the contract imposition to be lifted. For a new Board member to "do the right thing" instead of going along with the majority shows the kind of character we are looking for in a public official.

Mr. Young supports the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. He hopes to meet with us personally to brief us on AC Transit issues. We feel he deserves another term on the Board, especially because there is no serious candidate challenging him.

The challenger, Ellis Jerry Powell, rides public transit, and considers the problems at AC Transit to be the fault of management, not the drivers, according to his campaign literature. We did not learn anything further about him as he did not return our questionnaire, despite a reminder phonecall.

A.C. Transit, Ward 3 Nancy Skowbo

"Elsa Ortiz, attorney and policy consultant to Senator and President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg on issues affecting Indian Nations, was elected in November 2006 to represent Ward 3 and currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors," according to the AC Transit website. Ward 3 covers Alameda, part of San Leandro, and East Oakland.

Ms. Ortiz says one of her successes is expansion of the Easy Pass program, offering fare discounts to students and public employees, which encourages the use of public transit. If further fare increases are needed, Ms. Ortiz emphasizes the need to keep discounted monthly passes for youth, seniors and the disabled. If funding could be found, Ms. Ortiz believes public transit should be free (a right, not a privilege).

Her questionnaire answers also reflect a good appreciation of good "transit oriented development where people can walk or bike to work, school, and shopping," and she supports Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the cities that approve it.

She was author of the "Buy American" resolution which has become Board policy for the future. She also supports seeking input from riders especially the elderly and disabled, in future bus designs.

Ms. Ortiz is endorsed by numerous local public officials, including most of her colleagues on the AC Transit Board.

However, the AC Transit Board imposed new working conditions on the drivers (represented by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 192), and Ms. Ortiz voted with the majority. She explains that services had been cut and fares raised, and the only thing left to do was negotiate savings with the ATU. (That decision was overturned by a court ruling. The court ordered the parties to go to arbitration to settle the contract dispute. On August 18 the Board voted to appeal the court's ruling. Ms. Ortiz was one of the two Directors voting against that decision, a vote we appreciate. The other Director voting No was Rocky Fernandez.)

Of the two challengers to Ms. Ortiz, Nancy Skowbo is the stronger. She worked for AC Transit for 33 years, starting as a bus operator and being promoted into management positions, finally as Deputy General Manager, Service Department (Planning, Scheduling, and Accessible Services).

She says she considered the Board's decision to impose a contract on the union to be "ill-advised," and she would have found another way to handle the approach to negotiations. Her questionnaire answers generally show willingness to involve drivers, mechanics, and the public before reaching a Board decision. Her answers also reflected thorough understanding of ways to improve service reliability even at a time of lean budgets. She would lobby for full return of the State Transit Assistance dollars that were taken from transit in 2009. If future fare increases are needed, she is concerned about the impact on those least able to afford higher fares, and would increase fares only after exploring all other possible ways to balance the budget. She also op-

poses any further service cuts, as service has been cut "to the lowest point that it has been for a very long time." She favors lower cost or free transit if a way can be found to pay for it. She also supports BRT.

Ms. Skowbo's last words were, "I understand everything from driving a bus to planning a route. Moreover, I care very much about the agency and the people it serves...I regret that the agency has moved away from including employees in problem-solving, and would relish the opportunity to influence a return to a more inclusive atmosphere. I cannot stress how important it is for riders and employees to be considered as part of the solution." Because of the rather unsatisfactory performance of the Board overall, and especially because of the unnecessary, unjust, and disruptive decision to impose a contract on its employees, we have decided to support a challenger to Ms. Ortiz. Nancy Skowbo is well positioned by her experience to be a good Board member, and has the correct opinion on the issue of imposing the contract on the employees.

The third candidate, Dollene Jones, worked for AC Transit for 21 years, and currently runs her own company, The Bingo Casino Shuttle Service. Her questionnaire answers were generally good; she opposes service cuts and fare increases, and feels there must be more effort to find new funding sources. Ms. Jones is pleasant and sincere and we appreciate her running to challenge the current Board member, but we feel between the two challengers, Ms. Skowbo is more qualified.

