

# Green Voter Guide

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

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## U.S. President: Green Party primary Darryl Cherney, William Kreml, Kent Mesplay, Sedinam Moyowasifsa-Curry, Jill Stein

*Darryl Cherney, William Kreml, Kent Mesplay, Sedinam Moyowasifsa-Curry, and Jill Stein are running in our Primary.*

The 2016 presidential primary races are shaping up to be quite different from those in recent memory -- viable populist candidates are challenging the Establishment in ways no one quite expected. Self-described Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders was set to be yet another fake progressive working to corral voters toward Hillary Clinton's inevitable nomination, but instead, with a laser focus on Wall Street corruption and a "political revolution," has captured 80 percent support among millennials, won some states by nearly 4-to-1 margins, and has received a record number of individual contributions (as we go to press, over 2 million, averaging \$27). Meanwhile, billionaire Donald Trump has quickly risen to the top of the crowded Republican field with non-stop corporate media coverage of his every move and remark, no matter how uninformed, extremist, racist or offensive—as the CBS chief executive stated at a San Francisco investors' conference, "It may not be good for America, but it's damn good for CBS."

For Greens, this election holds the important question of what Bernie's growing army of young people will finally do when the nomination hits and the Establishment attempts to close ranks on them. Many Bernie supporters, an estimated 30 percent, are signing pledges not to vote

for Hillary in November, using #BernieOrBust, #BernieOrGreen2016, and others, in their social media posts. Green 2012 Presidential candidate Jill Stein, running again in 2016, has produced expert responses in news interviews asking what Greens will do, presenting carefully worded messages mixing praise and support for Bernie with the gentle reminders of his glaring limitations, primarily, his foreign policy positions and the fact that he is running as a Democrat. As Stein told Grist magazine recently, "You can't really have a revolutionary campaign inside a counter-revolutionary party."

Interestingly, it is Hillary's campaign that may be the biggest wild card of all—now the target of the criminal investigation by the FBI for setting up an insecure, un-auditable, private server in her home while Secretary of State, Clinton could be indicted before the primary season has even finished. She may face influence peddling charges (for the \$172 million given to the Clinton Foundation by foreign investors receiving favorable decisions by her State Department), or espionage-related charges for attempting to evade federal record-keeping and reporting laws by deleting tens of thousands of emails (had Nixon been able to delete the Watergate tapes, he might have continued on as president). Indeed, rather than being a "security review," as Clinton insists, the criminal case is actually moving forward—a U.S. District Court judge has granted a motion

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## Bay Area Measure AA: Yes, with reservations The S.F. Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Program

For the first time, a parcel tax measure will be on the June ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) (in their press release of 1/13/16) summarizes the purposes as "For nearly a decade, concerned environmentalists, business leaders, and local officials have been working to develop a regional funding measure that will allow us to carry out the wetlands restoration necessary to ensure that our children and grandchildren inherit a clean and healthy bay that enhances their quality of life. It is now clear we must accelerate efforts to restore the bay before sea level rise forecloses the opportunity. The Clean and Healthy Bay Ballot Measure will reduce pollution of bay waters, expand wildlife habitat, increase bayside recreation opportunities, and protect shoreline communities from flooding." The SFBRA is governed by a board of local elected officials, but like some other regional bodies (such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission) they are not directly elected by the voters. "It was created by the California legislature in 2008 with the enactment of AB 2954." This measure requires two-thirds approval by the voters of the nine-county Bay Area, and all counties would be affected regardless of the vote in each county.

In the coming decades, global warming is expected to cause a rise in sea level which will threaten large areas

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## U.S. Senate Pamela Elizondo, with reservations, or John Thompson Parker, with reservations

For a variety of reasons, we can't fully endorse any of the almost three dozen candidates who are listed on the ballot for U.S. Senate. There are, however, two candidates whose primary platform positions are strongly aligned with Green Party values. Voting for either of them will help build solidarity for those positions, and for the third party movement. Pamela Elizondo is a Green Party candidate and John Thompson Parker is running on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket.

Pamela Elizondo has run as a Green Party candidate in the northern counties of California several times, primarily for legislative offices including U.S. Congress and State Assembly. Her primary issue is marijuana. Her application for the Green Party's endorsement is written in a rather disjointed and eccentric fashion; however, her understanding of the interrelationships of our country's many destructive

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## Alameda County Superior Court

It can be difficult to determine endorsements for judicial candidates, as relatively few of them run on a specific platform or take clear positions on specific issues, particularly in a large and diverse county like Alameda.

