

Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: November 8, 2016

Federal Offices	1, 3, 4
State Senate and Assembly	4
State Propositions	1, 16, 17, 18
Superior Court Judge	5
Peralta Colleges	5
City of Alameda	5, 6
City of Albany	6, 7
City of Berkeley	1, 7, 8, 9
City of Emeryville	1, 9
City of Fremont	10
Hayward Area	10
City of Oakland	1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Special Districts	14, 15
County Measures	15
Voter Card	19, Back page

U.S. President and Vice President Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka

“Stein is not just up against the Democratic and Republican nominees. She is up against a rigid two-party system that erects high barriers to those who seek to open up the process. It is uncommon for independent and third-party candidates to get over and around those barriers. But this is an uncommon year in American politics.” — John Nichols, August 19, 2016, *The Nation*, “Jill Stein Should Be Part of a 4-Way Presidential Debate”

In the 2016 presidential election, the growing corruption of U.S. electoral politics and the disintegration of what's left of our democracy is on display: the resignations of numerous campaign and party officials from scandalous ethical violations exposed in leaked emails; the swirling controversy surrounding the foundations of the corporate candidates—on the one hand, allegations of pay-to-play favoritism, and on the other, outright illegal activity; a meeting between a former president and the Attorney General on an airport tarmac, followed by a non-indictment recommendation from the FBI chief; a corporate media telling us that our only choices are a loud-mouthed carnival barker whose racism, misogyny and bigotry have made white supremacy mainstream, or a deeply flawed, entrenched politician whose record offers us more war and more Wall Street.

Against this backdrop, when Jill Stein appears on the news in her lavender blazer, energetic, optimistic and wise, to talk about a bright possible future where war and weapons are transformed into clean energy jobs and free education, the relief and excitement many Americans feel is palpable and real. By August her poll numbers were up to 4 percent nationwide and over 10 percent in California among voters under 30 (higher than Trump's numbers). As a mother, Harvard-educated physician, and longtime teacher of internal medicine, Stein has led initiatives promoting healthy communities, local green economies, and the revitalization of democracy—championing issues such as campaign finance reform, green jobs, racially-just redistricting, and the cleanup of incinerators, coal plants, and toxics.

In August, Stein chose longtime human rights activist Ajamu Baraka as her running mate. Baraka has served on the boards of Amnesty International, Center for Constitutional Rights, Africa Action, and is currently an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. Following a CNN Town Hall appearance together, Stein / Baraka received significant media coverage. Among others, the LA Times and Fresno Bee even called for the inclusion of Stein (and Libertarian candidate, Gary Johnson) in the

continued on page 3

Oakland School Board, District 1 Don Macleay

The endorsement of Don Macleay is not simply based on his active involvement with the Green Party and his having run in previous local Oakland elections. It is about the contrast with his opponent, Jody London. London was first on the School Board in 2009 and was reelected in 2012; she has served several stints as president and vice-president of the board. She has been visible in support of school funding measures such as Measure B and two parcel tax initiatives. She has focused energy on school facilities. Her work is around public policy, especially on energy issues and she is supportive of public partnerships with business.

Despite attempting to create a liberal veneer, she has consistently voted for the status quo. While she was critical several years ago of massive expansion of charter schools in Oakland, she quickly reversed course and now habitually votes for any charter proposal. She is uncritical of the current superintendent, Antwan Wilson, and his neoliberal, pro-Broad Foundation policies.

As a reward for this rightward shift, she will be supported in this election by Great Oakland (GO) Public Schools, the main purveyor of corporate domination of schools in Oakland. They will undoubtedly spend tens or hundreds of thousands to elect their corporate candidates, just as they did in the last school board election.

Don Macleay is not simply different from the incumbent on macro-policies regarding the reforms linked to privatization and the standardized testing regime. Equally important, Don will bring a fervor to involve residents, parents, and students throughout the District in making decisions and involvement in school sites.

continued on page 10

Proposition 64 - YES Marijuana Legalization

Prop. 64, the California Marijuana Legalization Initiative would legalize marijuana and hemp under state law and enact certain sales and cultivation taxes.

The time has finally come for cannabis to come “out of the shadows” and into the daylight in California, as it has now in four other western states (WA, CO, OR, AK). It is pretty clear where the benefits are: less money to crime syndicates both domestically and in Mexico; fewer people put in jail for trivial issues that do not affect actual crime on others; and more revenue for the state to educate about drug issues, clean the environment, and help law enforcement, among other things. Most reasonable people have known for a long time that legalization is not only a rational path to drug policy for multiple reasons, but is virtually inevitable, eventually, across the country.

This proposition is almost sure to pass this time, according to public polling, and has only limited opposition. Some opposition comes from certain sectors of law enforcement that have habitually opposed any sort of legalization; some from large scale growers that don't want their entrenched profits to drop (though they always masquerade their arguments in terms of other issues); and some opposition comes from “reasonable” concerns about public health: the ability of the drug to push certain predisposed young people over the edge into schizophrenia (an issue which needs more study).

At this point, however, going the “prohibition” route to controlling cannabis consumption is not helping these vulnerable people, nor anyone else. Anyone can get it without much difficulty in the state (and country), and what is needed is to integrate it into our existing public health system, instead of seeing it as “demon weed” outside the scope of civilized society when everyone is aware that, in fact, it's all around us.

We give a strong YES to Prop. 64.

continued on page 16

Emeryville City Council

**Christian Patz, John Bauters,
and Ally Medina
Don't vote for Engel**

This year there is an unprecedented open election for the Emeryville City Council with none of the incumbents seeking re-election. We have the opportunity to build upon the progressive Council majority chosen by voters in the last two elections. Progressive candidates need to take two of the three seats, since Green-endorsed Councilwoman Jac Asher is not seeking re-election.

To expand on what progressives have built in Emeryville, we endorse Christian Patz, John Bauters and Ally Medina. All three are Democrats but have real progressive bona fides. Christian Patz has served on the Emery School Board, has experience in making policy, and has been willing to be a lone dissenter on the School Board in order to make his policy positions clear. He strongly advocates transparency and accountability at City Hall. John Bauters, as a Sacramento legislative advocate for the poor, has had

continued on page 9

Berkeley Measures U1 - Rental Unit Business License Tax (City Sponsored) - YES, YES, YES

Measure DD - Rental Unit Business License Tax Big Landlord Initiative - NO, NO, NO

Berkeley landlords have made out like bandits in recent years, raking in about \$100 million a year in windfall profits due to vacancy decontrol. Two years ago, a coalition of community organizations, activists, and elected officials began working on a measure to capture a portion of that excess profit for the benefit of the community, to create affordable housing and fight homelessness. The result is Measure U1, placed on the ballot by an unanimous City Council. Seeing the writing on the wall and looking for a way to confuse voters, the big landlords spent \$65K on out-of-town signature gathers to place a competing measure on the ballot. Both measures increase the business license tax on rental income. The City measure increases it to 2.88 percent, and will raise an estimated \$5 million in new revenue per year (based on Rent Board data.) It exempts small landlords with 4 or fewer units from the increase, subsidized housing like Section 8, apartments that have not had a vacancy decontrol rent increase, and new construction for the first 12 years after it's occupied. These exemptions are included to place the burden of the increase where it belongs, on big landlords cashing in on the housing crisis, and to not discourage new construction. The Housing Advisory Committee would make a recommendation to the City Council annually on how to spend the new revenue. The landlord measure increases the tax to 1.5 percent and would bring in less than a third in new revenue, only about \$1.4 million. It only exempts duplexes from the increase. Both have “hardship” exemptions. So what's better: 45 new affordable housing units a year or 12? Vote YES on “you won” and we all win! Vote NO on DD – Downright Dirty politics.

** GO PAPERLESS **

A PDF version of this Voter Guide is online at: <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides>. Would you like to save some trees and printing/postage costs? PLEASE LET US KNOW at acgreenparty@aol.com that you prefer to receive email (with our Green Voter Card plus a link to the full Voter Guide online) instead of printed copies.

Printed copies (for your use, and to distribute) will always be available at our Green Party headquarters at 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 644-2293. Donations of any amount are encouraged (but not required).

Thanks everyone!



The Green Party of Alameda County

The "GPAC" is one of the few County Councils that produce a Voter Guide for each election. We mail about 7,000 to Green households, and distribute another 10,000 through cafes, BART stations, libraries and other locations. Please read yours and pass it along to other interested voters. Feel free to copy our "Voter Card" to distribute it as well.

Your Green Party

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

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

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

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

Ways to reach us:

County Council:

Phone: (510) 644-2293

Website: www.acgreens.wordpress.com

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

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

Locals:

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

Albany and Berkeley Greens: We are working on a number of November candidate and ballot measure contests. To join our email list, and for more information, contact: <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/berkeleygreens>; (510) 644-2293

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: We are actively running a local Green Party candidate in the November election. Please join us as soon as you possibly can. For additional info, please see our website, YahooGroup, or telephone us: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens>, (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 Maxine Daniel (510) 459-7610, maxine.daniel@gmail.com.

Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: David Arkin, Jan Arnold, Victoria Ashley, Bill Balderston, Paul Burton (page layout), Harry Chomsky, Vicente Cruz, Mica Daniel, Brian Donahue, Chris Finn, Brian Geiser, Mandeep Gill, Brian Good, Dave Heller, Greg Jan, Saied Karamooz, Michael Kaufman, Tina Kimmel, Bob Marsh, Patti Marsh, Hugh Moore, Samsarah Morgan, David Morrison, Michael Rubin, Susan Schacher, Bob Scofield, John Selawsky, Larry Shoup, Phoebe Sorgen, Kent Sparling, Pam Spevack, Lisa Stephens, Joan Strasser, Laura Wells, and Nan Wishner.

Voter Guide Contributions

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

Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

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

Some races aren't on the ballot

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

Our online Voter Guide

You can also read our Voter Guide online at <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides>

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!

Taxes, Bonds, Fiscal Responsibility and the Green Party

The Green Party's commitment to being fiscally responsible is as important as our commitment to being environmentally and socially responsible. Given these values, we often endorse bonds and taxes with reservations. Why? Because structural inequities in the tax system make responsible and progressive financing impossible.

Our budget problems took a turn for the worse in 1978 when California's most famous proposition, Prop 13, was approved by voters. Fourteen years later, in 1992, the Green Party achieved ballot status in California and we've been fighting for a fairer tax system ever since.

Voters overwhelmingly approved Prop 13 to keep people, especially seniors on fixed incomes, from losing their homes due to escalating property taxes. Other less-understood parts of Prop 13, however, have increasingly damaged California's legacy of great schools, parks, highways, health care and quality of life.

Prop 13 flattened property taxes and prohibited imposition of any new "ad valorem" (according to value) taxes on real property. Prop 13 also requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature to increase state taxes. This super-majority is a steep hurdle to jump, especially when slightly more than

1/3 of our legislators have pledged to vote against any and all taxes.

Taxes are now less progressive and more regressive, taxing the poor more than the rich. California can keep the good and fix the bad in Prop 13, but neither majority Democrats nor minority Republicans use their power to promote real solutions.

Bonds have been sold to voters as "no new taxes" rather than "spend now and make kids pay later, with interest." Bonds meanwhile enrich and give tax breaks to wealthy investors, and encourage scams by casino capitalists on Wall Street. Super-rich individuals and corporations avoid paying taxes, and instead loan money to the government in the form of bonds, and get even richer from the interest. Implementing a publicly-owned State Bank is one way California could use its own capital to fund public projects, and invest the interest savings back into California.

Property taxes before Prop 13 came primarily from commercial properties, and now primarily from homes. Homes are reassessed upon sale, whereas tax loopholes allow corporate properties to escape reassessment.

Parcel taxes are often the same for large properties and small condos. For some voters parcel taxes are outstripping their basic property taxes.

Sales taxes have been relied upon for balancing budgets, and weigh heavily given that, as updated annually by the California Budget Project, when looking at family income, the poorest 20 percent pay more of their income in state and local taxes than the richest 1 percent. This continues to be the case even after Proposition 30's tax rate increases. Those who average \$13,000 pay 10.6 percent and those who average \$1.6 million pay 8.8 percent.

With Reservations we endorse funding when needed for vital services, and at the same time we educate and organize for better ways of raising revenue in the future.

Green Party of Alameda County

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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: _____ 3-digit code on back of card: _____

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

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

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

State law requires that we report contributor's:

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Thanks for your contribution of:

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

Support Your Green Party!

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

In addition, our mailing and printing costs have significantly increased over the past several years. Please send in the coupon to the left with your donation today!

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

Federal Offices

President

continued from page 1

presidential debates. In September 2016, Stein and Baraka were arrested after protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation.

Stein-Baraka are picking up the mantle of the fight against wealth inequality after the historic Bernie Sanders Democratic primary campaign, which represented the largest public outcry on the declining standard of living in America since the worldwide Occupy Movement ("We Are the 99 percent") in 2011. While Bernie's pre-convention endorsement of Clinton—despite months of promising a contested convention—avoided the police violence in the streets which ultimately decimated Occupy in the U.S., many Bernie supporters, unable to stomach the corrupt rightwing politics of Clinton, proceeded to "DemExit"—de-registering Democrat en masse to join the Green Party. Stein helped the transition by compassionately vocalizing the experiences of Bernie's supporters, tweeting, "Bernie hearts are breaking right now," and joining them in the street demonstrations outside the DNC in Philadelphia. In an op-ed for The Hill, Stein made her key point, "The consistent efforts of the Democratic Party to minimize, sideline, and sabotage the Sanders campaign are a wakeup call that we can't have a revolutionary campaign inside a counterrevolutionary party."

Sanders' willingness to endorse Clinton, following through on statements he made earlier in his campaign, was nonetheless a shock to some Bernie supporters. They had directly experienced election theft, debate falsehoods by Clinton, DNC undermining of Bernie's campaign, and SuperPAC undermining of social media accounts. Clinton is a candidate so embraced by the establishment that, following a year long investigation, FBI director Comey took the unprecedented step of intervening in what would normally have been a criminal decision by the Justice Department, and recommended against indictment after laying out a powerful case to Congress for indictment based on Clinton's violations of public transparency and national security laws. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, who clandestinely met with Bill Clinton on an airport tarmac in the days before Comey's testimony to Congress, was thus spared from having to follow through with a prosecution.

As the bizarre series of events of the 2016 presidential election continue to unfold, corruption by the two corporate-funded party officeholders and candidates is reaching record levels. Several Clinton superdelegates at the July DNC, for example, were under federal investigation when they voted to nominate her, including Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Florida Representative Corrine Brown. (Superdelegate New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver was already sentenced to prison in January for 12 years on federal corruption charges.)

The establishment is so desperate to force Clinton through the installation process, no matter how mistrusted or disliked she is, that it is willing to expose its own extreme media bias, hijack legal criminal proceedings, neglect clear cases of election fraud, and even call her primary nomination before the convention had even started. For these reasons, the likelihood of a Trump presidency is small. Critique of Trump's positions is illogical, since they can change fully to the opposite position within weeks or months.

As the Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka campaign gains access in more states and their poll numbers rise, we can continue give a voice to the public outcry against corruption, wealth inequality, racism, the climate crisis and wars—vote Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka, for a peaceful and just future.



It's Important to Vote Green in Blue (and Red) States (or Why You Don't Have to Vote for Hillary to Defeat Trumplethinskin)

"We can list all the reasons people are told to silence themselves and vote for a lesser evil candidate: . . . jobs going overseas, the climate meltdown, expanding wars . . . Look around. This is exactly what we've gotten, much of it under a Democratic White House. The lesser evil . . . merely paves the way to the greater evil."

- Interview with Dr. Jill Stein, "Thinking and voting outside the two-party box," *Socialist Worker*, May 9, 2016 <https://socialistworker.org/>

Despite the consequences of lesser-of-two-evils voting, many are persuaded by the admonition to not "waste their vote" on a Third Party — this time, the "practical" urgency of defeating Donald Trump must override the principle of voting one's conscience. But whatever its merits, the logic of the "spoiler effect" does not apply in California.

In California, we live in a deep blue state. This means that statewide, the vote is overwhelmingly likely to go to a Democrat. Our state is so blue that the only two choices in the Senate race are Democrats. California's Electoral College votes are awarded as "winner-take all." This means that effectively we don't have a say in who wins the presidency. If Hillary wins the state by one vote, or ten million, she gets every Electoral College vote.

You may ask, "In this close election, what if Drumpf von Clownface wins the state?" Remember that California won't be voting in a vacuum: if he can even get close to

winning California, Trump will overwhelmingly carry the major "battleground," or "swing" states in the East.

But, you may ask: "Don't we have to vote for The Hillary to stop The Donkey of the Decade?" Not if you live in a deep blue or deep red state. It might be a question worthy of discussion in the battleground states, but not here. In deep blue or deep red states, you are free to vote for someone you believe in, not just the "lesser of two evils."

And if millions of Bernie supporters and others, vote for Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein, it will signal to the new Democratic administration that the political revolution Bernie's voters started is far from over. The more votes Jill gets, the more powerful the signal.

Whether or not you choose to vote for Jill Stein, you can exert powerful political pressure by registering with the Green Party. The Green Party, like Bernie Sanders, rejects corporate money, and the Green platform has all the good stuff the Bernie folks couldn't get the Democrats to accept, and more. In addition to the policy statement registering Green makes, it also plants a progressive flag for candidates and just plain folks wishing to organize using the voter registration rolls. You may not get as much junk mail before the next election, but the quality will be much better.

U.S. Senator No Endorsement

Our world is in crisis because an economic system based on ecocide—capitalism—is globally dominant and lives through constant economic expansion, threatening the entire web of life by gradually but inexorably destroying a stable biosphere, climate system and our oceans. Time is short to avoid global catastrophe and turn this system around, and generous doses of both farsighted leadership and mass participation will be needed. Alas, no such leaders can be found among the two status quo candidates on the ballot for U.S. Senate this year.

Due to the unfair "top two" electoral system currently in use in California (see box), there are only two Democrats on the ballot. Both Loretta Sanchez and Kamala Harris are establishment Democrats, but represent respectively the "moderate" and "progressive" wings of the dominant plutocracy. Sanchez has been in the U.S. House of Representatives representing two Orange County districts since the late 1990s. A former Republican (until 1992), she identifies as a "Blue Dog" Democrat, the openly pro-capitalist, fiscally conservative, pro-war ("defense") faction of the Democratic Party. She makes the typical argument that since her parents were immigrants, she will be on the side of the excluded and oppressed. Her entire political and ideological orientation and concrete votes while in office completely refute this ploy to ensnare the unwary voter.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris is the favored candidate of the plutocracy in this race and is very likely to win. She has raised by far the most money, and received the most attention (mainly favorable) from the establishment media. Harris's career in politics began when she became a protégé of state kingpin Willie Brown in the early 1990s. Brown and other members of the plutocratic wing of the California Democratic Party (such as the billionaire Feinstein and the multimillionaire Pelosi) helped Harris with jobs, endorsements and election fundraising. She was then elected state Attorney General. Despite the culture of frugality stressed by Governor Jerry Brown, Harris's rapid and easy rise to prominence and power has apparently gone to her head and detailed reports of her "diva lifestyle" and demands for "a life of luxury" have surfaced. One former aide stated that she treats her campaign funds like a personal checking account. An examination of her campaign spending reports shows this to be true.

Harris's political orientation can be summed up by her endorsement of Hillary Clinton for president: "I'm excited to stand with Hillary Clinton... I have a deep admiration for her." The issues she is running on reflect the usual

Green Party Disenfranchised by Unfair Top Two System

Currently in California, most state contested political offices are filled through the "top two" primary voting system. This reduces democracy by limiting voter choice. In this year's U.S. Senate campaign there are only two Democrats on the ballot, no other political party candidates are included. The result is low participation in the November general election when voter interest is highest. This system also increases the role of big money interests in the June primary, since candidates need more money to distinguish themselves from others in what is often a long list of candidates. The Green Party favors fairer voting system like Ranked Choice Voting and Proportional Representation, both used in many nations to better represent the people's wishes. PR is used in over 90 nations worldwide.

"progressive" Democrat approach to politics: carefully manage public anger by offering hope of change while maintaining the status quo with minor alterations. During election time they sound more progressive, but totally cave in to corporate and plutocratic interests as soon as the election is over. Even the soon to be betrayed promises are inadequate. The specifics offered by Harris to deal with the ecological crisis, for example, focus on capitalist market based non- solutions like a carbon tax and a cap-and-trade market for carbon pollution. This lets the high consuming plutocrats (like her friend Feinstein who has seven houses all over the country and flies around on her own private jet to visit them) off the hook; they can consume as much as they want while the rank and file are rationed through the market. Moreover, environmental issues are, in Harris's program, combined with something not possible: "sustainable economic growth." The need for de-growth, for a crash program in agroecological agriculture, immediately ending coal mining and fracking, as well as an immediate end to fossil fuel subsidies for big oil, gas and coal are left unmentioned. The necessity of ending the system of grow-or-die capitalism, which must not be continued on our finite planet, is also left out of the Harris program. Harris, like Sanchez, is a facilitator of a higher immorality, ignoring the real issues facing the people and the planet.

As Albert Einstein once stated, "We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive." Clearly, these two candidates do not offer such thinking.