A.C. Transit, Ward 4 No endorsement

Rocky Fernandez was elected in November 2006 to represent Ward 4 (part of Hayward east of 880, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo) but is not seeking re-election. Gavin Wilgus, a student, and Mark Williams, who is currently serving on A C Transit's Accessibility Advisory Committee, are running for this open seat. They did not return questionnaires, and we have no basis for making an endorsement for this race.

A.C. Transit, Ward 5 No endorsement

Jeff Davis was elected in November 2006 to represent AC Transit's Ward 5 (part of Hayward west of 880, Fremont, Newark) and is running for re-election. He did not return the questionnaire we emailed, and we have no reason to endorse him.

James Saladi is challenging Mr. Davis, but he returned his questionnaire too late to be considered for endorsement. He worked for AC Transit for 17 years in a variety of positions, including bus driver, master mechanic, and inspector, so he feels he has the necessary experience to serve on the Board. He clearly states drivers, mechanics, and riders (especially the elderly and disabled) should be consulted when buses are being selected and when service changes are being considered. He supports Bus Rapid Transit, and opposes fare increases. We hope this information is useful to voters who may wish to consider voting for this challenger.

BART, Ward 4 Robert Raburn

Robert Raburn studied transportation and urban geography at U.C. Berkeley and received a doctorate, then taught geography and urban planning for a decade at San Jose State University. He has been a leader in transportation advocacy and of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition. He is running for BART Board to "improve reliable transit service that is thoroughly integrated with other transportation systems. A healthy BART system will appeal to passengers, growing revenue, and attract new development around existing stations." Robert "visited most East Bay transit hubs during 2008-09 as a participant in MTC's Transit Connectivity Study, and now we need to implement the resulting plan. BART's fixation on the Airport Connector and other mega projects has left little capacity to plan or fund needed connectivity improvements. For example, the Coliseum Station lacks bus bays." This quote from Robert's questionnaire shows a candidate who combines understanding the overall issues with also seeing details that need improvement.

Measure B, a half-cent sales tax extension passed by Alameda County voters in November 2000, established a Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) to monitor how the money was being spent. Robert was appointed to the CWC (by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition) and served as its chair from June 2001 until his recent resignation.

Robert's questionnaire answers showed a very detailed understanding of the problems with the current BART cars and what changes are needed for the next generation of cars. For example, he has suggestions about better design

for the area around the doors, and for quieter cars. Robert also intends to "speak out to add that the BART Station bathrooms must be reopened and maintained." What an appealing campaign promise!

The incumbent, Carole Ward Allen, has not been responsive to the community she was elected to serve. (Ward 4 includes Alameda and most of Oakland east of Broadway.) She did not return our questionnaire.

Robert's answer to our question "Should the BART police be disarmed?" included this useful observation about the BART Board in general: "Until the Police Review Committee has an opportunity to weigh in, I do not wish to trump their input. I note, however, that the BART Board has a poor track record of responding to other elected officials or the public. I know this from having attended BART Bicycle Task Force Meetings for the past 18 years and very rarely hearing the recommendations of any BART Citizen Committee by staff of Board members during Board meetings."

Robert Raburn's many endorsements include the Sierra Club Bay Area Chapter, James Vann and Naomi Schiff (Citizens for Lake Merritt), and Sandra Threfall (Waterfront Action). (Organizations listed for identification purposes only.) There is not enough room to list Robert's activities and accomplishments. Please see www.RaburnForBART.com for more information about this excellent candidate whom we are pleased to endorse.