In addition, attorneys who have judicial ambitions often try to tailor their experience to create a conventionally "good" judicial background, often including a stint as a prosecutor, along with some form of public service.

Finally, temperament is an important aspect of being a good judge (you want your judge to be open-minded), so the best advocates are not always the best judges.

These factors, along with the relatively sanitized language of the candidates' websites and candidate statements, makes it difficult for us to get a clear enough picture to make any strong recommendations.

With those caveats, here goes:

## Alameda County Superior Court, Office #1: Barbara Thomas, with reservations

For Alameda County Superior Court Office #1 there are three candidates: Scott Jackson, David Lim, and Barbara Thomas. None of these three is a white male, so any of them would add some diversity to the bench.

Scott Jackson was a prosecutor with the Alameda District Attorney's office for 13 years, and did civil litigation with a law firm for just under four years. (It appears that at least some of this work was on the employer side of employment litigation.) He recently became a visiting law professor at Golden Gate University, and he has served on the boards of social service organizations.

David Lim has been a prosecutor with the Alameda District Attorney's office for 15 years, mostly specializing in real estate fraud (a good thing). He does not appear to have civil litigation experience. He has been a city council member and mayor of San Mateo.

Both Jackson and Lim have relevant experience, and

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## State Senate, District 9 No Endorsement

Four candidates are running to replace termed-out State Senator Loni Hancock in District 9: former Assembly members and political powerhouses Sandre Swanson (D) and Nancy Skinner (D), public education advocate Katherine Welch (D) and San Pablo Mayor Rich Kinney (R).

Sandre Swanson represented Assembly District 16 (now District 18), Oakland south to San Leandro, for three terms. Prior to seeking elective office, he had 30 years of political experience, working for Congressman Ron Dellums as District Director and Senior Policy Advisor for 25 years, and then five years as Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Barbara Lee. He is running to build on his work in the Assembly, emphasizing his commitment to growing the middle class and sustainable jobs, at-risk youth, the victims of human trafficking, worker rights and protections, and a "state budget that is not balanced on the backs of the most vulnerable and voiceless in our society." He gave a detailed response to our questionnaire, citing legislation and work in the community to support labor and the environment. He supports tuition-free higher education starting with the community colleges.

Swanson also offers as evidence of a principled progressive voice his "no" votes on the bill that eliminated the "Healthy Families Program," moving 740,000 poor children to Medicaid, and on measures that he views undermine collective bargaining rights. He also voted his "conscience... refusing to support a spending cap 'rainy day fund' during the recession" on the 2009 Schwarzenegger/Democratic leadership budget deal, a vote that cost him the chairmanship of the Labor Committee. While Swanson was not able to convince other Democrats to follow his strong lead, in 2010 he spoke out forcefully against Prop 14's Top Two Primary at hearings and rallies, and in meetings with local Greens and other independent parties.

Swanson's campaign contributions are from individuals, a variety of businesses (including PG&E) and most notably, from organized labor. His endorsers include Loni Hancock, Barbara Lee, Berkeley City Councilmembers Anderson, Arreguin and Worthington, the Wellstone Renewal Democratic Club and LOTS of labor unions. He strongly

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### \*\* 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](mailto: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 the back "Voter Card" to distribute it as well.

### Your Green Party

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

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

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

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

### Ways to reach us:

#### County Council:

Phone: (510) 644-2293

Website: [www.acgreens.wordpress.com](http://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](mailto:GreenPartyofAlamedaCounty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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

[announcementsGPAC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:announcementsGPAC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

### Locals:

**Alameda County Green Sundays:** 2nd Sundays, at 5 pm; 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 running at least two candidates 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](mailto:maxine.daniel@gmail.com).

### Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: Peter Allen, David Arkin, Victoria Ashley, Jan Arnold, Bill Balderston, Paul Burton (page layout), Maxine Daniel, Mandeep Gill, Dave Heller, Greg Jalbert, Greg Jan, Tina Kimmel, Michael Rubin, Larry Shoup, Kent Sparling, Pam Spevack, Lisa Stephens, and Laura Wells.