Jill2016.com

U.S. House of Representatives, District 13 No Endorsement

As of June 30, Democratic Party incumbent Barbara Lee raised \$851,066 for her re-election. Keeping in mind that she has never won an election with less than 80 percent of the vote and that her Republican opponent has only raised \$4,150, the need for such a campaign war chest becomes a curious question. (Her opponent, Suzanne Caro, has given \$1,100 to her own campaign, Barbara Lee hasn't given one thin dime to her own re-election!)

Her biggest contributor is an Emeryville business man named John Gooding. He runs several consulting firms, including the Milo Group, Quadric Group and the Emeryville Education Fund, and he is a member of the board of the Emeryville Chamber of Commerce. He may be best known to the working class for his opposition to the 2005 Measure C in Emeryville, which was a successful campaign to elevate the wages of hotel workers to a living wage. He claimed that raising the wages of workers would cause the hospitality industry to leave Emeryville. Despite his seeming interest in educating children, he donated money to Republican Governor Pete Wilson and his fight to pass Proposition 187 in 1994, an initiative to deny education to children of undocumented immigrants.

A review of Representative Lee's donation list includes many corporations associated with the Military Industrial Complex, including Vital Systems (from an individual associated with the company), Lockheed Martin, and Microsoft.

Also donating to Lee are DTE Energy PAC, a company associated with gas piping (the fracking industry) and nuclear power, \$3,000; Duke Energy of North Carolina, big into coal and nuclear and with no facilities on the West Coast, \$2,500; Dickerson Employee Benefits, a health insurance company (\$9,800 from Jean and Carl Dickerson of Pasadena, CA); and Gilead Sciences, a pharmaceutical firm formerly run by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, \$5,000. Not to mention: McDonalds PAC \$5,000, PG&E PAC \$4,000, Clorox PAC \$3,000, Bayer PAC \$2,500, National Beer Wholesalers PAC \$2,500, National Football League PAC \$1,500, Berkshire Hathaway PAC \$1,000, and State Farm Insurance PAC \$1,000.

Of the \$851,066 she has raised, (not including the \$706,394 she has spent on "Operating Expenses," which is mostly throwing parties to raise money to throw parties to raise money, including one in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, over 3,000 miles from her district). Is all of this "money laundering" and acceptance of corporate money really what you want from a so-called "progressive" member of Congress? Do you really want to vote for someone who doesn't even believe in themselves enough to donate to their own campaign?

Lee's challenger is Piedmont realtor Sue Caro, vice chair of the Alameda County Republican Party, who somehow thinks Lee is a "socialist." Yikes! It looks like we need to go "back to the drawing board" and find a strong, non-corporate progressive candidate to represent us in Congress!

State Senate, District 9 No Endorsement

We favor Sandre Swanson as the better of the only two choices. It is against our policy to endorse Democrats in "partisan" races, even if your only choices are Democrats. Whoever wins will be one of the most progressive senators in the state. See their responses to our questionnaire.

Before the Assembly, Sandre Swanson had 30 years of political experience, working for Congress persons Ron Dellums and then Barbara Lee. He is committed to growing the middle class and sustainable jobs, at-risk youth, the victims of human trafficking, worker rights, and a "state budget that is not balanced on the backs of the most vulnerable and voiceless in our society." He supports tuition-free higher education starting with the community colleges.

As evidence of a principled progressive voice, he cites his "no" votes that eliminated the "Healthy Families Program", moving 740,000 poor children to Medi-Cal, and on measures that would undermine collective bargaining rights. He also voted his "conscience...refusing to support a spending cap 'rainy day fund' during the recession," a vote that cost him the chairmanship of the Labor Committee. In 2010, he joined with Greens in speaking out forcefully against the "Top Two Primary" proposition.

His endorsers include Loni Hancock, Barbara Lee, Berkeley City Councilmembers Anderson, Arreguin and Worthington, the Wellstone Renewal Democratic Club and LOTS of labor unions. If elected, he will be the only African American from northern California to serve in the State Senate in more than two decades.

Nancy Skinner served on the Berkeley City Council and the East Bay Regional Parks District Board. She is running to "deliver on the progressive policies that were my hallmark in the Assembly." She cites legislation that greatly expands rooftop solar, gun violence prevention, fighting corporate tax loopholes and bringing in \$1 billion in new sales tax revenue, initiating higher income taxes on the super-rich, and removing dangerous chemicals from building materials. She takes credit for the largest increase in funding for childcare and preschool in over a decade and substantial budget increases for CSU and UC. She believes that "advancing the progressive agenda requires skilled legislators to craft legislation, forge coalitions, and tenaciously push legislation through to the Governor's desk."

Her endorsers include most of the mayors in District 9, the Sierra Club, former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, a few unions, and a huge list of elected officials. Currently only 12 of the 40 State Senators are women.

State Assembly, District 15 No Endorsement

The Assembly District 15 covers the area from North Oakland through Berkeley, Richmond, and San Pablo, to Pinole.

Incumbent Tony Thurmond's answers to our detailed and concrete questionnaire were mostly vague generalities. He referred several times to his website, but the website is not very concrete or complete. The only question that he fully answered was his list of endorsements (primarily the Democratic machine). His votes have been standard Democratic votes.

The most detailed answer Thurmond gave was to a specific question about how he plans to address budget deficits: "I believe we need to bring more fairness to our tax system, including extending Prop. 30, reforming the 2/3 requirement for passage of tax measures and reforming Prop. 13." This is a step in the right direction, but it does not address exactly how he would counter the powerful forces which support the corporate property tax status quo.

In some cases, Thurmond's questionnaire answer was deliberately misleading. For example, when asked "What must a constituent do in order to meet with you?", he answered "All a constituent needs to do is contact one of my offices to set up an appointment." In fact, that appointment will be with one of Thurmond's staffers. Thurmond himself does not meet with constituents. He rarely holds Town Hall meetings. He does make campaign appearances, but he appears slick and insincere. His behavior as a new member of the Assembly has occasionally been an embarrassment (see <https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2015/06/17/18773615.php>).

Thurmond's first term was a disappointment, since he was put into office in 2014 by progressives and supported by the Greens. It seems possible, but unlikely, that he'll improve as he gains more experience.

His only challenger is UC Berkeley College Republicans' Claire Chiara, who was polite but declined to answer our questionnaire.

We very badly need to put a viable progressive into this important seat.

State Assembly, District 18 No Endorsement

The Democratic Party incumbent, Rob Bonta, represents all of Oakland except for the northern portion, plus Alameda and most of San Leandro.

Bonta is becoming more progressive with time. We appreciate that he returned the Green Party questionnaire, which he did not do for the last election. It's true that his thoughtful, concrete answers told us about specifically-chosen legislative events that may have made him appear more progressive than he actually is. But he had lots of good things to say this time, in essentially every category. In person he appears to be genuinely engaged and concerned.

For example, in 2013 we know that Bonta had voted FOR fracking (against the AB 1323 moratorium). But in 2014 and 2015, he changed his position and voted against fracking, e.g. by supporting SB 4 (fracking regulations, which was an easy vote for him). Notably, he also supported the failed AB 669 (to protect water from fracking, which was a more difficult vote for him).

In 2015 Bonta supported the unpopular mandatory vaccination act SB 277 — which is a windfall for the pharmaceutical industry — after accepting tens of thousands of dollars in donations from them. But Bonta may have learned from this experience, because in his 2016 questionnaire he says he "stood up against the pharmaceutical industry, including by supporting AB 463, the Pharmaceutical Cost Transparency Act of 2016, which would have required disclosure of additional information [on expensive pharmaceutical treatments]."

Bonta claims "I have not taken any donations from Big Oil, Big Tobacco, or WalMart," which is great. Of course, that still leaves a lot of corporations from whom he has accepted money.

Bonta's only opponent is Roseann Slonsky-Breault, who is an officer of the California Federation of Republican Women. We appreciate her responding to some of the Green Party questions, but her non-specific, polemical responses are far more conservative than Bonta's. "We have too many unnecessary entitlement programs." "I oppose single payer health care. The free market system allows patients to work together with their own doctors to have the best health care." "We need less regulation for businesses." "Raising the minimum wage . . . hurts the young and less educated workers, it becomes even more difficult for them to find jobs."

The Assembly District 18 has lots of great progressive people in it. We need to keep encouraging Bonta—or whoever holds this seat—to accurately represent and lead their constituency.

** GO PAPERLESS **

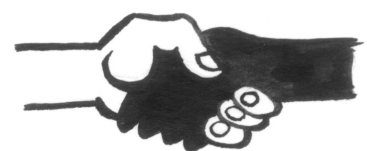
The PDF version of this Voter Guide is available at <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides>. Would you like to save some trees and printing/postage costs? PLEASE LET US KNOW at acgreenparty@aol.com that you prefer to receive email (with our Green Voter Card plus a link to the full Voter Guide online) instead of printed copies.

Printed copies (for your use, and to distribute) will always be available at our Green Party headquarters at 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 644-2293. Donations of any amount are encouraged (but not required).

Thanks everyone!

Read the CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRES Online

Most of the candidates returned our questionnaires, for most of the local races. You'll find lots of additional info in the candidates' completed questionnaires, so we strongly encourage you to read them on our website: <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires/>. (Or, you can simply go to: <http://acgreens.org>, and then click on the "Candidate Questionnaires" tab near the top of the page).



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Alameda County Superior Court, Office #1 Scott Jackson

This November there will be only one contested judicial race in Alameda County. Neither of the candidates is a white male, so either would add diversity to the bench. Both are qualified and have relevant experience. Judicial elections can be an important way to advance social justice. It was the judiciary that ruled against segregation and for marriage equality.

Scott Jackson is Director of the Litigation Center at Golden Gate University Law School. He has experience in criminal law as an Alameda County Deputy DA, and in civil law as a partner at Donahue Fitzgerald. He served on the Board of the Volunteer Legal Services Corporation, which provides free legal aid to poor people. He is still on the Board of Elizabeth House, a transition program for vulnerable Oakland mothers. After earning a J.D. at George Washington University Law School, he clerked for the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division during which he was involved in investigating a wave of 145 burnings of Black churches.

In requesting our endorsement, Jackson touted his “long history of civic engagement and commitment to progressive values.” He wrote that throughout his career he has “sought to use the law to positively impact the community.” He has been endorsed by SEIU Local 1021, Black Women Organized for Political Action, and over three dozen Alameda County Superior Court Judges.

Barbara Thomas also has experience in both civil and criminal litigation. She volunteers for prisoners, veterans, and the homeless, and formerly served as an Alameda City Council Member. Although she has advised and represented dozens of people without charge in cases including criminal, family, tenants, and products liability, we are not endorsing her because we learned since the June primary that she has opposed rent control ordinances and restrictions on no-cause evictions. We appreciate Green Voter Guide readers' requests that we research her history more thoroughly.

Peralta Community Colleges

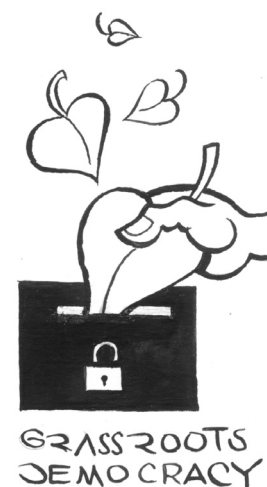
Peralta Community Colleges — Laney, Merritt, College of Alameda, and Berkeley City College — play a critical role in educating local students, most of whom are working people, children of working people, and people of color. The Peralta Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for watching over the Peralta District Office and its four colleges.

Four seats on the Peralta Board of Trustees are up for election, but only one Peralta race will actually be on the November ballot. This is because three incumbents are running unopposed, and the Peralta Board has opted not to pay the Alameda County Voter Registration office election fee (tens of thousands of dollars) for single-candidate races. Two long-time incumbents, elected in 2004, are Trustee Bill Withrow (Area 1, Alameda, part of Oakland) and Nicky Gonzalez Yuen (Area 4, Berkeley flatlands, Emeryville, Albany.) Meredith Brown (Area 2, far East Oakland from Seminary to the San Leandro border) was first elected in 2012. These incumbents have been endorsed by the Peralta Federation of Teachers.

Peralta Board, Area 6 Berkeley Hills, North Oakland, Montclair, Oakland Hills Karen Weinstein, with reservations

Cy Gulassa, elected in 2004, is stepping down from the Peralta Board. A reliable progressive on the board, Gulassa served the community well. He is endorsing Karen Weinstein to succeed him as trustee.

Weinstein currently sits on the Peralta District Citizens Advisory Committee, overseeing the use of Measure A bond funds. She is a member of Berkeley City College's President's Advisory Board, and has been volunteering with students at the college.



City of Alameda Ballot Measures and Offices

Measure B1 - YES Continuation of School Parcel Tax

We support adequately funding our schools and recommend voting YES to continue the parcel tax for another seven years. However, we urge voters to contact state representatives to change provisions in Proposition 13 dealing with corporations so that residents are not asked to bear the burden of an unfair tax assessment formula.

Measure K1 - NO Transfer of \$3.7 Million Annually from Alameda Municipal Power to the City

The utility tax measure on the November ballot is three proposals rolled into one. In addition to broadening the existing Alameda Municipal Power tax by charging users of internet phone service the same tax as landlines, the measure affirms the current practice of diverting over \$2.8 million of utility ratepayer money annually to the City of Alameda. This money could be used to create local microgrid solar and battery storage facilities for green self-reliance and to maintain our electrical infrastructure and streetlights. Many of the city's streetlights are rusted and have not been repainted in decades.

The \$2.8 million goes into the city's general fund, which is used to pay for employees and services. According to public records, in 2015 there were 157 city employees with combined annual income and benefits of between \$200,000 and \$400,000.

The measure decreases the number of senior citizens eligible for the utility tax exemption by raising the age of the exemption from 62 to 65. Many of those currently on social security will find their taxes increasing.

While we don't mind the city collecting equal taxes from all telephone users, Alameda's utility bills should not be used to support those with higher incomes at the expense of senior citizens and our public infrastructure. We urge a No vote on K1.

Measure L1 - NO City Council's Rent Control Measure

Measure M1 - YES Alameda Renters Coalition's Rent Control Measure

Two rent measures are on the ballot. Measure L1 comes from the city council, Measure M1 from a coalition of renters. Both seek to stabilize rising rents and affect only certain rental units. The city council ordinance can be rescinded or changed at any time by a majority of the city council. M1 is a charter amendment that is supported by a local tenants' organization, the Alameda Renters Coalition (ARC), and can only be changed by a vote of the people.

The city council attempted to address escalating rents by passing an ordinance earlier in the year that would cap rent increases at no more than 5 percent annually, unless the landlord and tenant agreed otherwise. It would allow “no cause” evictions and require landlords to cover moving expenses in some cases.

Renters who did not believe that the protections in the city ordinance went far enough placed a measure on the ballot that would amend the city charter to cap rent increases according to a cost-of-living metric (Consumer Price Index) and forbid “no cause” evictions. The renters' charter amendment also calls for an elected rent board rather than one appointed by the city council.

The city council placed its own ordinance on the ballot in an attempt to defeat the renters' measure. We urge a YES vote on the renters' measure M1 and a NO vote on the council measure L1.

Alameda City Council Jennifer Roloff Don't vote for Ashcraft or Vella

Jennifer Roloff represents the young families that have moved into Alameda. She is critical of the Council's present course of development. They have approved the construction of 1,845 new housing units, 1,473 of which are market rate, more than twice Alameda's state law goal of 743. Only 370 are affordable units, just 38 percent of the state goal of 970. She proposes that no further market

In her professional life, Weinstein was a mental health counselor at Kaiser. She expresses her commitment to students, especially veterans, students who were previously incarcerated, and undocumented students.

On her questionnaire, she described accomplishments she had achieved for the last four years including working with undocumented community college students and Dreamers to raise funds for a center; serving on the Berkeley Commission on the Status of Women to tackle the issue of sexual assault on college campuses; and serving as a Board Member of the Berkeley Public Schools Fund to establish music scholarships for low income students.

Weinstein is endorsed by the Peralta Federation of Teachers; Alameda Labor Council; Alameda Building and Trades Council; National Union of Healthcare Workers; and many local and state elected officials and community leaders. Our reservations are that Weinstein is the Vice President of the Berkeley Democratic Club, which has endorsed Berkeley candidates more conservative than the candidates supported by Greens.

Her opponent Nick Resnick did not return a questionnaire. His candidate Facebook page suggests that he has connections to charter school advocacy organizations.

rate homes be approved until we experience the impact of those already approved, and concentrate on meeting our affordable housing state goal, and building workforce housing for teachers and other city workers who do not qualify for affordable housing. She also supports devoting more of our available land for commercial development so that more of our citizens can work and live here on the island. No other candidate has taken such a definitive position. Roloff is free of contract moneys. Her responses to our questionnaire show some environmental awareness. Roloff moved to Alameda seven years ago and lives in the Gold Coast neighborhood. She is running for elected office for the first time, having never served on any Alameda boards or commissions.

We have no position on Lena Tam, who is seeking a third term on the City Council. She is a long-time resident who lives in Alameda's east end. She brings sensitivity to the housing plight of low-income and disabled individuals, having collaborated while on the City Council to construct three special housing projects. She advocates for a new program to set aside an allotment of affordable housing units specifically for evicted families. She favors handing over development and operation of parks on the city's 147-acre Northwest Territories and 26-acre Enterprise Park to the East Bay Regional Park District. In answer to our question about how she would decide on balancing development and open space preservation, Tam articulated a green philosophy of sustainability that would guide her decision-making. The problem with Lena is she has baggage from her previous service on the city council. She was a very strong supporter of the firefighters and police, and as such supported the contracts which resulted in guaranteeing annual raises for them, as well as her vote to build and borrow money to pay for the huge building which will house emergency services. But this year, we learned that the firefighters tried to talk Tam into withdrawing her candidacy papers. Her most dramatic transgression was continuing to communicate for several months before Big Development SunCal's tenure ran out but after a city wide vote that defeated SunCal initiative by a stunning 82 percent—therefore ignoring the will of the voters.

We also have no position on Tony Daysog. Tony Daysog has 10 years of service on the Council, returning after a four year break, and is now running for his fourth term altogether. Daysog was raised in Alameda's west end

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continued from page 5

and currently owns a home near Webster Street. Tony is very accessible and easy to talk to, holding coffee hours twice a month. His votes reflect an independent, critical position on encroaching developments. He proposed the currently underway \$400,000 citywide transportation and transit planning study, although some would have rather seen those resources spent directly on implementation. His answers to the Green Party Questionnaire sound moderately anti-development, pro-rent-control, etc. However, he has come out publicly as being pro-development and anti-rent-control, and explicitly “moderate-Republican leanings.” So we wonder whether he is just getting better at spinning his moderate positions.

We recommend you do not vote for Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft or Malia Vella, who are funded by the conservative Alamedans United PAC. Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft is running for a second term on the council. She is a long-time resident of Alameda and lives in the Gold Coast neighborhood. Her questionnaire responses often took on the character of safe moderate-liberal boilerplate.

Malia Vella did not return a questionnaire. She is a first-time candidate who is also funded by the conservative Alamedans United PAC. Vella moved to Alameda five years ago and lives in Central Alameda.

City Auditor Kevin Kearney

City Treasurer Kevin Kennedy

Both of these elected officials have been very accessible to citizens and citizen groups for candid explanations of city finances. Their comments are spot on when it comes to characterizing the city’s financial health. They don’t gloss over the facts and they will often share clear explanations of the city’s financial data. Their public presentations are interesting and are always happily welcomed by some members of the council. We found it strange that the responses to our questionnaire from Mike McMahon (who is running against Kearney) stated that he would suggest eliminating the Auditor’s position because, in his words, “the position is no longer necessary”(!). No explanation or evidence was given for this idea. McMahon also stated that “no one knows the elected position exists”(!). Kennedy’s opponent, Jeff Bratzler, did not return our questionnaire even though

we made several e-mail and phone requests asking him to do so. Both Bratzler and McMahon are supported by the conservative Alamedans United PAC. The compensation for both the Auditor and the Treasurer positions is very minimal, less than \$50K a year, if that much. Incumbents Kearney and Kennedy are doing a fine job and both deserve to be re-elected.

School Board

Unfortunately, we were not able to cover this race. Please see the candidates’ completed questionnaires at: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires/Alamedans>, please help us!

Albany City Offices and Measures

Recommendations provided by the Albany Greens:

Albany has six measures on the ballot, and the Green Party supports them all. Measure Q1 and Measure R1 are housekeeping improvements that require voter approval to amend the City Charter, and have no organized opposition. The other measures, discussed below, align with Green Party values.

Measure N1 - YES Residential Parking Requirements

In 1978, at the same time that California voters approved the infamous Proposition 13, Albany voters instituted strict parking rules requiring two off-street spaces for every residential unit. People who lived here did not want the town to grow, and they did not trust the process of representative democracy to respect their wishes. They appreciated the excess of street parking that made it easy to drive everywhere and park without having to pay or compete for open spots. They may have believed that when more houses had ample off-street parking, residents would choose to use it and keep more street spaces empty.