EBMUD Ward 4 Andy Katz

We strongly endorse Andy Katz, who is running unopposed in Ward 4, in the Oakland-Emeryville-Berkeley-El Cerrito area. When compared to the most anti-Green EBMUD Board member (Contra Costa incumbent John Coleman), Katz could be referred to as the "anti-Coleman." When there's a split vote on the board, you'll almost always find Katz and Coleman on the opposite sides. Katz strongly opposed the "raise Pardee" option throughout the Water Supply Management Program 2040 (WSMP2040) process, and pushed hard for increasing conservation, reclamation, and rationing instead of the "supply-side" approach advocated by Coleman (and Alameda County incumbent Foulkes). He has pushed for rate reform, including adding a fourth tier and generally sending price signals to encourage conservation. He's supported restoration of the Mokelumne watershed and giving it wild and scenic river protection. He's strongly opposed expansion of the Ultimate Service Boundary (USB) further into Central Contra Costa. He's opposed outsourcing EBMUD jobs and supported affirmative action, to the extent it's still allowable. Katz is pretty much 100 percent on "Green" EBMUD positions. Of course, Ward 4 is by far the most environmentally conscious part of the District, and during the last redistricting, the Board's majority intentionally jammed most pro-environment voters into this one ward to limit their ability to influence other neighboring ward races (i.e., Wards 1 and 3). We wish Andy had some "clones" that we could run in some of the other EBMUD districts. In the meantime, please do vote for Greenest EBMUD Board member, Andy Katz.

Ward 3 No Endorsement

Incumbent Katy Foulkes is unopposed in the Piedmont-Oakland Hills-Lamorinda-El Sobrante area. Foulkes hasn't been as vehement in her support for anti-environment positions as Contra Costa incumbent John Coleman, but her votes track his very closely. She also supported "raise Pardee" in the Water Supply Management Program 2040 (WSMP2040) process and has opposed increasing conservation and raising the cap from 10 to 15 percent on rationing in a severe drought. While she nominally opposes expanding the Ultimate Service Boundary (USB), she's been unwilling to defend the current USB through litigation. She's strongly opposed adding a fourth tier to the rate structure and other measures to send price signals to "water hogs." She hasn't taken strong positions on outsourcing or affirmative action, but we understand that EBMUD's unions have found her very uncooperative during labor negotiations. All of this is not very surprising, given the composition of her ward, which includes the conservative areas of Piedmont and Lafayette and the somewhat conservative areas of Orinda, Moraga, and the Oakland Hills. However, much of this area also likes to think of itself as pro-environment, so there ought to be the potential to find someone who could project the image of being pro-environment without being overly politically liberal. Still, issues like conservation pricing will

Judicial Offices

EBMUD

continued from page 14

be a hard sell unless they are strongly linked to using the revenue to fund positive incentives for conservation (like rebates for installing low water use landscaping).

Ward 7

Matt Turner

Frank Mellon is the incumbent in Ward 7, in the Castro Valley-San Leandro-Hayward-San Ramon part of the district. Mellon has been one of the slippery votes in the middle on the EBMUD board — neither as horrible as Coleman nor as good as Katz. That being said, however, the Green Party shouldn't be settling for a "not-so-bad" choice. While Mellon says he opposes the "raise Pardee" option in the Water Supply Management Program 2040 (WSMP2040), he walked out of the crucial board meeting just before a vote on whether to remove it from the plan. As a result, it remained in the plan, triggering the current litigation. He could be the fourth vote to settle that litigation by removing "raise Pardee" from the plan, but that hasn't happened, so presumably [all this would be in closed session and inaccessible to the public] he hasn't provided that fourth vote. He tries to portray himself as a pragmatic progressive, who wants to do the right thing environmentally but is constrained by reality. Well — "BS!" — change is never brought about by people who are worried about other people's behavior. Mellon has generally aligned himself with Coleman, Foulkes, and Patterson as part of the "conservative" [i.e., keep things as they are] side of the board on environmental issues. [Lesa McIntosh has been more of a swing vote, sometimes, along with either Mellon or Patterson, providing an occasional progressive victory, such as the boost in the rationing cap from 10 to 15 percent.] In completing this article, we didn't have time to confirm it with the unions, but we understand that they're not happy with Mellon either.

Matt Turner shows a lot of knowledge of EBMUD for a newcomer to EBMUD politics. It probably doesn't hurt that he's originally from the Mokelumne watershed area and brings with him a sensitivity of EBMUD's damaging impact on that area of the Sierra Foothills. He's also got laudable pro-environment positions on issues such as water conservation (including conservation pricing), rationing, and perhaps most importantly, opposing the "raise Pardee" option in WSMP2040. The rest of his questionnaire responses also seem pretty good, from a Green Party standpoint, and he'd clearly be a big improvement over Mellon. Mellon will likely get significant help from developer interests (as he did when he first got on the board by defeating Katherine McKenney 16 years ago). Turner will need assistance in organizing a grassroots effort, which is probably the only way to defeat the mass-mail approach that development interests generally use. If you want to help shift the make-up of the EBMUD Board this year, give your support to Matt Turner.