### Voter Guide Contributions

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

### Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

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

### Some races aren't on the ballot

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

### Our 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

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

(510) 644-2293 • [www.acgreens.wordpress.com](http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (w): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ 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.*

## President

### Presidential Primary

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for discovery into whether Clinton deliberately thwarted the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Justice Department has granted immunity to a former Clinton staffer, and Judicial Watch has filed a proposed witness list.

Amidst these possibilities, many Greens are divided between those who are sure the Establishment will win out, as they always do, and those who have been drawn to support Bernie, and even, in some cases, endorse his campaign (Oklahoma GP) and congratulate him on his wins (Colorado GP). Other Greens, however, point out that Bernie's foreign policy positions will continue funding of the US war machine, which will inevitably undercut the ability for him to pay for his revolutionary proposals in healthcare and education. And while Bernie contrasts his own foreign policy positions to those of Clinton -- more hawkish than Trump and heavily influenced by Henry Kissinger -- antiwar activist David Swanson has summed up Bernie's failings this way:

"Sanders claims, however, absurdly, that he has only supported wars that were a 'last resort.' He includes among those, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia, despite neither having been remotely a last resort. Sanders admits as much, saying, 'I supported the use of force to stop the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans.' Set aside the fact that it increased the ethnic cleansing and that diplomacy was not really attempted, what he is claiming is a philanthropic mission, not a 'last resort.'" [www.truthdig.com/report/item/bernie\\_sanders\\_gets\\_a\\_foreign\\_policy\\_20150927](http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/bernie_sanders_gets_a_foreign_policy_20150927)

Additionally, former California Green Gubernatorial candidate, Laura Wells, has participated in several Bay Area presidential forums/debates and spells out a plan for California voters who are swayed by Bernie:

- NEVER REGISTER DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN. In California, registering "No Party Preference" allows people to vote for Bernie in the Democratic Party primary. Voters must ask for a "No Party Preference-Democratic" ballot, or "N-Dem".

- AFTER THE PRIMARY, change your voter registration to an independent party, like the Green Party or Peace and Freedom. By Independence Day, be independent of big money.

- IN NOVEMBER, VOTE, but do not write in Bernie Sanders! He is not a movement, he is an individual.

- DO NOT VOTE DEMOCRAT THEN. Glen Ford's description of Obama as the more "effective evil" rather than the "lesser evil" is right on point. A link is here: <http://www.blackagenda.com/content/why-barack-obama-more-effective-evil>. Sometimes it takes a Democrat to accomplish a conservative agenda, like deregulating and then bailing out Wall Street, and implementing trade agreements like NAFTA and the TPP/Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Reference: "Presidential Elections 2016, with Bernie, Jill, and Plan B" — <http://laurawells.org/2016/02/09/presidential-elections-2016-with-bernie-jill-and-plan-b/>.

This June, our Green presidential slate is surprisingly diverse and interesting, with 5 candidates to choose from. And because the Green Party of Alameda County has a history of inclusion, over exclusion, we provide information for all 5 candidates, listed in alphabetical order, for voters to decide for themselves:

#### DARRYL CHERNEY

Darryl Cherney, located in Garberville, California, is well known to many Greens as a nearly 30-year veteran environmental grassroots organizer and activist, including his Earth First! work to end the clear-cutting of old-growth coast redwood forests in Northern California and the terrible bombing of Judy Bari and him in 1990. In the attack, Cherney was slightly injured and Bari was severely injured by the explosion. The case was investigated by the FBI, which accused them of bombing themselves. Bari and Cherney subsequently sued the FBI and Oakland Police agents for violations of the US Constitution and he and the late Bari's estate were awarded \$4.4 million. Darryl Cherney ran in the Democratic Party primary for US Congress in the 1st District of California in 1988, garnering 5000 votes. He became a Green in 1990 and served a 4-year term (2006-2010) on the Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District. Cherney is also a songwriter, film producer, and father of a young daughter. He believes that anyone should be able to run for US president, and is setting an example by using primarily free social media to promote his positions, YouTube, facebook, twitter, etc.