Most of these ideas seem outdated today. Many of us prefer compact neighborhoods that are walkable and bikeable, with a variety of housing sizes serving diverse income levels, good access to public transit, and shopping nearby. Albany enjoys some of these benefits but not all. In particular, the parking requirements force new housing to be larger and more spread out. This makes housing more expensive and less convenient, and raises our per-capita carbon footprint.

Even the goal of easy street parking cannot be achieved by mandating more off-street parking. Many people just fill their garages with junk and park on the street anyway. When public policy imposes all the costs of building and maintaining street parking on taxpayers, not on the people who use it, it encourages people to own more cars and keep them on the street, regardless of off-street options.

Measure N1 takes a small step toward reform. It does not change the old parking rules right away -- it just puts the rules under the authority of the City Council. The Council will then deliberate in its usual fashion, with public comment, and change the rules over time. A starting point might be to encourage transit-oriented development along San Pablo Ave. by reducing parking requirements just in that zone or just for certain qualifying projects.

By passing Measure N1, Albany residents can put ineffective “ballot box zoning” behind us, and instead start a conversation about modernizing our parking rules to encourage housing that is more affordable and ecologically sustainable.

Measure O1 - YES Soda Tax

The health and well-being of Americans has improved dramatically with the success of anti-smoking programs during recent decades. Cigarette taxes have played an important role in that success, by making cigarettes harder to obtain and by raising money to pay for other anti-smoking programs. Now we face a similar public health crisis with obesity and diabetes. Should soda taxes be part of the solution?

It may be too early to know for sure. Berkeley is the only place in the US with a soda tax today. A preliminary study suggests it is working to reduce soda consumption, but the study has been criticized as relying on self-reporting rather than hard data. Meanwhile, opponents criticize the implementation of the tax, which is subject to unfortunate constraints due to state law. The tax doesn’t directly raise the prices of sodas, but may instead raise the prices of groceries generally. Even when it works as hoped, the tax disproportionately hits the poor and people of color, due to their higher average soda consumption relative to income. These critiques are expressed most loudly by the beverage industry, of course, but also by some progressives, including Bernie Sanders. [[Please also see the concerns discussed in the Oakland Soda Tax article, Measure HH]].

The Green Party platform endorses soda taxes in general. Berkeley’s experiment will work best if its surrounding communities join together to create a regional tax that won’t just push people to shop elsewhere. Albany should contribute to the effort by passing its soda tax. Future studies may help determine whether the positive outcomes indeed outweigh the negative.

Measure P1 - YES Sidewalk Repairs

Streets and sidewalks together make up a network that allows people to get around. Whether we are walking, biking, driving, or riding transit, we use both streets and sidewalks for nearly every trip. Yet streets are traditionally maintained using public funds, while sidewalks have been the responsibility of adjacent homeowners.

It is both unfair and impractical to expect homeowners individually to maintain a high-quality sidewalk network. Unfair, because damage is typically caused by street trees that belong to the city. Impractical, because the city has very little leverage to force homeowners to make prompt repairs. Anybody who walks in Albany can see the consequences: the sidewalks are laced with extreme tripping hazards, causing difficulty and danger for people pushing strollers, children biking, people walking at night, and anybody with mobility challenges.

The fairest solution would be to maintain the sidewalk network using public funds, just like the street network. Measure P1 moves in that direction by imposing a small property tax to raise revenue for sidewalk repair. Unfortunately homeowners will still bear some responsibility, due to tradition and state law, but the city will try to discover and fix the worst problems each year.

The tax is calibrated by lot size. People who live more densely, apartment dwellers in particular, pay the least because they are least responsible for the kind of sprawl that requires lengthy sidewalks. The measure also provides relief for some low-income owners and tenants. It’s always painful to raise the cost of living in a place like Albany, but in this case the additional cost is low and the benefit in walkability should be very worthwhile.

Measure Q1 - YES Vacancy Procedures, Pension Board, Copies, Etc.

Measure R1 - YES Civil Service Board

Measures Q1 and R1 are housekeeping improvements that require voter approval to amend the City Charter, and have no organized opposition.

Measure S1 - YES School Board Removal of Term Limits

Voters often impose term limits when they feel that their elected officials are just insiders who don’t represent their constituents. However, the limits can impede the operations of government by forcing out experienced, strong legislators and replacing them with newcomers who may take years to get fully up to speed. When elected representatives are less effective, professional staff and special interests tend to exercise their power with fewer constraints, making governance less democratic overall. Many non-partisan “good government” advocates oppose term limits for these reasons.

The Green Party seems to have varying views on the subject. Jill Stein supports term limits for US Congress, but mainly because of the disastrous performance of that particular body. Many Greens prefer to focus on improving electoral processes in other ways, such as instant runoff and proportional representation, rather than just kicking out incumbents and hoping for the best.

For Albany’s school district, the strongest argument for limits is to prevent the board from becoming dominated by long-time incumbents who no longer have school-age children. Without limits, voters can still replace out-of-touch board members when necessary through ordinary elections.

We suggest voting YES on Measure S1, to remove term limits for Albany’s school board and restore the basic democratic process for selecting representatives.

City Council Nick Pilch and Peter Maass Erik Giesen-Fields, with reservations

Do not vote for Michael Barnes

Five candidates are running for three open Albany City Council seats. Green Party questionnaires were sent to all candidates. Four returned the questionnaires; candidate Barnes declined to respond. Based on their questionnaire responses and track records, two candidates clearly merit, Green Party voters’ support. The remaining candidates exhibit a range of strengths and weaknesses; the gradation of endorsements given to them reflects our assessment of those pluses and minuses.

All candidates favor passage of Albany ballot measures N1 (parking requirements) and P1 (sidewalk parcel tax). Our

continued on next page

Albany City Offices and Measures

continued from page 6

questionnaire did not ask about other measures; however, we are aware that incumbent Pilch is a primary supporter of O1, the soda tax. The candidates' complete Green Party questionnaire responses can be viewed at <http://acgreens.org>.

Peter Maass served six years on the Albany Planning and Zoning Commission prior being elected to the City Council in 2012. His questionnaire responses reflect thoughtful analysis of the city budget and Albany's place in a regional economy. He does not specifically state support for the city's proposed climate action plan but states commitment to multiple transport alternatives to reduce Albany's greenhouse gas contributions. He describes a detailed green vision for the future of Solano Ave., including rail transit and dense infill housing enabling residents to live easily without dependence on autos. He supports ending corporate constitutional rights and providing public funding for elections to eliminate the influence of money in politics.

Nick Pilch also served on the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to being elected to the council in 2012 and has a history of advocacy for biking and walking initiatives. As was the case in 2012, his questionnaire responses do not lay out a detailed vision. However, in combination with his voting record and history, his statements of support for pedestrian friendly improvements of Albany's commercial district are convincing. He supports implementation of Albany's climate action plan and has taken the Pledge to Amend to end corporate constitutional rights. In relation to this, he commits to working to restore campaign finance limits. He also pledges to revisit Albany's living wage ordinance and introduce appropriate minimum wage legislation if re-elected.

Erik Giesen-Fields is both an attorney and architect and currently serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission, appointed by Council member Pilch. Both his Green Party questionnaire responses and campaign website are somewhat general in their treatment of issues, and emphasize as a top priority working with the Solano Ave. Association and Albany Chamber of Commerce to ensure a "thriving" commercial corridor. The vision of this commercial district is not specified, and there is no mention of green values or features. While community-based economics are a Green Party key value, an emphasis on the health of business and fiscal responsibility without attention to ecological wisdom, social justice, or personal and global responsibility seems unbalanced. Regarding environmental issues, Giesen-Fields supports implementation of Albany's climate action plan. We encourage readers to view his response, in its entirety, to our question regarding supporting amending the U.S. constitution to overturn corporate constitutional rights and get money out of politics; here we flag two elements of that response that make us cautious. Although he states that he supports amending the constitution in this manner, he believes that it is an "impractical way to overturn the legal precedent of *Citizens United*" and advocates as "more effective" the appointing of justices who are willing to overturn that ruling, a strategy over which voters have no direct influence, in contrast to the constitutional amendment process. Moreover, he asserts that, because he is running for local office, he will focus "most of his attention" on "making changes at the local level." Although his expressed willingness to minimize corporate influence in local politics is laudable, in Albany's recent history, the perspective that the City Council's focus

should remain local has been primarily expressed by those who advocate an insular attitude and have objected to the council weighing in on important national and state issues where commentary and pressure from local government is an effective measure. While this might not be the intended meaning of candidate Giesen-Fields' statement, its echo of the positions of other local electeds who have eschewed personal and global responsibility is concerning.

Amber Whitson has been a participant in Albany politics primarily regarding homelessness issues. Her questionnaire responses reflect a commitment to fair and sensitive treatment of the homeless and those in need of social services. We applaud her advocacy for realizing the vision of a Paul O'Curry Drop-In Center in Albany where the homeless and others could get help and referrals to needed social services. Her questionnaire is alone among those received this year in critiquing the environmental harm caused by the UC-Sprouts-Assisted Living Development on San Pablo Ave. While her views on these issues are consistent with Green Party key values of social justice, ecological wisdom, and respect for diversity, it is unclear to what extent this candidate would encompass the wide range of issues a council member is called on to analyze in order to make judgments that recognize and balance the interests of all residents.

Michael Barnes was elected to the council in 2012 despite a history of divisive statements and vitriolic personal attacks in meetings and public forums. Barnes has continued to inject a negative tone into Albany politics. As a council member, he is known for condescending dismissal of viewpoints of the public and fellow council members that differ from his own and has exhibited a pattern of substituting his personal surmises and preferences for facts and expert judgment. His candidate statement says nothing about specific priorities he hopes to pursue if re-elected. His history on both the Board of Education and the City Council demonstrate that he does not have the temperament or judgment needed for public service.

Treasurer No Endorsement

Kim Denton, who has served as Albany's treasurer since 1988, is running unopposed.

School Board Clementina Duron and Jon Raj Destin

Four candidates are running for two open seats on the Albany Unified School District Board of Education. All of the candidates bring extensive experience in education but in varying ways, so we encourage readers to both consider our recommendations and to do their own homework in deciding which candidates best represent their views and goals. Green Party questionnaires were sent to all candidates; three returned the questionnaires; candidate Jacob Clark declined to respond. The candidates' complete Green Party questionnaire responses can be viewed at <http://acgreens.org>.

Clementina Duron has 30 years experience as a public school educator, half of that time as a bilingual teacher and the other half as principal at various levels. She earned a

Masters of Education from Harvard, having also studied at UC Berkeley and Stanford. Her responses indicate a strong alignment with Green Party values, including an emphasis on diversity and environmental sustainability. Undoubtedly her experience within schools will bring consideration of the implementation of board policy to the crafting of it. To that end, she proposes "...a task force be established at each of the schools, which would be comprised of parents, staff and administration, whose only focus would be that of providing recommendations to the Board regarding how to effectively address the diverse needs of the student populations." She is certified in Community Emergency Response and has committed her career to addressing the needs of under-served students from low-income communities.

Jon Raj Destin is a former public school teacher, now running his own marketing technology firm. He was recognized for his volunteer work in San Francisco high schools. He is a gay dad with a son in elementary school in Albany. He expressed a strong interest in improving the quality of the design of the new school projects being funded by Measures B and E, proposing that the environments teach sustainability, and making this a top priority. In discussing curriculum, he acknowledges the diverse ways that different children learn, and notes the benefits of collaborative, project-based learning. He states, "The key will be to help students become the best version of themselves and graduate as well rounded, resilient young adults who take calculated risks and are not afraid to make mistakes and who are ultimately engaged citizens." His responses to our questionnaire indicate a thoughtful, considered approach to leadership that aligns well with the Key Values of the Green Party.

Kim Trutane has an extensive list of volunteer service to Albany Schools, including PTA President, Writer Coach, and several Committees. She was co-chair of the successful campaign to pass Measures B and E this past June, which this committee endorsed with reservations. Her questionnaire responses suggest a strong and intimate understanding of the details of AUSD business, which is admirable and at least partially why she's earned the endorsements of all five of the current Board members. However, the minutia of running the district is more the business of the Superintendent and staff, and it is the role of the Board of Education to establish the broader policy goals and steer the budget toward accomplishing them. Trutane supports making the schools 'net-zero-energy-ready' (designed to an efficiency level that allows on-site renewable energy to provide the building's energy); while this is an important level of efficiency that is difficult to achieve, she falls short of committing to the important next step of including solar power so that the new schools are zero net energy as soon as possible, and that existing schools are also powered with renewable energy. Kim Trutane is a qualified and worthy candidate, but in endorsing a maximum of two candidates for two open seats, we ultimately chose those with slightly stronger alignment to the Green Party. We have every confidence that if elected she will hold true to her responses, and serve admirably.

Jacob Clark – No questionnaire response received. We note from his candidate statement that he is a lifelong Albany resident who attended Albany schools from kindergarten through high school. He teaches in the San Leandro School District and is a member of the Bargaining Team there. He volunteers and coaches here in Albany.

Berkeley City Offices and Measures

Measure E1 - YES Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2016

This measure replaces the special parcel tax known as BSEP, Berkeley Schools Excellence Program, that was first approved in 1986 and expires every eight years. The current tax provides about 20 percent of the Berkeley School District's current budget and pays for one-third of all teachers, all school libraries, and the 4th through 8th grade music program. It's fair to say that Berkeley wouldn't have a school music program without this tax. The tax is 37 cents / square foot. If the tax is not approved, drastic cuts across the board to school programs will be necessary. Supported by the Berkeley Federation of Teachers. Requires a 2/3 vote.

Measure T1 - YES, with reservations Infrastructure & Facilities Bond

This measure would authorize the issuance of a general obligation bond in the amount of \$100,000,000 to fund infrastructure improvements. Rather than designating the specific projects to be funded as has been the practice in past, the measure promises "a robust" public process through the Public Works Commission and the Parks and Waterfront Commission. Just about any repair, renovation or replacement of a public amenity could be funded, including streets, storm drains, green infrastructure to prevent flooding, senior centers, park improvements recreation facilities, and city buildings. The measure would raise property taxes by \$21.27 per \$100,000 assessed valuation.

The City certainly needs a lot of work, and the money

has to come from somewhere. Unfortunately, many of our citizen commissions have become a rubber stamp for staff properties. Ensuring a "robust public process" requires electing a City Council that is actually committed to one. We would also prefer a tax to a bond. 2/3 vote required.

Measure V1 - YES GANN Appropriation Limit

Every four years, the State of California requires cities to ask voters' permission to spend tax revenue it is already collecting. Funding for the City's libraries, parks and emergency medical services was approved decades ago by more than two-thirds of Berkeley voters. To continue collecting and spending these funds, we need to vote YES on V1. This measure is not a new tax and does not increase taxes. If V1 does not pass, the City will lose millions of already approved tax revenue — forcing drastic cuts in city services.

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Measure W1 - YES Citizens Redistricting Commission

This is a charter amendment which would establish a Citizens' Redistricting Commission (CRC) to determine city council districts after every census. The commission is modeled on the state process, and thoughtfully tries to do exactly what the proponents claim: create a process as free of political influence as is possible in an inherently political process. Any Berkeley citizen who has voted in the last two elections may apply to serve on the CRC, with some exceptions, like recent office holders and city contractors, to minimize political influence. The CRC will have 13 members, 8 selected randomly from each district by the City Clerk. Those 8 members will then select 5 at-large members to ensure broader community representation. Commissioners would be barred from running for Mayor or City Council in the next election when the seat is up, and cannot be paid City Council staff for 2 years after their service on the CRC ends.

The process for drawing district lines in the recent past was in the hands of the City Council, resulting in missed deadlines and ultimately a gerrymander intended to oust Kriss Worthington from the Council. Whatever you think of districts elections—which did not come to Berkeley as a progressive reform—Measure W1 represents a vast improvement over the corrupt process it replaces.

Measure X1 - YES Public Campaign Financing

This is charter amendment and ordinance to establish an optional public financing program for candidates for Mayor and City Council. The amendments would allocate \$4.00 per Berkeley resident per year from existing General Fund money to a Fair Elections Fund. Candidates who collect at least 30 contributions of \$10-\$50 from "natural person" residents of Berkeley, totaling at least \$500; agree to only accept or solicit contributions of \$50 or less; and agree not to make any personal contribution or loan to their campaign that exceeds \$50, would be eligible for payments from the Fund of six times the amount of contributions, up to \$120,000 for Mayoral candidates and \$40,000 for Council candidates. After reaching these caps, participating candidates would continue to be restricted to contributions of \$50 or less.

This is a good first step toward public financing of campaigns. Candidates can opt out, but would still be subject to the existing contribution limit of \$250 per person per election cycle. This matching amount is roughly what candidates of modest means spend to wage a credible campaign.

Measure Y1 - YES Youth Voting

This is a charter amendment that would allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in School Board elections. Berkeley will join two other US cities and a host of other countries and foreign cities that have lowered the voting age in various districts to allow young people to vote for those who want to represent them. San Francisco has similar measure on the ballot. Arguably, 16 and 17 year olds as a group know more about what going on with their schools than anyone else, and are as mature as other young adults in making the decisions required to vote responsibly. The State Constitution would

have to be amended to lower the voting age before a local ordinance could be enacted. A bill in the legislature to do that did not make it out of committee this session. Vote YES for another small step for representative democracy.

Measure Z1 - YES Low Income Housing Authorization

The California Constitution requires the citizens of Berkeley to vote to authorize the acquisition or construction of low income housing (meaning below market rate) by any public entity before it is bought or built. This measure would authorize the construction or acquisition of an additional 500 units of low income housing without approving any specific project. Berkeley has voted to do this three times in the past, most recently in 2000, authorizing 500. Since then, Berkeley has built 421 units. The fact that it has taken the City that long to create so few units is the troubling issue raised by this measure. Vote YES, and let's hope we're voting again in two years.

Measure AA - YES Rent Board Ordinance

This measure amends the Rent Ordinance to increase tenant protections. The new provisions of the law would delay the eviction of families with children until after the school year is over in "no fault" situations, when an owner decides to kick the family out to move in or move in a relative. It also increases the relocation fee to \$15,000, and extends it to all tenant households (not just low-income) forced to move out. Low-income, disabled, age 60 or older, or long-term (since 1998) tenants will receive an additional \$5,000. The measure also contains "good government" clean-up language made necessary due to changes in state law. None of these changes weaken rent control or eviction protection, or changes how the law will be administered. Since Rent Control was established through the initiative process, any changes to the law must be approved by a simple majority of the voters. Vote YES on AA.

Measure BB - Minimum Wage (City Sponsored) - NO Measure CC - Minimum Wage (Labor-backed Citizens' Initiative) - YES

On September 1, the Berkeley City Council approved a new Minimum Wage Ordinance that is compromise between these two competing ballot measures, but did so after the deadline to remove them from the ballot. Both campaigns have agreed to ask people to vote against both measures. A judge has allowed them to remove the original ballot arguments in favor of the measures from the ballot pamphlet (which is why it's blank) and replace the original arguments against with identical arguments against both measures.

Before the compromise, we were recommending a NO vote on BB, the City-sponsored measure, and a YES vote on CC, the citizens' initiative supported by labor, the NAACP, and Councilmembers Anderson, Arreguin and Worthington. How you decide to vote on CC now has less to do with whether you like the compromise or not, and more to do with

how well informed the Berkeley electorate will be on this issue. Do you trust that a majority of Berkeley voters will follow the wishes of the proponents and vote NO on both, and that they know enough (i.e., read the voter pamphlet) that neither passes by accident? With the understanding that we are not honoring an agreement to which we were not a party, we are recommending a YES vote on CC. In the event they both pass, the measure with the most votes will become law.

Berkeley Mayor Mayor #1 and #2: Jesse Arreguin and Kriss Worthington, #3: Guy "Mike" Lee (ranked, but not endorsed) Don't vote for Capitelli

We have the opportunity to elect the most progressive mayor in decades: Jesse Arreguin. We are also endorsing Councilmember Kriss Worthington. Both candidates are asking that you vote for both of them. Either one would make a good mayor. We endorse them strongly and without reservation because of their long positive history in the progressive minority on the City Council and activism in the community.

Jesse has been the Councilmember for District 4 for the last seven years, working full-time for his constituents, consistently advocating green and social justice policies. His top priority as mayor will be to holistically address the housing affordability crisis, including the displacement of long-term residents, the rapid gentrification of the city, and changing the way we approach homelessness. Other priorities include: a zero-carbon city through aggressive zoning and building code changes and transit initiatives; de-militarization of the police (including our mutual aid partners); keeping Alta Bates open; a real living wage; and universal early childhood education.

Read his extensive response to our questionnaire here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>. In addition to the Alameda Labor Council, SEIU 1021, the Sierra Club, and all of the progressive Democratic clubs, Jesse has been endorsed by Dolores Huerta, Danny Glover and Bernie Sanders.

There are six other candidates in the race. Under Berkeley's Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) system you can rank three: with eight total candidates in the race it is just as important who you don't rank. Realtor Laurie Capitelli is a real threat, and he is the only candidate other than Jesse Arreguin with a realistic chance of winning. He has the backing of the current developer friendly/anti-homeless city power structure. Whoever else you vote for, DON'T vote for Capitelli.

Although we are not endorsing him, we also recommend ranking Guy "Mike" Lee third because of his principled, active and issue-based campaign focusing on basic human rights. The other candidates in the race are graduate student Ben Gould, mathematician Bernt Wahl, indigenous activist Zachary RunningWolf, and Naomi Pete. We know nothing about Pete, and cannot recommend any of the others.