Supreme Court Justices

Carlos Moreno

Yes, with reservations

Justice Moreno is a Hispanic-American Democratic appointee to the California Supreme Court, and the sole Democrat among his colleagues. Justice Moreno was also the sole dissenter in a high court opinion upholding Prop 8's advocates use of the voter initiative to deny the fundamental state constitutional right to marry. Some have speculated that his support of marriage equality cost him a potential appointment to the US Supreme Court. Though his principled support of marriage equality (and other progressive positions) is laudable, Justice Moreno also wrote a majority opinion upholding the death penalty for a white supremacist who brutally murdered a Vietnamese-American man during a hate crime in central California. It should be noted that Justice Ming Chin joined in that opinion. Though some Greens may debate whether the circumstances justified Justice Moreno's opinion, other Greens are unable to support any judicial candidate who has expressed support for the death penalty. On the vote to retain Justice Moreno, we recommend a Yes vote, with the reservations noted in the prior sentence.

Ming Chin

No endorsement

Justice Chin is an Asian-American Republican appointee with a reputation for being among the more conservative members of the high court, but also among the more respected, ethical and principled jurist (the value of which should not be underestimated, given how politicized our federal judiciary has become). He received the Jurist of the Year award in 2009 from the Judicial Council of California, a professional association for California judges. Justice Chin has been described as a champion of individual rights and a committed supporter of increasing diversity on the California judiciary. Still, Justice Chin was among two Justices dissenting in the In re: Marriages case, in which the majority ruled that LGBT individuals have the right to marry under the California Constitution. This was prior to Prop 8. Later he joined the majority in a decision upholding the right of Prop 8's advocates to deny the fundamental state constitutional right to marry, a decision which Justice Moreno dissented from. No endorsement is offered.

Tani Cantil-Sakauye

No endorsement

Tani Cantil-Sakauye has been described as a "moderate Republican;" she is the daughter of migrant Filipino farmworkers, and if approved by the voters, will be the first Asian-American Chief Justice, the third Asian-American member of the high court and the fourth woman, giving it a female majority. Asian-American lawyers across the political spectrum have lauded Cantil-Sakauye's nomination, given the historical under-representation of Asian Ameri-

cans in the judiciary. Cantil-Sakauye is currently serving as an Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. Unfortunately, a review of the appellate judicial record of Cantil-Sakauye is currently beyond the ability of the Voter Guide staff for the reasons stated in our previous Voter Guide(s); as such, no endorsement is offered.

State Appellate Court

No Endorsements

In contrast to federal court judges, who are appointed for life by the executive branch and confirmed by the legislative branch, California state judicial officers are appointed by the governor and then confirmed and retained by popular vote.

It is currently beyond the capacity of our Voter Guide staff to review every opinion that the district appellate judges have either authored or joined over the past term. We are therefore not endorsing either a "Yes" or a "No" vote on the retention/confirmation of the state appellate court judges on the ballot. Press accounts of state appellate court judicial holdings are relatively rare, and reviewing the opinions authored or joined by each during their 12 year terms would require several months, if not years, of advance preparation.

Finally, since 1998 the Green Party has criticized the Governor's judicial appointment system, which is dominated by special interests. The three-member commission that must ratify his appointments is a mere rubber stamp. Prosecutors, supported by police and prison guards, have exercised an undue influence on this outdated judicial selection process. Judges are drawn primarily from a narrow band of the political spectrum, heavily weighted toward law-and-order/ war-on-drugs cheerleaders, government careerists, and those with tenure in a lower court. Racism and sexism are rampant. The present system of judicial selection does nothing to elevate the standards of judicial qualifications and has created a self-perpetuating judiciary free from the control of the people.

The Green Party has previously suggested that judicial term limits be considered and that new selection methods be devised. We have supported renewed scrutiny in the selection of candidates and public financing of judicial campaigns.