Basically this comes down to a race between Jesse Arreguin and Laurie Capitelli. IRV allows you to vote for whoever you want, in whatever order, as long as you ONLY rank those you like. If you rank Jesse anywhere and don't rank Capitelli (DO NOT!) you are effectively voting to elect a progressive/green mayor. Vote Arreguin and Worthington #1 and #2, rank Lee #3!

Berkeley City Council, District 2

#1: Nanci Armstrong-Temple, #2: Cheryl Davila, NO Moore!

Nanci Armstrong-Temple and Cheryl Davila are both running as progressives to counter the centrist, developer-friendly record of incumbent Darryl Moore. Both Nanci and Cheryl are community activists who care about District 2, and the City. Both candidates responded to our questionnaire and have articulate positions on police accountability, responsible development and affordable housing, along with anti-displacement policies as key to their messages.

You can read their responses to our questionnaire here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Nanci Armstrong-Temple has been sole endorsed by Berkeley Citizens Action, the Berkeley Progressive Alliance, Berkeley Tenants Union, and the Wellstone Democratic Club. Both she and Cheryl are trying to shake

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Understanding and using "Ranked Choice Voting" (RCV)

RCV allows you to "rank" three candidates, rather than being forced to choose just one. Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) is more descriptive: when a candidate is eliminated, it's as if there is a run-off between the remaining candidates.

During the first round of IRV, only the votes ranked first are counted. If nobody has a majority of votes, an elimination process begins. The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. If it's your candidate, your next choice, if any, transfers up. This continues until someone has a majority. Your highest remaining candidate remains YOUR ONLY VOTE until that candidate is eliminated, or wins. Your other choices DO NOT MATTER and are not counted unless your higher ranked choices are eliminated. If you choose to vote for only one or two candidates, if they are eliminated, then your ballot is "exhausted." It's as if you chose not to vote in the remaining run-offs.

IRV is great because you can rank "sincere choices"—candidates you actually like—without "throwing away" your vote.

IRV invites strategies like:

- Only ranking sincere choices, people with politics or ideals you believe in, even if they can't win.
- Saving the last vote for the "least disliked front-runner" in case your sincere choices are eliminated. Use your last place vote strategically. It may be the only one that counts.
- Make a statement by ranking a candidate you want to appear in the vote counting until they are eliminated, even if they're not a sincere choice, as long as they have no chance of winning.

Regardless of your strategy, NEVER rank a front-runner you don't want to see elected. Your vote could put them over the top.

Berkeley City Offices and Measures

continued from page 8

up Mayor Bates pro-development, landlord and property-owners lock on Council priorities. Tellingly, at the Wellstone endorsement meeting Moore spoke of his involvement with an organization in Washington D.C. as well as working with other out-of-town groups. He did not cite one piece of legislation that he brought forward for his own constituents. He also did not respond to our questionnaire.

Please rank Nanci Armstrong-Temple and Sheryl Davila #1 and #2. Do not vote for nor rank Darryl Moore. NO Moore!

Berkeley City Council, District 3

#1: Ben Bartlett

(ranked, but not endorsed)

#2: Mark Coplan

(ranked, but not endorsed)

#3: Al Murray

(ranked, but not endorsed)

Don't vote for Matthews

After many years of fighting as the heart and soul of the Berkeley City Council, Councilmember Max Anderson has decided to retire. Four candidates are vying for this open seat: Ben Bartlett, Mark Coplan, Al Murray, and Deborah Matthews. Bartlett, Coplan, and Murray returned our questionnaire. Matthews did not.

We encourage you to read their responses online here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Ben Bartlett is running to “defend and promote progressive values.” He is a multi-generational South Berkeley native and environmental attorney, currently representing South Berkeley on the Planning Commission. His priorities include affordable housing, particularly for seniors, facing displacement of long-time residents head-on, and keeping Alta Bates hospital open. He would form an emergency response team to deal with the increasing mental health call to free up police resources. We believe he will be a consistent and dependable progressive vote and policy-driver for District 3, and a councilmember responsive to his constituents. He has been endorsed by Alameda Labor Council, Elect Bernie Thinkers, Friends of Adeline, the progressive Democratic clubs, California Nurses Association, SEIU, AFSCME and Max Anderson. We recommend ranking him #1.

Mark Coplan is running “to make Berkeley a beautiful place to live, work and visit.” He is a Vietnam veteran and was the popular long-term public Information Officer for the Berkeley schools. His priorities include new housing with more stringent affordability goals, accessory dwelling units to help seniors, a living wage, expanding community gardens, and maintaining rent control while reducing costs to small owners. Overall his policy positions are very green, but unfortunately he would consider building housing for the homeless on People’s Park, something we could never support. He is working for endorsements from community leaders on every block rather than from the political power brokers. We recommend ranking him #2.

Al Murray is running to continue many of the things his mentor Max Anderson has done for his district. His priorities include more affordable housing, particularly for seniors and those with disabilities, safer streets and neighborhoods, implementing the City’s Climate Action Plan, enhance sustainable transportation models in public transit, walking, cycling; and hiring responsible city staff. He is a retired US Environmental Protection Agency administrator and has served on many city and county commissions. He has very good positions on most issues. We recommend ranking him #3.

Realtor Deborah Matthews is a Planning Commissioner and former Zoning Adjustment Board member with an extensive record. Her votes are consistently, nay always, on the side of property owners and developers, often arguing for more concessions for big projects. The thought of her serving on Berkeley’s City Council leaves us absolutely cold.

Defeat Matthews! Rank Ben Bartlett #1, Mark Coplan #2, and Al Murray #3.

Berkeley City Council, District 5 Sophie Hahn

Sophie Hahn is running for the open seat in District 5, a seat traditionally held by “moderate democrats”—conservative by Berkeley standards. Her election would move the City Council significantly to the left and open the door for a real green agenda. We enthusiastically endorsed her when she ran for this seat four years ago and do so again. She gave an expansive detailed response to our questionnaire such that we could in no way do it justice here.

We encourage you to read their responses online here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Sophie is running “to forge a dynamic future that embodies our progressive values, to ensure that Berkeley’s citizens are lifted up, not pushed out, and to put sustainability at the center of everything we do in Berkeley.” She grew up in District 5, and has dedicated her life to social and environmental justice. In her role as Zoning Board Commissioner and as a citizen activist, she has been a leader for responsible, green development and land use policies. She will work to create the strongest Green building code possible, is a strong supporter of rent control, and would like Berkeley to adopt transit solutions modeled on Amsterdam or Copenhagen. She co-wrote the urban agriculture policy for residential areas, and has specific ideas to expand local food production. She is co-convenor of the Berkeley Zero Net Energy++ Working Group, creators of the Deep Green Building Initiative. Sophie will move affordable housing to the center of Berkeley’s housing policy, and offers a detailed and specific set of policies to address the crisis.

Her single opponent is Stephen Murphy, the current chair of the Planning Commission. He represents a continuation of the status quo developer-friendly Council and is solidly backed the developer friendly /anti-homeless city power structure. He did not respond to our questionnaire.

Sophie Hahn for District 5!

Berkeley City Council, District 6

Defeat Wengraf!

#1: Fred Dodsworth

#2: Isabelle Gaston

(ranked, but not endorsed)

Fred Dodsworth and Isabelle Gaston are challenging incumbent Susan Wengraf in this most conservative of Berkeley districts.

Fred Dodsworth is a former journalist and small businessman, a beekeeper and poet. He has lived in District 6 for more than thirty years. He has built his campaign around neighborhood protections, developer give-backs, saving Alta Bates Hospital, and bringing the community into the planning process. He supports rent-control and the tenant Rent Board slate, as well as Mayoral candidate Jesse Arreguin. We are happy to endorse him. His questionnaire responses are a delight, and you can read them here:

<https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Isabelle Gaston is a medical writer and President of NEBA. She is running on a platform of fiscal responsibility. Rank her second, because, as Fred says, she’s not Wengraf.

It’s time Susan Wengraf was defeated. Vote Fred Dodsworth #1, rank Isabelle Gaston #2

Berkeley School Board No Endorsement

Judy Appel and Beatriz Leyva-Cutler are running for re-election and have only one challenger, Abdur Sikder, who has kids in the Berkeley schools. What little we could find out about him was not encouraging, and the incumbents are likely to win by landslides. Both incumbents have endorsed Laurie Capitelli for Mayor. None of the candidates returned our questionnaire. As of this writing, perennial school board candidate Norma Harrison had begun the process to become a write-in candidate.

Berkeley Rent Board Igor Tregub, Christina Murphy, Alejandro Soto-Vigil, and Leah Simon-Weisberg. Vote for all 4!

The Green Party of Alameda County sponsored and participated in the Berkeley Tenants’ Convention in April, at which four candidates for the four seats on the Rent Board were selected: Christina Murphy, Alejandro Soto-Vigil, Leah Simon-Weisberg, and Igor Tregub – the CALI slate, using the first letter of their first names. They are respectively, a community activist, an incumbent Rent Board Commissioner who works for Councilmember Kriss Worthington, a tenants’ attorney and a housing advocate. Senator Bernie Sanders has endorsed the slate They are facing two candidates backed by the Berkeley Property Owners Association, incumbent landlord Judy Hunt and property manager Nate Wollman. Don’t be tempted to vote for either of them. It is very important that you vote for ALL 4 CALI candidates: Christina, Alejandro, Leah, and Igor.

Emeryville City Offices and Measures

Emeryville

continued from page 1

vast experience actualizing progressive policy on housing, homelessness and the dispossessed, as well as having served as an attorney representing this population during a former career. He presently serves on the Emeryville Planning Commission. Ally Medina has been a community organizer for the past decade, has been employed in a leadership position in the San Francisco Democratic Party, and is now Regional Political Organizer for the SEIU UHW. She is presently on the Emeryville Parks and Recreation Committee, advocating for issues of livability such as parks and bike accessibility.

As to the other candidates, we were also impressed with the questionnaire responses of candidate Brynnda Collins. She is a long time resident of Emeryville, whose dedication and service to the city are admirable. We felt that in this field of candidates she lacked the policy making experience of our choices, though her grassroots experience is impressive. Registered Republican Louise Engel did not respond to our questionnaire. We hope that John Van Geffen will serve on committees in the coming year that will better acquaint him with Emeryville.

School Board Barbara Inch Ken Bukowski, with reservations

For the two openings on the Emery School Board of Trustees the Green Party endorses the two candidates who responded to our questionnaire, which the third candidate, Cruz Vargas, did not. The salient quality of our picks is their commitment to transparency; desperately needed in Emeryville. Both Barbara Inch and Ken Bukowski have expressed interest in possibly melding Emery Unified School District into either Oakland or Berkeley, a creative idea that could vastly increase educational prospects for the children in cash- and resource-strapped Emery.

Barbara Inch has served as an advocate for families needing park space on Emeryville’s Parks and Recreation Committee. Her questionnaire clearly indicated that she is supportive of teachers, believes the district administration is “top heavy” and money would be better spent on employees directly serving children. We support Barbara without reservation.

Ken Bukowski on the other hand gave us pause. We watched him for years as city council member when he couldn’t seem to extract any community benefits from developers, instead putting them in the driver’s seat in Emeryville. Also disconcerting has been Bukowski’s checkered past with FPPC rulings against him and fines never paid. In the intervening time since he lost council re-election however, Bukowski has been a community member interested in issues of transparency, serving as a video chronicler of myriads of public meetings, including school board, that he graciously shares with the public without any material gain to him. This has been a great help for democratic civic engagement in Emeryville and we think perhaps it’s time to give Bukowski another chance. We support Bukowski with reservations.

Fremont Offices • Hayward Area Measures • Oakland

Fremont City Council**Cullen Tiernan
and Vinnie Bacon**

In the race for Fremont City Council there are two seats at stake. We don't know Berniecrat and political newcomer Cullen Tiernan well, but he seems well-aligned with our values. We are informed by go-to Greens in Fremont that Vinnie Bacon has been doing a good job. We recommend you vote for both of them. They are running grassroots campaigns, committed to working through grassroots funding, and rejecting developer/special interest money. This is the only way to push back against excessive and unsafe developments.

We regret we don't have a stronger presence of active Greens in Alameda County's second-most populous city, Fremont, or for much of South County (however, we are actively trying to engage more Green Party members who live in these areas and very much welcome future participation from interested individuals, so please do contact us if this is the case). As a result, we didn't have a Fremont questionnaire to send to candidates.

Cullen Tiernan reached out to us and filled out a Berkeley City Council questionnaire. You can read it here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

**Hayward Measure EE -
YES****Cannabis Tax Authorization**

Measure EE is similar to other measures on the ballot in November to place additional city taxes (not exceeding 15 percent) on the sale of medical and recreational cannabis — if the sale of cannabis is approved by California voters through the passage of Prop. 64. It seems a pretty clever way to prepare to fill city coffers (which have been running dry in recent years) if Prop. 64 does pass. Measure EE requires a simple majority of 50 percent plus 1 to pass.

Measure EE seems to face no significant opposition by local leaders or other groups. Indeed, most of the Hayward City Council has explicitly endorsed the measure. We think this was a visionary move by the city to prepare for the likely passage of Prop. 64, and see no reason to oppose this measure. We recommend a YES vote.

**Hayward Area
Recreation and Park
District Measure F1 - YES
with reservations
Bond Measure**

Measure F1 will issue \$250 million in bonds for the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) to maintain and enhance neighborhood parks, senior and community centers, children's playgrounds and recreation facilities. The funds will also be used for renovation and to construct or acquire sites and facilities. The measure requires a 2/3 vote to pass.

This is a good measure to increase the open space and recreational opportunities available for the Hayward area. There is no statement against the ballot measure.

There is an intention to include sustainability as a principle, including solar power, minimizing water usage, and using green materials. We would like to see even more of a push for that on the website, and hope that the citizens' oversight committee, which will manage the disbursement of the money, will make this a priority. On the whole, we think this measure will help the community build "outdoors awareness" and lead to more such development in the future.

A major reservation is the controversy over several of the events at the annual Rowell Ranch Rodeo which contradicts the values of the Green Party concerning the welfare of non-human animals. This casts a shadow over our ability to support them from getting much more funding in the future without qualification. Although technically the parks that will be developed have no connection to the rodeo itself, which is in a separate location, HARD is the umbrella organization for these activities. We would like to see the phasing out of the particularly cruel rodeo events, so that HARD will provide recreational activities consistent with ecological values including respect for nature and animals.

Another significant reservation is that the Green Party supports raising funds through direct current taxes rather than bonds paid off in the future, with interest.

Oakland School Board

continued from page 1

He will be creative around vocational training (with which he has direct experience), school gardens, recreation programs and other innovations, even while addressing large issues such as class size and the growing presence of police on campus. Likewise, he will focus great energy on programs of restorative justice and other means to resist the "school to prison pipeline." Don will put his work in the broad context of social and economic justice. And, critically, Don will not be a rubberstamp for the current superintendent and bureaucratic regime. Hopefully, he will be part of a winning slate, backed by the Oakland Justice Coalition and the teachers' union, Oakland Education Association (OEA).

**Measure G1 - YES,
with reservations
School Parcel Tax**

The Oakland Unified School District Board has put forth this parcel tax with the aim of attracting and retaining school site educators, increasing access in the middle schools to arts, music and world language curriculums, and to improve the retention of students migrating from elementary to the middle schools of OUSD. Also, a goal is to increase the perception that OUSD Schools have a safe and positive environment.

The Parcel tax is for 12 years at \$120 per parcel with exemptions for senior citizens and low income.

The monies accrued through the parcel tax will be allocated: 1 percent for administration, 65 percent for school based educator pay increases, and 35 percent for curriculum or safety plans in any school with a sixth, seventh, or eighth grade.

School-based educator pay is based on all OUSD employees who are represented by a union.

The District approached OEA on the issue that this revenue would increase teacher salaries by 4 percent. They told the work group that we would never win homeowners for a tax that would only benefit certificated employees. And that is why all union representative employees are included in this parcel tax (the fact that classified who are our most impacted work group will receive 2.4 percent increase because of this parcel tax could merit support).

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Oakland teachers say: "Vote for Don Macleay!"

Oakland Unified School Board Director, District #1

<http://www.don4ousd.org/> P.O. Box 20299 Oakland, CA, 94620 (510) 735-7361 FPPC # 1384267

Our campaign is the only one endorsed by our teachers represented by the Oakland Education Association and

Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan, Dan Siegel, Alameda Labor Council, Oakland Justice Coalition, Green Party of Alameda County, Block By Block Organizing Network, and many other Oakland leaders and independent local businesses.

I believe that public education has always been, is currently, and will remain essential to American democracy. Our campaign is committed to create a public education system that will fashion a citizenry held together by a core of civic values and a collective identity regardless of creed, national origin, religion, or political preference.

Our public school system is under attack. A handful of multi-millionaires with their private foundations are pouring unprecedented amounts of money into efforts to privatize the public schools by promoting "charter schools" that are really voucher schools. This campaign for these pseudo charter schools is neglecting our commitment to real public schools by replacing them with schools that are run like businesses.

In Oakland the privatization campaign is led by GO Public Schools. Their beneficial actions notwithstanding, they are a millionaire's PAC spending an obscene amount of money to dominate our school board elections, having supported 6 of the 7 current board members. This is a school board that never rejects a charter school authorization and does not hold public oversight hearings. The current school board has closed neighborhood schools and shutdown adult education calling it fiscal "stability." Stable in the boardroom and accounting office maybe, but the schools find their support precarious and insecure.

On average, charter schools do not perform better. Oakland's experience with charter schools, which currently enrolls one of the highest percentages of students of any city in the country, reveals that the charter schools are failing to serve our students with the greatest needs and increasing racial segregation in our schools, by introducing a system of choosing a school at the expense of choices at our neighborhood schools.

On the OUSD board, I will promote regularly scheduled school board reviews of the district management of all the departments and schools, including the charter schools, in accordance with the recent recommendations of the Alameda County Grand Jury report which found oversight seriously lacking. I will not use standardized test results as the main oversight tool to evaluate schools and teachers.

I will promote elective choices at ALL of our neighborhood schools, instead of the current lottery system to choose a school outside of one's community. Electives at local schools are essential to letting parents get the classes they need for their children. Classes such as shop, civics, Spanish, ESL, special ed, nutrition, gardening, economic literacy, sports, music and art all need to be made available at all schools instead of only at certain special schools or charter schools. Charters with a serious special mission that have shown themselves effective and desired by communities should be invited to come back into the system and be regular OUSD schools. Our schools should not only focus on college prep, but also should prepare students for adulthood as full citizens in the community and as participants in the economy.

Join me to help restore "Whole Schools" that are "Healthy Schools" and "Neighborhood Schools" in Oakland.



Oakland City Offices and Measures

continued from page 10

Some OEA members decry having to pay money to a parcel tax as homeowners and say they can't afford it but actually the \$120 is a small fraction of the benefit they would receive.

It is true that those who do not live within Oakland would see a larger benefit than those who are homeowners within Oakland.

Those who are opposed to any regressive tax say that this surely is one. The OEA pushed to have a square-foot tax that would impact corporations more but the committee did not think that was legally viable.

Reasons to approve this measure include that the tax benefits those who are most critically impacted by the housing situation in Oakland who are classified employees. Also, the express intention is to increase electives to inspire and prepare middle school students. In addition, the reality is that many parents choose charter schools because of the issue of safety and allocated monies are meant to address that issue. There is also the matter of unity of all OUSD unions.

Allocations of money will only go toward students who are residents of Oakland and charter schools who have a large population of students from outside of Oakland will not unduly benefit, so it represents Oakland tax dollars for Oakland residents.

One question is, will requiring proof that 65 percent of the money will go toward teacher salaries increase the possibility of looking at charter school site budgets?

Arguments opposed include that charter schools are not public schools and should not benefit from public funds. Is this a run around to increase charter school seats in the district? Again, those who were at the table designing the measure were those school board members and nonprofits who are most likely to support charter schools.

To those who say that any parcel tax that includes charter schools is automatically verboten, it would require opposing all parcel taxes, because state law says they have to be included.

Measure HH - YES with concerns Soda Tax

You have probably already received several expensive glossy mailers reframing the Oakland proposed tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (such as soda) to a "grocery tax" which could raise the prices you pay for food and put small businesses out of business. The tax proposes "a penny-per-ounce revenue stream that could raise up to \$12 million per year to aid in efforts to fight obesity." This measure was placed on the November ballot by a unanimous vote of the Oakland City Council. "Oakland would join Berkeley, which in 2014 became the first Bay Area city to adopt such a tax. Sales of soda and other sugary beverages have fallen in Berkeley, a result of not only the higher cost of the drinks but also increased education around the health dangers connected with sugar," according to the SF Chronicle article of 5/4/16. There is an exemption for small businesses. San Francisco and Albany will also be voting on similar measures in November.

"If voters approve the tax, the money raised would go into the city's general fund, and officials said the idea is to earmark it to pay for health and education programs in the community and in schools. The measure requires the city to create an advisory board to recommend how to spend the money." Because the money raised would go into the General Fund, only a majority vote is needed to pass the tax. We endorse this measure.