Over the years since 1998, no great wellspring of popular support for the types of reforms we have proposed has arisen. What's more, some Greens and other progressives believe that judges should be less exposed to the popular political whims of the electorate. They cite the 1986 right-wing backlash and ultimate removal of Supreme Court Justice Rose Bird over her opinions challenging the constitutionality of California's death penalty. Justice Bird was the first female justice of the state Supreme Court and the first state supreme court or appellate judge ever to be removed by the voters. We believe that this issue needs considerable debate and we would like to hear from Greens and other progressives in the legal community on both sides of this issue who might have insight as to the wisdom and impact of such changes.

Superior Court Judge, Seat 9

Victoria Kolakowski

Victoria (Vicky) Kolakowski is much more progressive than her opponent, John Creighton, who has spent most of his long career as a prosecutor, which likely will limit his perspective.

Kolakowski's experience is primarily in civil matters, administrative law proceedings and other transactional and policy-oriented work, but she has no criminal law experience. Her lack of familiarity with criminal practice does concern us. Criminal matters and civil matters are handled differently, with different and more rigorous procedural standards applied to criminal matters, as someone's freedom hangs in the balance in a criminal proceeding, while civil matters are usually monetary or commercial disputes. While she is no doubt a very good administrative law judge and has significant civil litigation experience in federal and state courts, Kolakowski needs time to develop her skills and qualifications to become an excellent superior court judge. Kolakowski is progressive, however, and as a transgendered person, her election would be a milestone in transgender rights.

Creighton has been a career prosecutor for a quarter of a century, which is not to say he is incapable of overseeing his courtroom in a fair and impartial manner, only that he looks at issues through the lens of his individual experience and his individual experience does not include criminal defense work. That's not necessarily a criticism of Creighton, just an acknowledgment. Creighton seems to be law enforcement's favored candidate. His endorsers (with some exceptions) appear to be from the center to center-right

East Bay Computer Services

www.eastbaycomputerservices.com

510-645-1800

Maintenance and management of
networks
workstations
and high speed internet

Green Party of Alameda County
 2022 Blake St.
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 (510) 644-2293
 FPCC ID #921297



PRESORT STD
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 OAKLAND, CA
 Permit no. 2508

GREEN

voter guide

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

Alameda • Albany • Berkeley • Dublin • Emeryville
 Fremont • Hayward • Livermore • Newark • Oakland
 Piedmont • Pleasanton • San Leandro • Union City

Index	
Statewide Offices	1, 3, 4, 5
State Assembly, Federal Offices.....	7
State Propositions	1, 5, 6
Judicial Offices.....	15
Special Districts	14, 15
County Offices and Measures	6
City Offices and Measures	
Alameda	8
Albany	11, 13
Berkeley	1, 12, 13
Emeryville	8
Oakland	1, 9, 10, 11
Voter Card	Back page
General Election	
November 2, 2010	

This may be the last Green Party Voter Guide; Please donate, see page 2 to help.

Green Voter Card

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

State Executive Offices

Governor - **Laura Wells**
 Lieutenant Governor - **Jimi Castillo**
 Secretary of State - **Ann Menasche**
 Controller - **Ross Frankel**
 Treasurer - **Charles "Kt" Crittenden**
 Attorney General - **Peter Allen**
 Insurance Commissioner - **William Balderston**
 State Superintendent of Public Instruction - No Endorsement, see write-up

Federal Offices

U.S. Senator - **Diane Roberts**
 U.S. Representative, District 9 - **Dave Heller**
 U.S. Representative, District 10 - **Jeremy Cloward**

Other State Offices

State Board of Equalization, District 1 - **Sherill Borg**
 State Assembly, District 14 - No Endorsement, see write-up
 State Assembly, District 16 - No Endorsement, see write-up

Judicial Offices

State Supreme Court, Ming Chin - No Endorsement, see write-up
 State Supreme Court, Carlos Moreno - Yes, with reservations
 State Supreme Court, Tani Cantil-Sakauye - No Endorsement, see write-up
 State Courts of Appeal, First District - No Endorsement, see write-up
 Superior Court Judge, Seat 9 - **Victoria Kolakowski**

Special School Districts

Peralta Community College Area 3 - No Endorsement, see write-up
 Peralta Community College Area 5 - No Endorsement, see write-up

County Offices

Supervisor, District 2 - No Endorsement, see write-up

City Offices

Alameda
 Mayor - **Doug de Haan**
 City Council - **Jean Sweeney, Beverly Johnson** with reservations
 School Board - **Marjorie "Marge" Serratt**
 Healthcare District - **Robert Deutsch**
Albany
 City Attorney - No Endorsement, see write-up
 City Council - **Joanne Wile**
Berkeley
 Auditor - No Endorsement, see write-up
 City Council, District 1 - **Jasper Kingeier**
 City Council, District 4 - **Jesse Arreguin**
 City Council, District 7 - **Krist Worthington**
 City Council, District 8 - # 1: **Stewart Jones, # 2: Jaquelyn McCormick**
 School Board - **Karen Hemphill, Julie Holcomb, Leah Wilson**
 Rent Board - **Dave Blake, Asa Dodswoth, Katherine Harr, Lisa Stephens, Jesse Townley, and Pam Webster**

Oakland

Mayor - # 1: **Don Macleay, # 2: Jean Quan*, # 3: Rebecca Kaplan***
 *Quan and Kaplan have been ranked, but are not endorsed - see write-up
 City Auditor - No Endorsement, see write-up
 City Council, District 2 - **Jennifer Pae** with reservations
 City Council, District 4 - # 1: **Ralph Kanz, # 2 Daniel Swafford, # 3 Libby SchAAF**
 City Council, District 6 - **Jose Dorado**
 School Board, District 2 - No Endorsement, see write-up
 School Board, District 4 - **Benjamin Vismick**
 School Board, District 6 - No Endorsement, see write-up

Special Districts

A.C. Transit, A-charge - **Joel Young**
 A.C. Transit, Ward 3 - **Nancy Skowho**
 A.C. Transit, Ward 4 - No Endorsement, see write-up
 A.C. Transit, Ward 5 - No Endorsement, see write-up
 BART, Ward 4 - **Robert Raburn**
 EBMUD, Ward 3 - No Endorsement, see write-up
 EBMUD, Ward 4 - **Andy Katz**
 EBMUD, Ward 7 - **Matt Turner**

State Propositions

19 - Legalize Marijuana - Yes, Yes!
 20 - Congressional Redistricting - No
 21 - Vehicle Fee for Parks - Yes, with reservations
 22 - Local Government and Transportation Funds - No Endorsement, see write-up
 23 - Gutting of Greenhouse Gas Laws - No, No, No!
 24 - Repeals Business Tax Loopholes - Yes, Yes!
 25 - Approval of State Budget by Majority Vote - Yes, with reservations
 26 - Extends 2/3 Vote Requirement to All Revenue Items - No, No!
 27 - Returns Redistricting to the State Legislature - No Endorsement, see write-up

Local Measures

F - County \$10 Vehicle Registration Fee - Yes, with reservations
 H - Berkeley: Continuation of School Maintenance Parcel Tax - Yes
 I - Berkeley: Continuation of School Facilities Bond - Yes
 J - Emeryville: \$95 Million School Bond - No, with reservations
 L - Oakland: Schools Parcel Tax - No Endorsement, see write-up
 N - Albany: Appointed City Attorney - No Endorsement, see write-up
 O - Albany: Utility Users Tax - Yes
 P - Albany: Paramedic, Fire Engines and Ambulance Tax - Yes, with reservations
 Q - Albany: Cannabis Business Tax - No Endorsement, see write-up
 R - Berkeley: Downtown Plan - No, No, No!
 S - Berkeley: Tax on Cannabis - Yes
 T - Berkeley: Medical Cannabis - Yes
 V - Oakland: Cannabis Tax - Yes
 W - Oakland: Telephone Tax - Yes
 X - Oakland: Parcel Tax - No, No!
 BB - Oakland: Amend Measure Y Funding - Yes

Candidates in green ink are Green Party members

Printed on Recycled Paper by Union Labor

G

vote



G

decentralization • community based economics

nonviolence • future focus • respect for diversity

social justice • ecological wisdom • feminism

grass roots democracy

global responsibility

for the thinking voter