This measure seeks to stop or curtail the use of sugary drinks. While this is a worthy desire, our concern is that this measure punishes the poor (if the retailer raises the price of the sugary drinks) and doesn't go far enough in promoting health and healthy food choices in poor neighborhoods. The goal ought to be to ensure access to real food for all communities. We call for actions to provide the end of food deserts in our city, and allow all Oaklanders access to non-GMO foods, juices, vegetables, etc. This is a basic and powerful step in allowing the building blocks of health for Oaklanders, rather than just rendering unhealthy and addictive foods more expensive. Despite these concerns, we endorse measure HH.

Oakland Measure II - Neutral Increase of Maximum Lease Term

This intertwines with many other issues: the dissolution of California's Redevelopment program by ex-Oakland Mayor and current Governor Jerry Brown; the sweetheart deals given to particular developers (including the ex-army base); and the many specific area plans designed to increase density and building heights while increasing both tax flows into the city's coffers and profits to large financial corporations. The kernel for this measure supposedly came out of a number of items appearing before the council in December 2014 regarding real property acquisition and disposition and a possibility of establishing a policy to lease rather than sell City property.

At the same time and continuing into 2015, the opposition to the market-rate tower proposal on the 12th St remainder parcel created by Measure DD intensified. Oakland residents shut down a City Council meeting in May. Then a previous memo was released by the City Attorney warning the Council that voting for the tower's approval would violate the state's surplus land act. That is one storyline, but the second go-around of that tower was not coincidentally "resolved" at a July 19, 2016 council meeting which included the awarding of an exclusive negotiating agreement with the developer and the placing of this measure on the ballot. One hand taketh while the other hand giveth. Or maybe not, since all of this happened after Oakland had sold some of the most lucrative central-city properties at essentially fire-sale prices.

If this charter change is passed, either the sale or lease of city property is to be decided on a case by case basis. If leased, the same goes for the length of the lease, which could be granted for up to 99 years.

It is intimated in the supporting resolution that this might be for the benefit of the residents vis-a-vis "affordable" housing provided by non-profit housing developers. Be wary, "non-profit" does not necessarily mean underpaid. These corporations can and often do make a nice living. There are minimum wage-earning requirements to apply for the housing and often it is at a level beyond what half of the renters of Oakland can afford. And, nonprofit housing corporations do evict renters, sometimes on the flimsiest of charges. Many of the available parcels may be leased to for-profit corporations that may or may not include housing.

A 99-year lease can increase the length of control by the city, hopefully for the benefit of the residents. Though if the property is utilized by nonprofit housing it will probably have a reduced tax burden. It can also increase the length of control for the nonprofit. "Financing" can be interesting. Generally nonprofits piece together various grants, awards, tax-credit schemes, and so on, such that typical financing via rentier corporations should be less than a for-sale market-rate project. Even so, the mortgage portion probably won't run longer than 20 or 30 years. In addition, corporations are not static. Purchases and dissolutions are not uncommon though the lease liabilities should be continuous.

Why would the typical resident be concerned about this increase in time especially when the ever-shrinking American life-span is approaching the 66 year range the charter currently allows for leases of City property? The wealthy are forcing the world more and more towards rent-seeking opportunities. A lease of 99 years is a guarantee 50 percent longer than currently exists.

Flip a coin and vote depending on your outlook.

Oakland Measure JJ - YES Just Cause Eviction and Rent Law Amendment

Measure JJ will strengthen Oakland's current Rent Law and protect many renters from displacement, while assuring rental owners a fair return. JJ was placed on the ballot by the Oakland City Council after pressure from tenant organizers, affordable housing advocates, community organizations, unions and faith leaders, who came together in response to the crises of exorbitantly high rents (4th highest in the nation) and displacement of 1,000 households per month, especially of low-income renters and people of color. Between 2000 and 2010, 25 percent of Oakland's African American population and 17 percent of school-age children had been displaced from the city.

Although the City Council compromised on many of the improvements that tenant advocates sought, Measure JJ will institute several of the tenant advocate's highest priorities.

Measure JJ changes the petition process. Landlords will have to petition the Rent Adjustment Program (RAP) to

increase rents above the allowable inflation rate, Consumer Price Index (CPI), instead of tenants petitioning to challenge unjustified increases or unlawful actions of owners. The current Rent Law puts the responsibility of enforcement on tenants, who have little if any knowledge of the Rent Law and are least qualified to challenge owners. Consequently, landlords can demand any rent increase and if the renter does not petition the RAP within 60 days of notice of rent increase, the renter is forced to accept whatever the owner demands ... or move.

Just Cause eviction protection will be extended to rental units built before 1996. Currently only units built before October 1980 are covered. Measure JJ will extend protections against arbitrary eviction to approximately 12,000 additional renters. Since Just Cause eviction protection was passed by a ballot measure in 2002, it can only be changed by another ballot measure.

Measure JJ maintains the 2014 limits on rent increases in a year; this limit prevents immense spikes in rent, enables advance budgeting, and reduces economic evictions.

The accountability and transparency of the RAP is improved in a variety of ways. Measure JJ (a) requires RAP to mail annual notices to all owners and all renters of all covered units, with timely information about the Rent Law, the rights of renters, and the amount of allowable rent increase; (b) requires the creation of a "searchable data base," which will give renters and tenant advocates access to data now unavailable; (c) requires annual reports to the Council and public on the functioning of the rent program; and (d) improves the authority and accountability of the Rent Board. (Additional improvements are embodied in a companion ordinance being adopted by the City Council.)

A weakness of Measure JJ is that tenants in newer buildings—those constructed after 1995—will not have Just Cause eviction protection. Also, the beneficial changes of Measure JJ won't go into effect until February 1, 2017; and because City Council failed to extend the emergency moratorium beyond its July 5 expiration, owners essentially have a 6-month grace period to take advantage of renters under the current law.

Rent laws in California are restricted by the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995, which prohibits any form of rent regulation on residential units constructed in Oakland after 1983. Costa-Hawkins also prohibits local vacancy control, so with each new tenant the landlord can raise the rent as much as desired. With rent measures taking place in several cities around the Bay, there is increased motivation to wage a statewide campaign to repeal Costa-Hawkins.

Measure JJ is the only means currently available to limit exorbitant rent increases, mass displacement, and continued destruction of Oakland's neighborhoods and longtime residents who have contributed immensely to the art, culture, and vibrancy that have made the City of Oakland so loved and admired.

Oakland Measure KK - NO Street Repair and Infrastructure Bond

Measure KK is for \$600 million in bonds, for re-paving streets to remove potholes, rebuilding cracked and deteriorating sidewalks, funding bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements, funding affordable housing for Oaklanders, and providing funds for facility improvements, such as, neighborhood recreation centers, playgrounds, libraries and other facilities.

Recently the City Council wanted to create an infrastructure impact fee on new development. There was much imploring by activists to include "affordable" housing as a piece of that pie. After granting a \$1.1 million year-long contract to a company to study this, a really weak fee was finally approved and the possible future revenue was mostly directed toward housing. Remember, it was supposed to be for infrastructure (streets, utilities, life-safety, etc.). Not surprisingly, the city still wanted and needed that money. They've wanted an infrastructure bond measure for multiple election cycles. Hence, this bond measure, also intended to be solely for infrastructure. However, with the rotten granting of the 12th Street remainder parcel happening concurrently, the rental/housing pinch still very much in effect, and the need to throw some peanuts to activist groups that would hopefully do the legwork to proselytize, the City Council bent to sweeten the deal toward the majority of poor people in Oakland by including \$100 million be directed towards "affordable" housing. Note that with the police department already swallowing half the city's budget, \$40 million of this bond would go towards police "facilities".

See the general note about bonds. Depending upon

continued on next page

continued from page 11

interest rates, the demand and the length of the payback, the taxpayers of Oakland could be on the hook for 2 to 3 times the original amount.

The city has specifically included language that this expenditure must include “how the projects address social and geographic equity, provide greater benefit to underserved populations and in geographic areas of greatest need.” Curiously, in the “whereas” portion of the supporting resolution, the Council specifically mentions the contentious Specific Area Plans (SAP) and their exempt Environmental Impact Reports. Oakland has created at least a dozen SAPs that cover more than a one-third of the city. Most of it in the poorer flatlands. These SAPs are specifically designed to increase benefits to large financier and development corporations which happen at the expense of the current residents – what’s commonly referred to as gentrification. They invest very little of their own money before the actual construction starts. They can “afford” to squeeze a municipality until they get the sweetest deal. Part of that is having the residents who might be forced out actually help pay for the right-of-way infrastructure that will increase the profit margin for these rentier types.

The wealthy of California are proud to have been in the vanguard of the neoliberal reaction to 1968. Proposition 13 was passed in 1978! After 30-plus years of extractive economics there is little “liquidity” left to stick a straw into. Therefore, since at least the millennium, austerity is the name of the game. The poor must do with less to pay for the rent-seeking of the rich. What happens when there aren’t public funds to pay for major arterial roads that the wealthy corporations use to deliver their cheaply produced goods from far away? Pass the regressive Measure B and then BB sales taxes. What if that isn’t enough or if non-arterial streets need repairs? Introducing: Measure KK.

There are practical questions. Will the Council see an audited report on a regular basis? Will anyone else ever look at it? Oakland does not have a daily newspaper anymore. From an Oakland-centric perspective, if one tallies all the proposed property tax measures affecting an Oaklander, the author of this article calculates a proposed increase in tax responsibility of over \$300 per year for his apartment. If one rents, one pays the property tax—it is part of one’s rent – and Oakland is a majority renter city.

Vote NO and pressure the legislature to tax the wealthy with a progressive method available at the state level and then distribute that money to the localities.

Oakland Measure LL - No Endorsement Police Commission and Review Agency

This has been a difficult decision.

The goal of having an empowered police commission reflects both the struggles nationally around police violence/abuse and particular fights in Oakland. The difficulty here revolves around matters of process and substance: some concessions can be accepted if they reflect the power of the grassroots. Here the alteration of the demands on how the commission would be composed, with the mayor having dominant power, led to a split in the coalition, with the Anti-Terrorism Police Taskforce and the Oakland Justice Coalition refusing to endorse. This also should be our position. While some believe this is our only opportunity to move such a commission forward, we contend that the growing political forces, such as BLM, and gains against the elected establishment in Oakland, currently led by Mayor Schaaf, will afford the opening for a truly effective police commission in the not distant future.

City Council At-Large #1: Matt Hummel #2: Rebecca Kaplan (ranked, but not endorsed) Don’t vote for Moore

The incumbent, Rebecca Kaplan, has served two 4-year terms as Oakland City Councilmember At-Large, representing the whole city. She has four challengers—Matt Hummel, Peggy Moore, Bruce Quan, and Nancy Sidebotham.

Rank #1 — Matt Hummel’s questionnaire is a breath of fresh air. He’s running because “our whole relationship to government needs to be completely renewed. That relationship determines how we police, the kind of jobs available and whether our fellow citizens have to continue to sleep in tents.” Hummel is familiar with city government, as he is the Chairperson of the Oakland Cannabis Regulatory Commission, and has been on that commission for six years. He also

worked to pass the Just Cause Measure EE in 2002. He has always been a renter, and supports rent control. He advocates for “a 10K plan of truly affordable housing.” He supports a municipal bank, restorative justice, policing reform, job skills training, and other people-centered measures. Matt is “thoroughly involved with the art scene” and has spent most of his adult life in the building trades.

Rank #2 — Rebecca Kaplan is running for re-election “to bring more social equity, environmental justice, non-violence, and grassroots democracy to Oakland and our region.” In the past, Kaplan was not responsive to community efforts to meet with her. She has had few allies on the City Council. But in the past year and a half, she has become more available. She has been running for re-election during that time, of course, and we hope that, if she wins another term, she will continue to be her new self. She would like to develop an Oakland public bank; enact a flipping tax rate on residential property when the property is not retained for at least a year or two, and to have progressive rates for real estate transfer taxes. Kaplan, an out lesbian, is a strong supporter of LGBTQ rights. Recently Kaplan was elected (by Alameda County mayors) to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board (BAAQMD), which hasn’t had a representative from Oakland in 25 years, and where she is playing an important role in climate justice. Kaplan was an early supporter of No Coal in Oakland, spearheaded the effort to get the Measure JJ (Protect Oakland Renters) to the ballot, and proposed, unsuccessfully, that the proposed Police Commission consist of all community members, rather than some appointed by the Mayor. This is one of the reasons that Mayor Schaaf is supporting another candidate in this race.

Though Mayor Libby Schaaf is not running in the at-large race, her footprints are there: she wants the incumbent gone. Schaaf’s (and Gov Jerry Brown’s) choice is Peggy Moore. If elected, Moore likely will be the voice of developers and continue the gentrification and privatization of the city. Until recently, Moore served as Special Senior Advisor to Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, resigning to run for the at-large council seat. Moore is motivated to run to correct what she says is a lack of partnership between the Council and the Mayor. Moore is African American and an out lesbian, which, she explains, has made her aware of the importance of diversity to Oakland. She has had leadership roles in several LGBTQ and African American groups, as well as local and national Democratic Party organizations. As a longtime renter, Moore says she favors rent control, but she is not supporting Measure JJ (Protect Oakland Renters). She wants to continue her work with youth, promoting restorative justice and the creation of a citywide youth commission to help orient our policies. In her questionnaire, instead of telling who is contributing to her campaign, Moore says, “I will not accept money from anyone whose values conflict with my own.” Since she lists a prominent Oakland developer and a business executive among supporters, we assume she accepts corporate contributions. Of great concern — Moore sits on the political campaign board for GO Public Schools. In this role, she reviews candidates to help GO Public Schools determine whom to support. Greens are endorsing School Board candidates running against those chosen by GO, an organization that promotes the privatization of public schools.

Bruce Quan is running against an incumbent, but he sidestepped the question (“What are your main dissatisfactions and differences with...her?”) by saying he believes in term limits. He has been a lawyer for 40 years, and is part of the leadership council of Oakland Community Organizations (OCO), among other community groups. Quan states, “The number one issue we currently face is the affordability crunch that has seen thousands of Oaklanders leave our city,” and calls for 5,000 new affordable housing units in the next decade, which is far, far below what is needed. Though not mentioned in Bruce Quan’s questionnaire, he played a leading role during former Mayor Jean Quan’s administration (no relation, but college friend) in acquiring financing from the Zarsion Holdings Group, a Beijing-based real estate and investment firm of which he is an official, for the Brooklyn Basin Project (formerly Oak-to-9th), on Oakland’s waterfront. This project eventually will construct 3,100 units, mostly market-rate. Hopefully, 465 units of affordable housing (15 percent of the total) will be built, but on the side of the development closest to freeway 880. Greens opposed this entire project when it was first brought up by Signature Properties a decade ago because the affordable units will be near polluted air, the location is without public transportation, public waterfront land is being usurped for private profit, and, given climate warming and sea level change, the development may be under water in 20 years.

Nancy Sidebotham has been active on various community issues since 1982. She is a tax specialist who has

run for election in Oakland many times. She is running for the at-large Oakland City Council seat now to “provide leadership.” She says that the incumbent is “never available for crucial votes.” She would like to go back to the City Manager form of government, do away with Ranked Choice Voting, and implement term limits on the City Council and City Attorney. She says “We do not need more housing until we bring business, a sales tax base and jobs back to Oakland.” She states that Oakland has the highest property taxes in Alameda County and has nothing to show for it. She argues that we have lost businesses over the years due to the high business tax and crime. These responses indicate that Sidebotham would better represent the business interests in Oakland rather than the majority of people dealing with the housing and jobs crises affecting our city.

City Council - District 1 Dan Kalb, with reservations

In his first term, Dan Kalb has proven to be a solid advocate for progressive policies. He has championed major achievements such as setting aside funds for affordable housing, supporting the Tenant Protection Ordinance, stopping coal in Oakland, and authoring the Civilian Police Commission (Measure LL) ballot measure. A reservation is that Dan has a tendency to feel he knows the most about an issue, and can decide what is best for the community.

Dan Kalb’s challenger, Kevin Corbett believes that Oakland’s primary issues are “Crime, inefficiency and lack of government responsiveness.” However, he fails to provide any specific solutions on how he would address these issues. On key issues of importance to Oakland, he provides little to no insight on his position except his opposition to Civilian Police Commission (Measure LL).

Dan Kalb is the unequivocal superior choice for District 1 council seat. Vote for Dan Kalb.

City Council, District 3 Noni Session

Lynette Gibson McElhaney’s first term has been riddled with an abundance of misdeeds. Among them are presiding over an illegal vote on the East 12th Street development project that violated the Surplus Land Act; using her staff and influence to prevent a townhouse project next to her residence (according to an Alameda County Grand Jury report issued June 21, 2016); paying over \$3,000 in fines for her campaign finance offenses; and attending Coliseum sporting and entertainment events valued at \$125,000. (According to KPIX 5’s story of June 8, 2016, Oakland’s Public Ethics Commission is examining the city’s policy on the use of free tickets; the alleged value is from that article.) McElhaney’s positions on issues indicate a strong predisposition toward her deep pocket donors and endorsers. Nonetheless, she is quite adept at politics. Therefore, with enough organized public influence, she adjusts her positions to avoid significant political backlash. As such, she opted to be a co-author of Civilian Police Commission (Measure LL) and Renter Protection Act (Measure JJ).

The sole challenger to McElhaney is Noni Session. As a West Oakland native, Session exudes a strong passion for building communities and serving her constituents. She states her priorities as: “1) Secure housing, 2) Strong schools, 3) Nonviolent communities, and 4) Alternative models of economics”. Under each priority, she outlines a series of programs that are light on specifics. She is endorsed by the Oakland Justice Coalition.

Noni Session impressed us with her responses to our questionnaire. She displays a refreshing willingness to approve of concepts and proposals which were new to her. Our question 12 explains what Public Banking is, and asks whether the candidate would introduce, co-sponsor and/or support a Public Bank of Oakland. Her answer is “That is amazing. Yes absolutely. Community economics is the model toward which I would like to move Oakland.” It is rare to find a candidate so willing to accept an idea that is new to her.

Similarly, our question 13 concerns local payday lenders, and we inform the candidate that there is one nonprofit check cashing and payday lending storefront in the country, and asks whether the candidate would support the City of Oakland loaning money to expand that service around Oakland. Again, Session’s reply was a clear “Yes, very much.” Again, she was quick and clear about accepting suggestions from us.

Session volunteered an independent approach to party politics, saying “I have been registered as No Party Preference. Recently, I have registered as a Democrat in order to vote in the primary; however I have never identified fully

continued on next page

Oakland City Offices and Measures

continued from page 12

with the Democratic Party. My closest ideological alignment is with the Green Party and the ten key values. I hope to work with the Green Party as much as possible for guidance and accountability for enacting best practices for the people of Oakland.”

Although Session has been active in social justice causes, she has had little experience in large scale and complex enterprises. This lack of experience may present a risk to her success as a councilmember. However, given McElhaney’s track record, we endorse Noni Session for the District 3 Council seat.

City Council, District 5 Noel Gallo, with reservations

Noel Gallo is the incumbent for the District 5 seat. Although he wants to increase the number of sworn police officers, the Oakland Police Officers Association has supported his opponent, Viola Gonzales for the November election. The OPOA has strongly opposed the independent civilian police oversight commission ballot Measure LL that Gallo co-authored.

Gallo was the only Council member to vote against appointing Lynette Gibson McElhaney to be council president. Issues that remain unexplained are allegations that McElhaney used her personal nonprofit to flip homes despite her own calls for limiting gentrification, and used city staff and a developer contracted with the city for the Coliseum City project to combat a proposed development next to her home.

Gallo is firmly against the sale of public lands anytime because the people he represents in the Fruitvale are being displaced. He cast the sole dissenting council vote on the East 12th Street deal, saying he was doing so “with honor.”

His position on many issues on the council clearly indicates a sincere interest in the well being of his constituents. Gallo publicly expressed his opposition to coal in Oakland months before the City Council voted against coal in late June. He has been actively involved in opposing human trafficking and illegal dumping efforts in his district.

Viola Gonzales, his challenger, is a long-time Oakland resident who has 35 years of public service as a nonprofit executive. She is running on a platform of bridge-building and community development. She is an “insider,” with Mayor Libby Schaaf, Elihu Harris, and Ignacio De La Fuente and numerous other city leaders lending support. Importantly the OPOA backed her with a maximum donation of \$1,400. This is likely due to her opposition of the oversight commission, ballot Measure LL.

Gonzales also won’t be supporting Measure JJ, whose passage will strengthen rent control and just-cause eviction protections. She states that we need all types of housing to solve our housing problem. Whereas Gallo will be actively campaigning for it because he has seen how the city’s rising rents have negatively affected the local population.

Although we have reservations about some of his positions, such as his support for adding more police officers, he’s clearly far better than his opponent.

City Council - District 7 Nehanda Imara Don’t vote for Reid

This choice is a no brainer. Larry Reid—first elected in 1996, aligned with the status quo, reigning patriarch of the Oakland City Council—must go. Reid has never seen a real estate deal he doesn’t like, and he’s still working on the “development” of the former Oak Knoll Naval Hospital property. He has a history of manipulating funds coming to his district. He has been a consistent defender of the Oakland Police Department and an opponent of most progressive campaigns in Oakland.

The second candidate is Marcie Hodge, member of an Oakland political family and a former member of the Peralta College Board (not supported by the union). She ran for mayor in 2010 and was fined for dubious campaign practices regarding financial contributions. She also unsuccessfully ran against Desley Brooks for city council.

This brings us to Nehanda Imara; she is an electoral neophyte, but has been involved with many grassroots groupings, such as ACCE, Just Cause, EBASE and others, and she is aligned with Green values. She has been a leader in Communities for a Better Environment and has been working with the community to stop the building of a polluting crematorium in East Oakland. She is a self-defined revolutionary, and a member of the All African People’s Revolutionary Party. She also has been endorsed by the Oakland Justice Coalition. She would speak truth to power.

City Attorney No Endorsement

Incumbent City Attorney Barbara Parker is the only candidate on the ballot. Four years ago, when we opposed Parker’s lone opponent, we wrote that Parker needed to “move further away from the ‘business-as-usual’ Democratic Party machine politics which continue to drag Oakland down, so we’re not able to give her our endorsement”. Unfortunately, Parker is still stuck in “business-as-usual” mode, so we’re not able to give her our endorsement this year either. While she has done some good things, such as filing lawsuits to help tenants and immigrants, and to fight sex trafficking, she’s been very weak on police accountability. In fact, last spring a report commissioned by federal Judge Thelton Henderson was released which particularly criticized the City Attorney’s office on the issue. The East Bay Express wrote that Parker’s office “repeatedly failed to prepare for police arbitration cases...repeatedly waited until the last minute to assign private attorneys to handle police misconduct cases” and, “repeatedly failed to hire experienced private attorneys who are experts in police misconduct cases.” And in July of this year, the Coalition for Police Accountability, as reported by local activist Pamela Drake, announced that Parker had advised the City Council to gut the independent police commission charter amendment. So maybe that’s why Parker avoided giving any direct answer to us, when we asked her in our questionnaire about what powers an independent police commission should have. Unless she greatly improves her performance over the next year or two, and especially in regards to police accountability, it looks like it’ll be time to find someone else to be our City Attorney.

School Board - District 3 #1: Kharyshi Wiginton #2: Ben Lang, with reservations Don’t vote for Hodge

This race involves four candidates, including the incumbent, Jumoke Hinton Hodge, newcomer Lucky Narain, and previous candidate Ben Lang as well as Wiginton. District 3 includes the bulk of West Oakland, which historically has been the center of the African American community and which is facing a massive gentrification assault on affordable housing. It also has been heavily impacted by de-industrialization (as has East Oakland). Thus, it is not surprising that three of the four candidates are people of color.

Lucky Narain is new to Oakland (living here for three years), with little involvement in any community organizations. She acknowledges that her incentive to run for local office is her newborn son. Narain currently works for the U.S. Army as a legal advisor, and was previously with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She favors growing cooperation with the business sector, and her only theme and awareness of issues facing students is around achieving greater work experience.

In contrast, the incumbent Hodge has extensive experience in Oakland and OUSD She has been a community development consultant and has been active in West Oakland for two decades. She has served with the West Oakland Education Task Force, seeking partnerships between the school district, community groups, and small businesses, and she has worked with low income youth. She has served on the School Board since 2008 and was Vice President for several years. So far, this does not present the danger in returning Hodge to office.

Jumoke Hodge has been at the center of the pro-corporate forces in the Oakland schools. While she speaks out on some progressive issues such as the need for more teachers of color, she has accepted and even supported school closures in her district, along with the expansion of charters. She has frequently shown disdain for teacher and parent activists at school board meetings. She is a strong supporter of Great Oakland (GO) Public Schools and their pro-charter, privatizing agenda; they boosted her in the last election and again this year. Moreover, she is backed by Mayor Libby Schaaf and pro status quo Board members, James Harris and Jody London, both of whom we oppose.

This leaves us with two more positive alternatives. Ben Lang, a former teacher and school administrator, is a politically reasonable person. He has opposed school closures, stresses restorative justice, and is for cutting administrative bureaucracy. He has also opposed the “Trojan horse,” pro-charter proposals from the superintendent of “common enrollment” and the “equity pledge.” There are other issues around curriculum and non-profit charters where he is not as well grounded and his involvement in current grassroots struggles could be more impressive. He has worked well with the lone progressive Board member, Shanti Gonzalez,

and will be the second ranked candidate in District 3 for the OEA (teachers union). With this in consideration, we should encourage the voters of our top candidate to consider listing Lang as a second choice.

This brings us to Kharyshi Wiginton. She has resided in Oakland for ten years and has served as a youth leadership coordinator, based in McClymonds High School. A program she has helped develop, Culture Keepers, involves peer tutoring and conflict resolution, all in the context of restorative justice. She led a trip to South Africa with many of these students. Her view of this position goes beyond key policy issues such as opposing charters and the massive testing regime; rather she sees the position as integrally linked to parent/community empowerment. Wiginton identifies herself as a “voice of the people.” While fairly new to school district politics, she is rooted in the Black community. She was impressive in her interview with the Labor Council and is endorsed by the OEA and the Oakland Justice Coalition. While gender and race are factors here, the key issue is her commitment to community involvement and a linkage between public education and the broader sense of social justice.

School Board, District 5 #1: Mike Hutchinson #2: Roseann Torres (ranked, but not endorsed) Don’t vote for Trenado

The School Board race in District 5 has some parallels with the one in District 3: there are multiple candidates and the GO Public Schools are attempting to again buy another board seat. But there are some differences. The number of candidates in Dist. 5 is now down to three, with one candidate dropping out and GO is not backing the incumbent Rosie Torres, but a newcomer Huber Trenado.

What is impressive is that the candidate named for our endorsement is far and away the most knowledgeable and militant of any candidate in the four races this November. Mike Hutchinson ran in 2012 and did reasonably with low budget, garnering 45 percent of the vote. He is involved both locally and nationally in resistance to the neo-liberal deforms. He understands the role of GO and other vulture philanthropists such as the Oakland Public Education Fund inside and out and frequently speaks out on such issues at the school board meetings. Moreover, he is involved with national networks such as Journey4Justice, a largely people of color grouping fighting austerity and education deforms.

But Mike is also involved with local activism. He was active in the fight to stop the closure of Lakeshore school and other schools such as Maxwell Park, where he has worked. He has no problem directly confronting the superintendent. Mike is endorsed by SEIU 1021 and the OEA (who is also ranking second Torres). He works closely with forces within the union, such as Classroom Struggle. Mike stresses his inclusive approach not just in a general sense, but around policy decisions around funding (involving LCAP), housing (such as the 12th St. People’s Proposal, and other key community issues).

Rosie Torres was first elected to this seat in 2012 with heavy backing from GO. Since then, she has asserted moderate independence from them and the superintendent, achieving a working relationship with the progressive Shanti Gonzalez. She is now critical of charters and at least skeptical of some pro-charter measures such as “Common Enrollment.” But in interviews with both the OEA and OJC she has shown a woeful lack of understanding of key education and political issues and is generally unresponsive to parents in the district. Oakland Justice Coalition has decided not to endorse her, but to encourage a second place vote. The OEA has more formally ranked her second.

The reason for this stance, despite her weaknesses, is the presence of the third candidate, Huber Trenado. Though an electoral newcomer, he is a formidable candidate due to major backing by GO Public Schools. Trenado has an advantage as a lifelong Oakland resident, a student here and now a teacher at Lazear Elementary School. He is very vague in his program, discussing sharing resources and being a “bridge builder” but openly supports pro-charter options such as the “Equity Pledge.” Likewise, he sticks to the GO mantra of college preparation with little or no reference to technical, career path training. His endorser list tells us much, including Mayor Schaaf and Hai-Sin Thomas, a leader of a national neo-liberal education network. He has also secured the backing of Noel Gallo, likely on a more ethnic vote basis.

While Trenado and Torres have this Latino identity ad-

continued on next page

Oakland School Board

continued from page 13

vantage in a District which includes the Fruitvale, Hutchinson hopefully has the energy, insights and activism to pull off a victory. We may wish to add a note about voting to “Stop GO.”

School Board, District 7 Chris Jackson

This is one of the most obvious choices in the Oakland electoral races. The incumbent James Harris was first elected in 2012, replacing the maverick school board member Alice Spearman, in one of the most depressed, deindustrialized areas of Oakland, especially the flatland component. Harris grew up in the community and has been a parent and educator (outside the public schools). More critically, he was a founding board member of Great Oakland (GO) Public Schools, which is the primary organization pushing pro-corporate policies in the city, advocating for more private involvement, charters, and standardized testing.

Recently, he has been the school board president and an uncritical yes man for the superintendent Antwan Wilson; one example was his support for the pro-charter common enrollment policy, which Wilson advocated without even a formal board vote. Likewise, Harris has not in any way questioned charters or the expansion of the downtown bureaucracy.

Jackson in contrast has a much more positive history, advocating for community college students, co-authoring a Green Jobs Training Programming, helping secure free youth bus passes, and organizing for ACCE. He clearly refuses to accept the pro-corporate GO agenda and is seeking greater community input. He is a strong advocate for free, universal preschool, smaller class size and greater vocational training (as well as college preparation). Chris is already endorsed by the Oakland Education Association, the Alameda Labor Council and the Oakland Justice Coalition (and is a central part of the school board slate for which they’re advocating). In addition, his campaign organization is already functioning well.

Measure C1 - YES

A.C. Transit Parcel Tax Extension

Measure C1 would extend the term of the existing parcel tax that provides funding for important AC Transit bus services. The current tax would expire in 2019. This measure would extend it at the current level of 8 dollars per month for 20 years. It will raise approximately \$30 million annually. This is a more stable funding source than that from sales taxes, which vary with the ups and downs of the economy. Although there is no official opposition, it needs 2/3 to pass. Vote Yes.

A.C. Transit Board, At-Large

Dollene Jones, with reservations

The 18-year incumbent, Chris Peeples, has done a lot to improve AC Transit. As he delineates in his questionnaire, he has fought for the riders in the placement of bus stops and shelters, implemented free and reduced priced tickets for youth, expanded bus service to schools and to outlying areas, and created progressive Park and Ride lots. He himself has not had a car in 16 years so he sees AC Transit from both perspectives.

However, Peeples was, and continues to be, a major proponent of the extremely controversial Belgian-made Van Hool bus purchases. These are considerably more expensive than American-made busses, for features such as low-step-up entryways, and three doors instead of two. However, many consider them dangerous to ride in, difficult to drive, and costly to repair. They have the same level of emissions as their American-made counterparts. “Creative fund swaps” were used to get around Federal Made-in-America laws. And, the Van Hool experiment was a failure; all new AC Transit busses have gone back to the original design.

Many Greens feel strongly and bitterly about the Van Hool “boondoggle.” Some say that the only reason for the huge expenditure on these imported busses — at a time when AC Transit could not afford such luxuries — was to create opportunities for European trips for AC’s General Manager. As result, they feel that Peeples and other Van Hool supporters betrayed the low-income riders who were most hurt

by the cuts in service that were ultimately necessary to pay for these busses.

Recently Peeples has been excited about a new project: zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell busses. He argues effectively that they are much more workable than any other existing battery technology for the specific demands of a huge, complex, on-time bus system. But again, their manufacturer is phasing them out. Greens are divided on whether Peeples has his eyes on the correct prize.

Peeples’ opponent is Dollene Jones, who was an AC Transit bus operator for 21 years before retiring. She lives and breathes busses, and attends most AC Transit Board meetings. She has a fresh view on some of AC’s entrenched problems. She may have a limited perspective, but she opposed the Van Hool busses. She would do no harm.

It will be an uphill battle for Jones because, as long as voters pay little attention to down-ballot races, even an outstandingly qualified candidate would have little chance against an incumbent. Thus people like Peeples, who may do more harm than good, will continue to be elected. We have decided to endorse Jones, with reservations.

AC Transit, Ward 2 Greg Harper, with reservations

Ward 2 consists of Emeryville, Piedmont and portions of Oakland and Berkeley.

Greg Harper has served on the board since 2000 and deserves to be re-elected. He has often been the voice of clarity. He is, in fact, usually the only board member who pays attention to the budget and asks probing questions about it.

He served as president for a number of years, and most importantly, did so after the Van Hool bus boondoggle, which brought down an incompetent General Manager. He helped right the ship with the new professional General Manager.

Harper is the only member of the board who has served in an elected office before his election to AC Transit. He was Mayor of Emeryville. He is also the only one with some technical background: he has a degree in electrical engineering.

He serves as AC Transit’s representative on the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) Board of Directors and is now its Chair. The TJPA is responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the regional intermodal Transbay Transit Center in San Francisco.

The TJPA Board of Directors describes some of his background thus, “A principal in a local law firm, Director Harper is active in regional civic affairs and has served on the Regional Planning Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments. He also has served on public bodies including the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Alameda County’s Transportation Commission, the Alameda County Housing Authority, and the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Water Transit in the Bay Area. Director Harper earned two Bachelor’s Degrees at the University of Illinois and his Juris Doctor Degree from Hastings College of the Law.”

Our reservation with Harper is that he is not consistently progressive. For example, in the Berkeley Mayor’s race, he has endorsed Capitelli, who is backed by the anti-homeless/pro-developer city power structure. While Harper is good on A.C. Transit issues, he is sometimes disappointing in other areas.

His opponent, Russ Tilleman, a former engineer, admits he rarely rides buses, but one of his major concerns is minor location changes to some bus stops near his home. His lack of bus riding experience does not stop him from advocating for a number of impractical changes, including no-fare bus riding. He does have one proposal on his website [abusforthefuture.org] which he calls a “virtual bus lane” consisting of a bulb-out at bus stops. AC Transit is actually planning those for some of their route improvements.

Measure RR – YES, with standard bond reservations

BART Infrastructure Bond

BART’s hundreds of thousands of riders are well aware that the system needs major repairs and rebuilding. Measure RR would raise \$3.5 billion, with 90 percent of the money used for repairing and replacing aging parts of the rail system, such as track replacement, electrical system upgrades, repairs to tunnels and other structures, replacement of the trains’ central control system. We strongly agree.

“Stuart Cohen, executive of TransForm, a transit advocacy group that has been critical of BART’s spending

priorities for the past two decades, said the bond measure is evidence that the transit system has mended its ways and is focused on rejuvenating the system,” as quoted in the *SF Chronicle* on 6/10/16. “We think BART is absolutely headed in the right direction.” All nine elected BART Board directors voted to place the bond measure on the ballot.

The BART district that built and operates the system has taxing authority only for Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties, so only those three counties will vote on the measure. A two-thirds majority will be needed. If passed, the bonds would be financed by property tax bills being increased by an average of \$35 to \$55 for thirty years. As always, we wish the wealthy corporations who benefit greatly from the BART system would pay more of the cost, but the BART Board had to attempt what is possible under current conditions.

For more details about the content see the website <http://yesforbart.com>, where you will also find the endorsements, including the League of Women Voters Bay Area, Sierra Club (San Francisco Bay Area Chapter), many Democratic Clubs, many elected officials, and several unions. We also recommend voting YES on RR.

BART Board, District 3 Rebecca Saltzman, with reservations (Encouragement for Varun Paul)

Varun Paul is a Green candidate, and has made interesting and progressive statements. We want to encourage him, because we need more Greens to step up and run for office even if they have a lot to learn. While we like many of his statements, a number of his specific ideas run counter to ideas we would hope to see. For example, suggesting partnering with Uber and Lyft runs counter to advocacy of public transit and improved labor relations. He states he has no endorsements and no funding. In spite of this, recognizing he is just forming his ideas, we expect him to grow and hope he will work with us in the future.

Many progressives considered Rebecca Saltzman to be the much better choice four years ago, and we endorsed her then. She took office just as the 2013 negotiations were beginning and we would have liked stronger leadership at the time, but she acknowledges what could have been done better, and has developed into one of the stronger progressive voices on the BART Board. By observation and from Rebecca’s answers to our questionnaire, she shows a comprehensive understanding of the issues and a progressive position. For example, she clearly understands “It does not make sense to expand the BART system at the expense of maintaining the current system, even for those being served by the extension because those riders also will depend on the core system operating reliably.” She also supports “offering reduced BART fares for low income riders.... We need to make BART affordable to all.” Rebecca clearly states that “the right to strike is a worker’s right,” and working with the unions to improve labor relations is one of her top priorities. Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555 (BART workers) endorses her, as does the Sierra Club.

Our reservations with Rebecca Saltzman come from her remarks regarding restorative justice consequences in lieu of the \$70,000 in-restitution sentence for the acts of civil disobedience by BLM movement activists. In her response to a tweet question, “Should Rosa Parks have been given community service,” she said something to the effect that “Rosa Parks did not shut down an entire transit system for hours [?].” Even with Saltzman’s retraction this is a clear example of why it is so difficult for us as Greens to support most candidates who run for elected offices and why we must advocate for finding Green candidates and electing them. Her response is also a clear reason to speak out always for Green Party registration.

Since 2013, BART has become much more visible as a political entity, with some candidates entering without the sincere interest or ability to move BART in a better direction. The main challenger in this race, Ken Chew, appears to be one of those candidates. He did not return our questionnaire, but a review of his website shows him to be unfamiliar with the issues; his statements appear to reflect vague generalities, but no solutions. The few positions he does offer suggest he would bring the Bay Area back in the direction of the recent 2013 negotiations. While Saltzman has a list of more progressive candidates from throughout the District, Chew’s list of endorsers reflects politicians who don’t have as progressive positions and who are outside the District.

Special District Measures and Offices

BART Board, District 5 John McPartland

This race is between the incumbent, John McPartland, and one challenger, Jennifer Hosterman. There's not a lot to say about John, other than he's been re-elected and has been endorsed in past elections by the employees who work at BART. He was a former employee in the Safety Department and appears to prioritize those issues. The BART Board has become more politicized, with some candidates throwing more dirt and taking anti-labor stands or other positions to make themselves more attractive, but John has refrained from any of that. On a Board that sometimes focuses on developers and contractors, he does not pander to any constituency. Jennifer Hosterman is a former mayor of Pleasanton. Her base is in the more conservative areas of the District, and some of her positions are not inconsistent with more popular conservative ideas. Electing directors more sympathetic to conservative and anti-labor ideals could move BART in the wrong direction. We endorse John McPartland for another term.

BART Board, District 7 Lateefah Simon

BART Board of Directors races are plurality elections, meaning many candidates can run, and the highest vote-getter wins, regardless of whether it's a majority of those voting. This race has four candidates running, meaning the two minor candidates could have an effect in a close election. The two main candidates are the incumbent Zachary Mallett and Lateefah Simon. The incumbent was elected with mostly contractor money and has since been very anti-labor, and has shown a willingness to take extreme positions to exacerbate the problems that shut down the Bay Area in 2013. He did not return our questionnaire.

Lateefah Simon is the main challenger. She has raised a record amount of money for a BART race, but has refused to take money from contractors or big business. She has a long list of progressive endorsements, including politicians from Gavin Newsome and Kamala Harris to Gayle McLaughlin, Jovanka Beckles, and Jesse Arreguin. Lateefah Simon is endorsed by the Alameda (County), Contra Costa, and San Francisco Labor Councils, ATU Local 1555 (BART workers), SEIU Local 1021, and more unions. She is dependent on public transit and is a strong leader in the community.

The other two challengers show very little basic understanding of BART or its issues. Will Roscoe suggests BART

could be improved by removing the trains and putting cars on the trackways. Roland Emerson answered many of our questions by stating he needs to do more research. Both state they have no endorsements and no campaign funds. We endorse Lateefah Simon.

East Bay Regional Park District Board Director, Ward 2 Dee Rosario

There are four candidates for this position, and all of them returned questionnaires with substantial answers, which are available on our website and all worth reading for those concerned about the issues at stake in the election to this position.

Although candidate John Roberts addressed some environmental issues, he focused more on the financial ones involved with District management.

Kent Fickett has some great values that we much resonated with, for example wanting to convert the Concord Naval Weapons Station into a park with good facilities and trails (swords to plowshares, indeed!). Further, we found in another interview online other good priorities that he has, such as "getting electric car charging stations installed at major parking areas" and a desire to have shut the Chabot gun club down sooner than it actually was.

But of the four, we found that we resonated more with answers from Audree V. Jones-Taylor and Dee Rosario, who we think would both serve Ward 2 in a very progressive capacity.

In particular, we felt most at home with Rosario's progressive and Green Party value-focused answers. He has a very large amount of experience in the park system, which will hold him in good stead in making future decisions. Rosario said, "I want to see the Park District become not only the largest land owner in the East Bay, but an environmental leader, dedicated to enhancing the environment by maximizing educational opportunities, conserving natural resources, incorporating alternative energy sources, reducing its greenhouse gas footprint, recycling, and restoring areas damaged by human activity." He also made this interesting point (among many): "parking lots should be well thought out, using permeable surfaces to incorporate bio-swales and rain gardens."

We give Dee Rosario our endorsement for this position.

East Bay Regional Park District Board Director, Ward 4

Daniel Chesmore

There are three candidates for this position, all of whom returned questionnaires to us. Retired park district equipment operator Otis Sanders replies were quite minimal and gave us little to go on.

Former State Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett answered in much detail in very reasonable and balanced ways on most issues (see her response in full on our website), and inspired us with how she described how she was spurred to be an environmental advocate by the time she spent in the parks when she was young. Corbett is likely the prohibitive favorite with her high level of name recognition in this area. She will likely do a decent job of balancing the environmental issues involved with grazing and development pressures that constantly beset the Park District, and if she wins, we sincerely hope she will pay heed to the positions and priorities expressed by her opponent Chesmore, discussed below.

However, our endorsement will go with Daniel Chesmore, Senior Financial Analyst at Planned Parenthood and Board Treasurer of Community Learning Center Schools in Alameda. He is far and away the most progressive leaning of the three candidates. In his response to us, he reiterated his concern about climate change repeatedly, discussed his credentials as a recent UC Berkeley grad who "advocated for food justice, fighting carbon emissions, and seeking efficient ways of reducing waste" (as well as in non-directly environmental issues such as civil rights, homophobia, education equality).

Chesmore further discusses other current specific issues such as preventing "the use of Parks' land from becoming terrain for off-road vehicles," the issue of lead contamination from years of shooting at the Chabot Gun Club, using UV lighting to potentially prevent more bird kills in the Altamont Pass. There is much more worth reading in his answers (to be found in full on our website), and he is clearly seeking to work closely with the Green Party in the future if elected. We give Daniel Chesmore a strong endorsement in this race.

Alameda County Measure

Alameda County Measure A1 - No Endorsement Housing Bond

If it weren't for the financialization of housing—the rent-seeking of the wealthy—smaller, local builders could better provide the affordable housing that is so needed. A1 appears to have been "sponsored" by the county staff and quickly run through the stakeholder process.

See the general note about bonds. Depending on interest rates, demand, and the length of payback, taxpayers could be on the hook for thrice the original amount.

The staff person shepherding A1 appeared genuine. The law limits how the taxes can be used. What was proposed in the stakeholder buy-in meetings appeared decent:

- for Homeowner programs: \$120 Million
 - Down Payment Assistance Loan Program: \$50mil, target 80-120 percent AMI*
 - Homeowner Housing Development Program: \$25mil, wage limit 80 percent AMI
 - Home Preservation Loan Program: \$45mil, wage limit 80 percent AMI
 - for Rental Housing Programs: \$460 Million
 - Rental Housing Development: \$425mil, most at 30-60 percent AMI with a portion up to 80 percent
 - Innovation & Opportunity Fund: \$35mil, to possibly acquire apartment buildings on the market
- (* reference household:
1 to 4 persons: 30 percent AMI = \$20k to \$30k
80 percent AMI = \$53k to \$75k
120 percent AMI = \$82k to \$117k)

Issues: 1) Estimates of spending are not delineated. Programs, spending, and actual projects will be presented to the Board of Supervisors IF AND AFTER A1 passes! Unless the delineations are presented in the ballot booklet, do NOT vote for this blank check. The citizens' oversight board only has to verify that the spending doesn't exceed the \$580 million cap.

2) The County stated that this money will stay in the county. Yes, but a majority MAY be spent on the now-standard "transit-oriented development," massive stack & pack, modern tenements that provide larger profits for big development groups and their financiers who often hire general contractors who hire subs who travel the West to work on these projects. Little of the money may circulate within the county for local products or local workers.

3) The homeless are mentioned, but the County was recently caught using administrative measures to avoid giving the full, yet meager, general assistance funds that the homeless are entitled to, paying only about half, so trust is low.

4) Renter activists did advocate for the Supervisors to create two programs in unincorporated areas: rent stabilization to slow displacement; and, to use the only non-regressive method available at the local level—a housing impact fee—to create housing for lower wage people.

In sum, although A1 is generally good and most progressives support it, the poor only get crumbs and it doesn't provide enough help for very-low-income tenants. If one intends to attend the future Supervisors' meetings to advocate, vote yes. If not, vote no.

Green Sundays

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

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

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

Wheelchair accessible.

Info at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AnnouncementsGPAC>



State Propositions

Proposition 51 - NO School Bonds, K-12 and Community College; Limits Developer Fees

Unlike Prop. 55, which would raise funds with taxes largely targeting the operation of public education, Prop. 51 is a bond issue aimed at education facilities. Such a project generally comes in this form, and we of course, generally have reservations of such a pro-banking, regressive means of generating funds. Additionally in this case, despite its seemingly benign goal, it is actually a project of developers, trying for further real estate sprawl.

That said, this measure would provide \$9 billion, supposedly for school districts with the greatest need. Of the total, \$6 billion would target K-12 construction and modernization projects, with \$2 billion for community colleges, and an additional \$1 billion for career technical education and charter schools. This last item further justifies a negative position.

It should be noted that it would cost the taxpayers \$17.6 billion, nearly double the expenditures involved. Further, neither state teacher union federations (CFT and CTA) have endorsed it, and even Governor Brown says it “squanders funds that would be far better spent in low income communities.” The chief funders and endorsers are a variety of pro-real estate and construction groupings, such as the Coalition for Adequate School Housing.

Proposition 52 - YES, with reservations State Fees on Hospitals, Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds

Prop. 52 increases required vote to two-thirds for the Legislature to amend an existing law that imposes fees on hospitals (for purpose of obtaining federal Medi-Cal matching funds) and that directs those fees and federal matching funds to hospital-provided Medi-Cal health care services, to uncompensated care provided by hospitals to uninsured patients, and to children’s health coverage.

This proposition protects the funds collected by the fee from the hospitals from being used for any other general fund purpose. Some of us are opposed to restricted funds for certain programs, but when the funds were collected to specifically address a certain human service area (as opposed to an income tax to fund the total budget) it is less offensive to set a limit on how the legislature will use the funds.

The only statement of opposition we could find is SEIU and the opposition is only on principle, not against the purpose of the proposition, “Supporters of Prop. 52 include labor unions, business groups and members of both political parties. But one union representing hospital workers, the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW), says the initiative is a ‘money grab’ by the hospitals. It says to everybody... these tax dollars are not the property of the people of California, but they belong only to the private hospital industry,” said David Kieffer, SEIU-UHW’s director of governmental relations.

Kieffer said SEIU-UHW supports the arrangement in principle but that the legislature is the most appropriate venue for deciding how to use the money raised. Lawmakers can respond to an evolving health care system, but if Californians vote directly on the hospital proposal, their decision would be harder to undo later, he said.”

Even the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has not stated an opposition to Prop. 52.

Proponents include the California Teachers Association, California Chamber of Commerce, California Hospital Association, Solano County Supervisors, and the California Democratic Party. Top donors supporting the measure (as of April 2016) included California Health Foundation and Trust, Dignity Health, Sutter Health, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and many other medical centers and hospitals.

Our concerns with this measure, despite its socially constructive goals for youth, seniors and low-income people, revolves around the role of the California Hospital Association, not just regarding financial support for the campaign, but also regarding the amounts going to hospitals, including the private sector, linked to this federal funding, and regarding adequate accountability for the moneys.

That said, we still believe it is a positive program in our non-single-payer world.

Proposition 53 - NO Revenue Bonds Requiring Statewide Voter Approval

A “yes” vote on the California Public Vote on Bonds Initiative would approve a constitutional amendment requiring voter approval before the state could issue more than \$2 billion in public infrastructure bonds that would require an increase in taxes or fees for repayment.

A “no” vote would be a vote against the voter approval requirement and in favor of continuing to allow the state to issue new debt without voter approval.

While some bonds do appear on California ballots for voter approval, bonds paid for out of state revenue are not required to be voter-approved.

Supporters refer to it as the “No Blank Checks Initiative.” The primary financial supporters are Dean and Joan Cortopassi. Other political supporters include the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Opponents are a broad, bipartisan coalition of business, labor, and government that includes Governor Jerry Brown, California Democratic Party, California Chamber of Commerce, State Building and Construction Trades Council, and League of California Cities.

The effort to qualify Prop. 53 for the California ballot was funded entirely by the Cortopassis (\$4.5 million). Because of this, it could be viewed as a vanity initiative promoted by one wealthy farmer couple. Dean Cortopassi’s stated motive is to control state debt.

Although it can be advantageous to inject direct democracy into the political process, the sparse set of supporters for Prop. 53 (none of them progressive) does not inspire much confidence in this measure. Also, some of the language is vaguely written; for example, it’s not clear if the measure applies to educational institutions. Consequently, we urge a NO vote on Prop. 53.

Proposition 54 - YES, with reservations Legislature and Legislation, Allows Time to Read Bills

Prop. 54, the Legislature Transparency Amendment, does the following. It would prohibit the legislature from passing any bill until it has been in print and published on the Internet for 72 hours prior to the vote. It would further require that the legislature make audiovisual recordings of its public proceedings and publish the recordings online within 24 hours, and allow any individual to record any open legislative proceedings either through audio or visual means and use these recordings for any legitimate purpose.

We give a conditional thumbs up on this one. This bill seems on the face of it quite reasonable and innocuous, and “healthy” for democracy as it won’t allow backroom dealing that never sees public scrutiny; disallows the practice of “gut-and-amend” (as defined by Ballotpedia, “A practice that replaces, at the last minute, every word of a bill with new, complex language secretly written by special interests, thereby making major policy changes with no public input”); and basically would let the public have much more input into bills that come out, because they would have at least a little while to look them over.

It’s also supported by many groups—but that’s where it gets murkier, as many of them are GOP-leaning or business-focused, although there are a few others on the more progressive side as well, such as Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of California and the California NAACP.

And then when you look at the opposition, it actually comes from the Democratic party, which essentially says that some good legislation can come out of bipartisan maneuvering that gets things done quickly (like housing and drought bills of the last session)—and if too much time is given to slow things down, the lobbyists will swoop in and get their members to kill the bills. Further, the bill is backed primarily by a billionaire (Munger) who has opposed progressive issues up and down the line, historically.

We understand and sympathize with the arguments, but are inclined to go with the simpler analysis that says more transparency is better, and then see how passing this will play out in the coming period — after all, everything will be in the written and video record now, both the positions of legislators before the 3-day waiting period, and after, so the effectiveness of it all can be judged over time.

Proposition 55 - YES Tax Extension on the Rich, for Education and Healthcare

A position on Prop. 55 seems straightforward; it falls in a category of progressive taxation used for socially valuable services. However, major fiscal measures are rarely that simple. In this case, one would not use a label of “with reservation,” but rather “with complicating issues.”

This initiative is largely a renewal of the much higher profile Prop. 30, which passed in 2012. That item was the result of a struggle of contending forces aimed at taxing the upper economic strata. One wing, linked to the CFT (California Federation of Teachers), called for a “Millionaire’s Tax” to be used for specified social needs. The other force was led by Governor Brown, taxing incomes over \$250,000, with a small sales tax attached. The final outcome was largely Jerry’s proposal for a temporary tax, with a lessening of the sales tax. It passed with a strong majority after heavy lobbying by the unions and Democratic Party apparatus. The largest beneficiary has been public education.

The real problem, now as then, is that the process by which these measures are developed has undercut much progressive organizing and has assumed a variety of political trade-offs. In the case of Prop. 30, the aforementioned “MT” was much more grassroots; more problematic was the deferral to Brown after the elections by public sector unions on a range of issues, such as two-tier pensions, and a backing off of labor’s advocating for programs serving the most indigent, such as the homeless, elderly, and impoverished youth. Regarding Prop. 55, the initial sacrifice was the “Make It Fair” campaign, which aimed at a “split roll”/ corporate property transfer tax, generating more money and used for a broader range of programs. While this would not end the “reign of Prop. 13,” it would correct one of its most grievous aspects.

What Prop. 55 would do is again greatly aid public education, preventing cuts of up to \$4 billion in the first year of implementation. One might argue that public education already has a very privileged status, with Prop. 98 guaranteeing approximately sixty percent of the general funds. Nonetheless, with the continuing issues of California school districts needing more than 20,000 additional teachers along with reduction of class size and more school libraries, the money would be well spent (it precludes funds being used for administrative costs). Up to \$2 billion would be spent on health care programs for low income children. And based on the pattern of Prop. 30, over ten percent would go to the habitually underfunded colleges. It is hardly surprising that its biggest backer is the 300,000 strong CTA (California Teachers Association).

As always, the rallying cry of “Tax the Rich” is encouraging (in this case millions of dollars liberated from the top two percent of income earners in California). We should vote YES on 55 but be alert as to its longer term political implications.

Proposition 56 - YES Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research

Surprisingly, California now has a rather low tax on cigarettes, only 87 cents per pack. This initiative would increase the tax by \$2.00 per pack, with an equivalent increase on other tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes containing nicotine.

Over 80 percent of the tax revenue would increase funding for tobacco-related healthcare through Medi-Cal. Lower-income residents smoke at higher rates and more commonly suffer from tobacco-related diseases, and Medi-Cal is often their only choice for affordable healthcare.

The remaining funds would go to tobacco use prevention, education and control programs, tobacco-related disease research, physician training, dental disease prevention programs, and law enforcement to prevent interstate smuggling.

If the higher tax does lead to decreased tobacco consumption, (which is its primary purpose), tax revenues would be transferred to already existing tobacco tax-funded programs.

The proponents and funders are primarily health care organizations and the SEIU. The opponents appear to be the usual right-wing anti-tax groups, including ones associated with the infamous ALEC that’s funded by the Koch Brothers. Tobacco companies have already contributed \$36 million to oppose the measure as of mid-August 2016, and they will likely put in more closer to election day.

Past increases in tobacco taxes have helped to dramati-

State Propositions

cally reduce rates of smoking virtually everywhere in the world. The Federal government tripled its tobacco tax in 2009, resulting in a rapid decrease in smoking rates across the U.S. We think California should do the same this year. Vote YES on Prop. 56.

Proposition 57 - YES Sentencing for Non-violent Crimes and Juvenile Criminal Proceedings

Prop. 57 has two main parts, sections 3 and 4. Section 3 adds Section 32 to Article one of the California Constitution and addresses the length of prison sentences for adults. Section 4 amends the Welfare and Institutions Code provisions for trying juveniles as adults.

Section 3 provides that a state prison inmate convicted of a nonviolent felony offense shall be eligible for parole after completing the term for his or her primary offense, which is the longest term of imprisonment imposed for any offense, excluding any enhancements or consecutive sentences. Of the many sentencing enhancements in California law, some of them are for the defendant's conduct, such as taking more than \$65,000, and others are for a defendant's status, such as having prior convictions. Section 3 provides that the Department of Corrections can award credits for good behavior and for "approved rehabilitative or educational achievements."

The California District Attorney's Association states, in opposition, "California could see inmates serving as little as one-third or one-fourth of their sentences, maybe less. The pressure on CDCR from the state would be to increase credits significantly in order to relieve prison overcrowding and budgetary issues, although that is specifically prohibited by Marsy's Law." The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism supports Prop. 57, and sees things differently: "Today, California's prisons are under a court-ordered population cap. Without a common sense, fiscally responsible plan, the court could order the arbitrary release of prisoners. This is an unacceptable outcome that puts Californians in danger."

Section 4 abolishes what is known in juvenile law as "direct filing," in which a prosecutor can file a criminal charge against a person under age 18 in adult court without a finding that declares the minor to be unfit for juvenile court. In 1999, the Legislature adopted mandatory direct filing in adult court for certain minors 16 or older. In 2000, Prop. 21 both expanded the mandatory filing to include some minors 14 and older, and added discretionary direct filing allowing prosecutors to file in adult court in a variety of circumstances. A good presentation of the evolution and complications of direct filings can be found in *Juan G. v. Superior Court* (2013) 209 Cal.App.4th 1480 at pp. 1487-1490.

If Prop. 57 passes, in order for a minor to be tried in adult court there will be a fitness hearing in all cases, and a variety of factors will have to be considered including the circumstance and seriousness of the alleged offense, the level of harm caused by the crime, and the minor's mental and emotional development.

A "YES" vote on Prop. 57 is warranted because the decision whether to try a minor in adult court will be a judicial decision requiring input from both the prosecution and the defense.

Proposition 58 - YES Allows Bilingual Education

Prop. 58 repeals most of Prop. 227, which passed by 61 percent in 1998. Prop. 227 required that students who had been in California schools for over a year be taught entirely in English in classrooms with other English speaking students. Students new to English would be taught, in English, in special "English immersion" classrooms.

Several studies over the years have shown little difference in test scores between students taught in bilingual classrooms prior to 1998 and in mainstream classrooms subsequently, but test scores do not tell the whole story. One positive result of Prop. 227 was that English learners, through speaking English with friends both in and out of the classroom, improved their conversational skills as well as their social integration in the school setting. Another benefit was that schools could no longer hire "bilingual" teachers from other countries whose English was sometimes poor, and who as a result taught entirely in Spanish, with very limited English Language Development class time daily.

Prop. 227 required that parents who wanted their children in a bilingual classroom sign a waiver, and that any school with more than 20 students whose parents had signed such waivers would be required to provide a bilingual classroom for those students. Due to the requirements of

Prop. 227, some students were never offered services for which they qualified, while some schools with large Spanish speaking populations simply had parents sign waivers at the time of registration, with little understanding of what they were signing, in order to continue offering bilingual classes, especially in the lower grades. Prop. 58 eliminates the need for waivers.

Proponents of Prop. 58, including the California Teachers Association, make the case that Prop. 58 will expand opportunities for English speaking students to learn a second language in dual immersion programs, expand instructional methods teachers can use to teach English, as well as restore local control to schools to provide bilingual classrooms and curricula as they see fit. Prop. 58 also is seen by proponents as restoring the power of cultural minorities to have curriculum respectful of their cultural identities and providing language continuity to their children.

The Green Party supports local control of many services, to give those most affected by programs most control of the programs that affect them. Prop. 227 took away local control to a degree the Green Party cannot condone. If done well, dual immersion programs, newcomer programs, and graduated bilingual programs have been found to be effective. However, we are concerned that Prop. 58 does not appear to have accountability provisions that would prevent the reemergence of the social isolation of bilingual classrooms and poor bilingual programs that existed prior to Prop. 227. Let's hope the passage of Prop. 58 does not result in throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

Proposition 59 - YES Campaign Finance, Repeal 'Citizens United'

Prop. 59 will help get big money out of politics and put to rest the fallacy that a corporation is a person entitled to human rights. Can a corporation stub its toe while playing tag and then grow up to fall in love, get pregnant, and give birth to a screaming, squirming, adorable baby? A corporation is no more a person than a lawn is a blade of grass.

The proposition goes further than asking California's elected officials to use their authority towards overturning the Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, via federal constitutional amendment(s). Corporations had already taken over prior to that SCOTUS opinion, so the beauty of Prop. 59 is that, in addition to supporting regulating and limiting campaign contributions, it calls for overturning "other applicable judicial precedents ... and to make clear that corporations should not have the same constitutional rights as human beings." Thus, it calls for abolishing "corporate personhood" as well as ending the ridiculous notion that limitless corporate donations to campaigns are legally protected free speech, which drowns out most individuals' voices so our elections are sold to the 1 percent richest donors.

Democracy is priceless. Most voters will have the good sense to vote for Prop. 59 which costs nothing and is a big step towards government of, by, and for the people. This victory may push our Senators and more members of Congress to join Barbara Lee in cosponsoring the We the People Amendment. Of the related constitutional amendments that have been introduced in Congress, HJR 48 is the most effective, establishing both that money is not speech and that a corporation is not a person.

Most people know that giant corporations wield too much control over our government and that this problem is at the root of so many others. Depriving corporations like Chevron, Bayer, Walmart, and Monsanto of the legal right to bribe our politicians will barely affect their bottom line. Small and midsize businesses will not be affected because they do not abuse their personhood status. Unions and nonprofit advocacy groups will continue doing what they do best, which is organizing their members.

It was Supreme Court opinions that gave corporations too much power. The Supreme Court can only be overruled via constitutional amendment. We highly recommend voting yes on Prop. 59 which is part of the growing grassroots groundswell it will take to transform government of, by, and for corporate profit into a democracy.

What you can do to help: <http://movetoamend.org/>, especially the "Get Involved" section.

Proposition 60 - Very Strange, You Decide Adult Films, Condoms

This initiative is the latest round in the battle between Michael Weinstein of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and the porn industry over mandatory condom use during sex in adult films. Cal/OSHA workplace health and safety standards for the adult film industry already require the use

of condoms, but enforcement is complaint driven and non-compliance within the industry is common. This measure would amend the California Labor Code to require producers in the adult film industry to ensure that their performers use condoms during sex in filming, and to pay for medical exams, vaccines and other health services for the performers. It also establishes a new regulatory structure with fees and fines, and includes requiring producers to get a health license every two years, provide notice of filming, and to keep records that show compliance with health and safety standards. Performers could sue producers and anyone with a financial interest for non-compliance.

The porn industry and many outspoken performers have opposed stiffer standards at every turn. In 2012, Los Angeles County approved Measure B, which is the model for the statewide initiative. (The writer could find no clear evidence of Measure B's effectiveness or impact on the industry.) The porn industry beat the implementation of stricter standards on a 3 to 2 vote at the Cal/OSHA Board, and by killing an Assembly bill — with much of the same language as the initiative — in committee. Many performers and the industry contend that condoms and other protective devices degrade the fantasy experience, making the films less marketable and profitable, which ultimately would result in the industry being driven out of state and underground. (Only California and New Hampshire have legal adult film industries.) They also contend that rigorous testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI's) and a preventive drug are better alternative to condoms — times have changed. On this point the proponents, which include performers who claim to have contracted STI's on set, adamantly disagree.

The first new twist in this battle revolves around the definition of "adult film producer," and the empowering of anyone in the state of California to pursue violators through a private right of action (i.e. bring a law suit) if Cal/OSHA fails to follow through on a complaint. The Internet has (apparently) made it possible and sometimes necessary for performers to self-produce. The Internet can be an ugly place. Many of these performer/producers fear that this provision in the law will leave them open to legally sanctioned harassment by stalkers and others with moral objections to pornography. The proponents claim this can't happen. If this does prove possible, it is an unintended consequence: the main proponent isn't opposed to porn, he just wants the workers to be safe, and condoms are it. Cal/OSHA has "rule making" authority which could potentially be used to protect "small" producers if the initiative passes.

The other twist is one that will probably appear in other controversial ballot measures going forward, as a result of the state's decision on Prop. 8 to not challenge the court's ruling that the law was unconstitutional. (Prop. 8 banned same-sex marriage.) This initiative has language that could (if legal) allow the proponent to have standing to defend the law if the state does not.

The main proponents are the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the largest nonprofit organization serving HIV/AIDS patients worldwide; Beyond AIDS; the American Sexual Health Association; and a host of other healthcare organizations. They have millions to spend (www.FAIR4CA.org). The opposition appears to be led by San Francisco State Senator Mark Leno (gay, btw) and includes the performer-only Adult Performer Advocacy Committee, the AIDS project of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Gay Lesbian Center, the SF AIDS Foundation, and the porn industry Free Speech Coalition. <http://dontharassca.com/>. The International Entertainment Adult Union has taken no position.

You decide.

Proposition 61 - YES State Prescription Drug Purchases, Pricing Standards

This small "good idea, why didn't anyone think of this sooner?" (for the 99 percent) seeks to correct a situation which is currently bad for patients (almost everyone) and bad for the state government.

The California Drug Price Relief Act supports regulating drug prices by requiring state agencies to pay the same prices that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) pays for prescription drugs. Prop. 61 is supported by Zenei Cortez, the Co-President of the California Nurses Association (CNA)/National Nurses Organizing Committee; Nancy McPherson, State Director of AARP California; and others. It is opposed by the California Taxpayers Association, the California Medical Association (CMA), and others.

When the major nurses' association and the major California doctors' association are in conflict about an issue, we take a step back and ask whether the CMA is generally more conservative than the CNA. CNA is part of

continued on next page

State Propositions

Prop. 61

continued from page 17

the National Nurses United, which endorsed Bernie Sanders in the Democratic Party primary. We also “follow the money.” This proposition threatens Big Pharma’s profits, so there will be a very expensive blizzard of lies mailed to voters and very expensive TV ads. The website <http://StopPharmaGreed.com> states, “Federal records show drug and medical-device manufacturers in 2015 made payments of more than a quarter of a billion dollars that—in one way or another—went directly or indirectly into the pockets of tens of thousands of California doctors, even as the leadership of the California Medical Association decided to oppose Prop. 61, the November ballot measure to cap prescription drug prices.”

“The cozy and incestuous financial ties between the drug industry and California doctors raise troubling questions about the California Medical Association’s (CMA) decision to oppose Prop. 61,” said Garry South, chief strategist for the Yes on Prop. 61/Californians for Lower Drug Prices campaign.

Proposition 62 - YES, YES, YES! End the Death Penalty

Haven’t we been punished by “capital” long enough? At the national, state and local level the Green Party opposes the death penalty. The question of capital punishment has less to do with whether those convicted of horrific crimes deserve to die than with whether the state has a right or reason to kill them. There are currently 743 people awaiting execution in California.

Five of the problems with the death penalty:

1. Almost all death row inmates could not afford their own attorney at trial. Court-appointed attorneys often lack the experience necessary for capital trials and are overworked and underpaid.
2. The death penalty is discriminatory and is used disproportionately against the poor, minorities and members of racial, ethnic and religious communities. Prosecutors seek the death penalty far more frequently when the victim of a homicide is white than when the victim is of African descent or of another ethnic/racial origin.
3. Humans are fallible. Even without police and prosecutorial misconduct and without serious errors by court-appointed defense attorneys with little experience in trying capital cases, the risk of executing the innocent* can never be eliminated.
4. The death penalty has no deterrent effect. If it did, states that have it would have lower crime rates or murder rates than states without such laws. They don’t! States that have abolished the death penalty show no significant changes in either crime or murder rates.
5. The cost of the death penalty is astronomical, from the criminal investigation through the lengthy trials, and appeals. According to the Death Penalty Information Center,

if the governor commuted the sentences of all death row inmates to life without parole, it would save \$170 million a year, with a saving of \$5 billion over the next 20 years.

*(<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/death-penalty/us-death-penalty-facts>)

Passage of Prop. 62 would end the death penalty in California, replacing it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Regardless of your position on life without parole, it is preferable to the death penalty. Yes, Yes, Yes on 62!

Proposition 63 - NO, because retired cops are exempt Firearms, Ammunition Sales

The “Safety for All” Initiative would prohibit the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines (holding over 10 bullets), a prohibition we support. However, that was already signed into law via SB 1446 in July; and, like all recent gun-control measures, Prop. 63 EXEMPTS active and retired law enforcement officers from their restrictions.

Prop. 63 would require all other purchasers of any ammunition, even just for duck hunting, to pass a background check and obtain CA Department of Justice authorization (which involves being entered into a DOJ database). It also restricts non-exempt people from giving ammunition to anyone they know (or can reasonably guess) should not have access to the ammunition.

If passed, Prop. 63 would become the eighth firearm-restriction law adopted in California in 2016, with twelve more in the pipeline. Note that ballot initiatives are far more difficult to change than laws created by the Legislature, so we would be stuck with problematic details, such as these exemptions. New York recently found a similar law to be unenforceable.

Prop. 63 explicitly exempts both current and retired law enforcement officers (which includes IRS officers, park rangers, etc.), some of whom were forced to “honorably retire” after violently misusing their power. Thus, this measure fails to hold accountable some of the most out-of-control abusers of firearms. Why would an off-duty or retired law enforcement officer (who is considered an ordinary citizen) ever need a large-capacity magazine to rapid fire more than 10 bullets, or need more untracked ammunition than everyone else? Only in a dystopian police-state scenario.

When Black Lives Matter and allied groups are striving for police accountability, we cannot endorse a law that exempts cops and retired cops. A Federal Civil Rights lawsuit has been filed to strike down this violation of Equal Protection standards in existing firearm-related laws.

This fatal flaw has been recognized by the San Francisco Greens and some civil rights groups. Prop. 63 is opposed by responsible gun-owners’ groups and even many law-enforcement groups. NO ONE here needs semiautomatic weapons of war.

Proposition 65 - NO Carry-Out-Bags Measure from the Plastics Industry

Out-of-state manufacturers of flimsy single-use plastic bags are trying to confuse California voters. Acting through a front outfit calling itself the American Progressive Bag Alliance, they’ve invested millions in this measure requiring that carryout bag fees be turned over to the state Wildlife Conservation Board.

Trying to masquerade as populist environmentalists, Big Plastic falsely claims that bag ban fees represent a “\$300 million money grab,” a crooked “sweetheart deal” among special interests that will give the grocery chains hundreds of millions in “added profits.” In fact, the bag-fee revenues are regulated so the program is strictly nonprofit.

Why does Big Plastic want to confiscate the grocers’ bag revenues? Because they want the grocers, who currently favor the ban, to turn against it, and they want to squelch the sale of heavy-duty reusable bags. You won’t see those \$4 bags at the check-out anymore if the \$4 goes to the state.

Prop. 65 contains a poison pill that could tie up the bag ban in court for years, and might cripple future bag ban legislation. The East Bay Times calls this initiative “one [of] the most disingenuous ballot measures in state history” and notes that “key environmental groups oppose Prop. 65, even though it could supply millions of dollars for some of their pet causes. That’s how bad it is.” Don’t let the industry pull the plastic over your eyes. Vote NO on Prop. 65.

Proposition 66 - NO, NO, NO! Speed Up the Death Penalty

(See also Prop. 62, “End the Death Penalty,” above).

“Kill ‘Em Quicker” tries to answer the fifth point in the article on Prop. 62 (concerning the astronomical cost of the death penalty) by eliminating or restricting many appeals. While making it easier for economic conservatives to support capital punishment, we believe it would only make the other points more severe. Obviously, the state would save even more by simply eliminating the death penalty. The main purpose of this proposition is to defeat Prop. 62 and keep the death penalty.

No, No, No on 66!

Proposition 67 - YES Uphold the Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

SB 270’s state-wide plastic bag ban was enacted in 2014. Within weeks, the Society of the Plastics Industry had poured millions into gathering signatures for this referendum challenging the ban. Plastic bag manufacturers have raised \$6 million for their action group, the “American Progressive Bag Alliance.” (A truly progressive alliance might have taken steps to avail themselves of the ban’s exemption for single-use compostable plastic bags.)

The APBA calls the ten-cent bag fee “a back room deal between the grocers and union bosses to scam . . . and fleece consumers for billions so grocery store shareholders and their union partners can line their pockets.” This is contrary to the facts. The legislation requires that the bag fees be spent on a) compliance costs, b) bag purchase costs, and c) consumer education on reusable bags.

An East Bay Times editorial reported recently that after San Jose banned the plastic bags, “trash had been reduced by an eye-popping 59 percent on city streets, 89 percent in storm drains and 60 percent in creeks.”

Critics of the bag ban argue that it represents nanny-state intrusion on personal choice, that it punishes the responsible re-users and recyclers of single-use bags for the wrongdoing of a few litterbugs, that shoppers are forced to subsidize people on public assistance who are exempt from the bag fee, and that it punishes families. They argue that reusable bags can be unsanitary, and that washing them takes water and taxes shoppers’ time. They call the ban a feel-good “trendy eco-fad” that allows shady politicians to grandstand and makes green citizens look goofy to common-sense folks. They claim that reports of a Texas-sized mass of floating plastic in the Pacific Ocean are a myth, that the public costs of cleaning up plastic bag litter are exaggerated.

Californians Against Waste estimates that \$30 million to possibly over \$100 million a year is spent cleaning up plastic bags. Which suggests perhaps the strongest argument in favor of the plastic bags—picking them up provides jobs.

The California League of Conservation Voters, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club California, the Story of Stuff Project, and the Turtle Island Restoration Network want you to vote Yes on Prop. 67 to affirm SB270 and ban the single-use plastic bag. (And don’t forget to vote No on Prop. 65.)

**REGISTER GREEN
for the first time**

or

**If you have been registered GREEN and
you changed your registration to vote for
Bernie Sanders in the June primary**

COME BACK: RE-REGISTER GREEN

<http://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Green Voter Card

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

Federal Offices

President and Vice-President - Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka
U.S. Senate – No endorsement, please see write-up
U.S. House of Representatives, District 13 – No endorsement, please see write-up

State Offices

State Senate, District 9 - No endorsement, please see write-up
State Assembly, District 15 - No endorsement, please see write-up
State Assembly, District 18 - No endorsement, please see write-up

Superior Court Judge

Office #1 - Scott Jackson

Special School Districts

Peralta Community College, Area 6 - Karen Weinstein, with reservations

City Offices

Alameda

City Council – Jennifer Roloff. Don't vote for Ashcraft or Vella.
City Auditor – Kevin Kearney
City Treasurer – Kevin Kennedy
School Board – Unfortunately, we were not able to cover this race.
Please see the candidates' completed questionnaires at:
<https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires/>.
Alamedans, please help us!

Albany

Recommendations provided by the Albany Greens:
City Council – Nick Pilch, Peter Maass; Erik Giesen-Fields, with reservations.
Do not vote for Michael Barnes.
Treasurer – No endorsement, please see write-up
School Board – Clementina Duron and Jon Raj Destin

Berkeley

Mayor – #1 and #2: Jesse Arreguin and Kriss Worthington, #3: Guy "Mike" Lee*
Don't vote for Capitelli
City Council, District 2 – #1: Nanci Armstrong-Temple, #2: Cheryl Davila,
NO Moore!
City Council, District 3 – #1: Ben Bartlett*, #2: Mark Coplan*, #3: Al Murray*
Don't vote for Matthews.
City Council, District 5 – Sophie Hahn
City Council, District 6 – Defeat Wengraf! #1: Fred Dodsworth, #2: Isabelle Gaston*
School Board – No Endorsement, please see write-up
Rent Board – Christina Murphy, Alejandro Soto-Vigil, Leah Simon-Weisberg
and Igor Tregub. Vote for all 4!
* = These candidates have been ranked, but not endorsed

Emeryville

City Council – Christian Patz, John Bauters, and Ally Medina. Don't vote for Engel.
School Board – Barbara Inch; Ken Bukowski, with reservations

Fremont

City Council – Cullen Tiernan, Vinnie Bacon

Oakland

City Council, At-Large – #1: Matt Hummel, #2: Rebecca Kaplan*
Don't vote for Moore.
City Council, District 1 – Dan Kalb, with reservations
City Council, District 3 – Noni Session
City Council, District 5 – Noel Gallo, with reservations
City Council, District 7 – Nehanda Imara. Don't vote for Reid.
City Attorney – No Endorsement, please see write-up
School Board, District 1 – Don Macleay
School Board, District 3 – #1: Kharyshi Wiginton, #2: Ben Lang, with reservations.
Don't vote for Hodge.
School Board, District 5 – #1: Mike Hutchinson, #2: Roseann Torres*
Don't vote for Trenado.
School Board, District 7 – Chris Jackson
* = These candidates have been ranked, but not endorsed

Special Districts

A.C. Transit, At-Large - Dollene Jones, with reservations
A.C. Transit, Ward 2 - Greg Harper, with reservations
BART, District 3 - Rebecca Saltzman, with reservations

(Encouragement for Varun Paul)
BART, District 5 - John McPartland
BART, District 7 - Lateefah Simon
EBRPD, Ward 2 – Dee Rosario
EBRPD, Ward 4 – Daniel Chesmore

Local Measures

AI - Alameda County Housing Bond – No Endorsement, please see write-up
BI - Alameda City Continuation of School Parcel Tax – Yes
CI - A.C. Transit Parcel Tax Extension – Yes
EI - Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2016 – Yes
FI - Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Bond – Yes, with reservations
GI - Oakland School Parcel Tax – Yes, with reservations
RR - BART Infrastructure Bond – Yes, with standard bond reservations

BI - Alameda City Continuation of School Parcel Tax – Yes
KI - Alameda Transfer of \$3.7 Million Annually from Alameda Municipal Power to the City – No
LI - Alameda City Council's Rent Control Measure – No
MI - Alameda Renters Coalition's Rent Control Measure – Yes
NI - Albany Residential Parking Requirements - Yes
OI - Albany Soda Tax - Yes
PI - Albany Sidewalk Repairs - Yes
QI - Albany Vacancy Procedures, Pension Board, Copies, Etc. - Yes
RI - Albany Civil Service Board - Yes
SI - Albany School Board Removal of Term Limits – Yes

EI - Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2016 – Yes
TI - Berkeley Infrastructure and Facilities Bond – Yes, with reservations
UI - Berkeley Rental Unit Business License Tax, City Sponsored - Yes, Yes, Yes
DD - Berkeley Rental Unit Business License Tax, Big Landlord Initiative – No, No, No
VI - Berkeley GANN Appropriation Limit Override – Yes
WI - Berkeley Citizens Redistricting Commission – Yes
XI - Berkeley Public Campaign Financing – Yes
YI - Berkeley Youth Voting – Yes
ZI - Berkeley Low Income Housing Authorization – Yes
AA - Berkeley Rent Board Ordinance – Yes
BB - Berkeley Minimum Wage - City Sponsored - No
CC - Berkeley Minimum Wage – Labor-backed Citizens' Initiative – Yes,
please see write-up
DD - Berkeley Rental Unit Business License Tax, Big Landlord Initiative – No, No, No

EE - Hayward Cannabis Tax Authorization – Yes
GI - Oakland School Parcel Tax – Yes, with reservations
HH - Oakland Soda Tax – Yes, with concerns, please see write-up
II - Oakland Increase of Maximum Lease Term – Neutral, please see write-up
JJ - Oakland Just Cause Eviction and Rent Law Amendment – Yes
KK - Oakland Street Repair and Infrastructure Bond – No
LL - Oakland Police Commission and Review Agency – No Endorsement,
please see write-up
CI - A.C. Transit Parcel Tax Extension – Yes
RR - BART Infrastructure Bond – Yes, with standard bond reservations
FI - Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Bond – Yes, with reservations

State Propositions
51 - School Bonds, K-12 and Community College; Limits Developer Fees - No
52 - State Fees on Hospitals, Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds - Yes, with reservations
53 - Revenue Bonds Requiring Statewide Voter Approval - No
54 - Legislature and Legislation, Allows Time to Read Bills - Yes, with reservations
55 - Tax Extension on the Rich, for Education and Healthcare - Yes
56 - Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research - Yes
57 - Sentencing for Non-violent Crimes and Juvenile Criminal Proceedings - Yes
58 - Allows Bilingual Education - Yes
59 - Campaign Finance, Repeal *Citizens United* - Yes
60 - Adult Films, Condoms - Very Strange, You Decide, please see write-up
61 - State Prescription Drug Purchases, Pricing Standards - Yes
62 - End the Death Penalty – Yes, Yes, Yes!
63 - Firearms, Ammunition Sales – No, because retired cops are exempt
64 - Marijuana Legalization - Yes
65 - Carry-Out Bags Measure from the Plastics Industry - No
66 - Speed Up the Death Penalty – No, No, No!
67 - Uphold the Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags - Yes

** GO PAPERLESS **

The PDF version of this Voter Guide is available on our website at <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides>. Would you like to save some trees and printing/postage costs? PLEASE LET US KNOW at acgreenparty@aol.com that you prefer to receive email (with our Green Voter Card plus a link to the full Voter Guide online) instead of printed copies.

Printed copies (for your use, and to distribute) will always be available at our Green Party headquarters at 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 644-2293. Donations of any amount are encouraged (but not required). Thanks everyone!

Read the CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRES Online

Most of the candidates returned our questionnaires, for most of the local races. You'll find lots of additional info in the candidates' completed questionnaires, so we strongly encourage you to read them on our website:

<http://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires/>.

Or, you can simply go to: <http://acgreens.org>, and then click on the "Candidate Questionnaires" tab near the top of the page.

Green Party of Alameda County
 2022 Blake St.
 Berkeley, CA 94704
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Read the CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRES! See the Box on Page 4 • Go PAPERLESS! See the Front Page Box

Green Voter Card

Please see page 19 for the Full Voter Card!

Federal Offices President and Vice-President

Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka

City Council, District 3 – Noni Session
 City Council, District 7 – Nehanda Inara. Don't vote for Reid.
 School Board, District 1– [Don Macey](#)

City Offices

Berkeley
 Mayor – #1 and #2: Jesse Arreguin and Kriss Worthington,
 #3: Guy "Mike" Lee*. Don't vote for Capitelli
 City Council, District 2 – #1: Nanci Armstrong-Temple,
 #2: Cheryl Davila, NO Moore!
 City Council, District 5 – Sophie Hahn
 * = These candidates have been ranked, but not endorsed

Local Measures
 L1 - Alameda City Council's Rent Control Measure – No
 M1 - Alameda Renters Coalition's Rent Control Measure – Yes
 U1 - Berkeley Rental Unit Business License Tax. City Sponsored –
 Yes, Yes, Yes!
 DD - Berkeley Rental Unit Business License Tax, Big Landlord
 Initiative – No, No, No!

Emeryville

City Council – Christian Patz, John Bauers, and Ally Medina.
 Don't vote for Engel.
 School Board – Barbara Inch; Ken Bukowski, with reservations
Oakland
 City Council, At-Large – #1: Matt Hummel, #2: Rebecca Kaplan*
 Don't vote for Moore.

State Propositions
 59 - Campaign Finance, Repeal Citizens United -- Yes
 62 - End the Death Penalty -- Yes, Yes, Yes!
 64 - Marijuana Legalization -- Yes
 67 - Uphold the Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags -- Yes

You are invited to attend two special events with

Green Party Presidential candidate

Jill Stein

Thursday, October 6

6 pm to 11 pm: The Chapel, 777 Valencia St., San Francisco

'Revolutionary Poetry, Music, and Politics?': Guest speakers will include:

poet Jack Hirschman and Green Party Supervisor candidate Francisco Herrera.

4 pm: The Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland

Party with recording artist Kor Element

See: <http://www.jill2016.com/events> for updates and additional details! (A LATE OCTOBER event is also likely!)

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Green Voter Guide

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

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 Union City

Federal Offices	1, 3, 4
State Senate and Assembly	4
State Propositions	1, 16 17, 18
Superior Court Judge	5
Peralta Colleges	5
City of Alameda	5, 6
City of Albany	6, 7
City of Berkeley	1, 7, 8, 9
City of Emeryville	1, 9
City of Fremont	10
Hayward Area	10
City of Oakland	1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Special Districts	14, 15
County Measures	15
Voter Card	19, Back page

November 8, 2016

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