<http://www.feelthechern.com/>, [www.facebook.com/DarrylCherneyforPresidentExploratory](http://www.facebook.com/DarrylCherneyforPresidentExploratory), [www.twitter.com/feelthechern](http://www.twitter.com/feelthechern), #FeeltheChern

#### WILLIAM (BILL) KREML

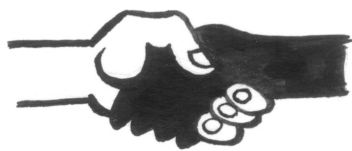
Bill Kreml, a Distinguished Professor Emeritus with the Department of Political Science at the University of South Carolina, combines a long academic career studying the United States government and its problems (50 yrs), with active participation in political races (30 yrs). A graduate of Northwestern University and Indiana University, Kreml has authored nine books, including his 1997 book, 'America's Middle Class – From Subsidy to Abandonment', which was cited generously by Elizabeth Warren in her own book on the middle class, 3 years later. Kreml's writings have been covered by The New Republic, The Christian Science Monitor, The Washington Post, and others. At his initiative, the Committee on the Constitutional System was formed in 1987 to make recommendations to correct dysfunctions in the public sector during the constitutional centennial. Kreml has also campaigned for political office in 1980 (U.S. Senate), 1984, 1992, and 2000 (selected presidential primaries).

His full presidential candidate statement is available at [www.gp.org/presidential\\_candidate\\_statement\\_bill\\_kreml](http://www.gp.org/presidential_candidate_statement_bill_kreml); [www.billkreml.org](http://www.billkreml.org).

#### KENT MESPLAY

Dr. Kent Mesplay, of Austin, Texas describes himself as a "Cultural Creative," born in a rainforest and raised on ideas of science blended with intuition, fact with story-telling; guided by a deep curiosity of the role of high technology in society. Schooled in Engineering (Harvey Mudd College, Northwestern University), Mesplay's Ph.D. is in Biomedical Engineering, with emphasis on prosthetics, biomechanics, and efficiency of natural systems. As a California resident, Mesplay worked as an Air Quality Inspector with the Air Pollution Control District in San Diego County and as an enforcement officer within the Compliance Division he helps ensure — through education and regulation — business compliance with local, state and federal air quality standards. Mesplay became a registered member of the Green Party when he discovered that the party platform matched his values and concerns: from renewable energy to appreciation of indigenous diversity. He sought the Green Party presidential nomination in 2004, 2008, and 2012. He has been a member of Service Employees International Union (SEIU). His perspectives on Climate Change grow out of his observations as a scientist and his Native heritage, teachings, and awareness.

[www.mesplay.org](http://www.mesplay.org), [www.facebook.com/prez kent](http://www.facebook.com/prez kent), [www.twitter.com/mesplayforpres](http://www.twitter.com/mesplayforpres)



SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### SEDINAM MOYOWASIFZA-CURRY

Sedinam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza-Curry brings broad international experience to her work in the United States and Africa. A public school and University of Southern California graduate with advanced degrees, she has a 35-year track record in program/project management in which she was called on to conceptualize, design, develop, produce, manage, monitor, and evaluate principles, theories, concepts, methods, and techniques in community, public, and media affairs and relations. She has worked for clients in business, trade, promotions, and investment, and in educational, social, environmental, political, economic, cultural-exchange, and heritage-based programs/projects on every level (local, statewide, national, international, and cyberspace). As an African-American, Moyowasifza-Curry possesses the ability to manage projects in a multicultural and interagency team environment. Through her vision, an employee-owned community, public, and media affairs and relations firm opened in Ghana, West Africa, where she has also served as a political strategist for the People's National Convention.

[www.facebook.com/ms.skcmcurry](http://www.facebook.com/ms.skcmcurry), [www.facebook.com/skcmcurryforpresident](http://www.facebook.com/skcmcurryforpresident), [www.twitter.com/skcmcurry](http://www.twitter.com/skcmcurry)

#### JILL STEIN

In 2012, Jill Stein's campaign for president became the only other Green Party presidential race — aside from Ralph Nader in 2000 — to qualify for matching funds, and garner over 450,000 votes, giving Stein the distinction of being the most successful female presidential candidate in U.S. history. Her campaign platform focused on a Green New Deal for America, a plan for a renewables revolution to create thousands of green-collar jobs, end unemployment, and rein in the extremist power of the finance sector. As a mother, physician, and longtime teacher of internal medicine as well as politician, she has led initiatives promoting healthy communities, local green economies and the revitalization of democracy - addressing issues such as campaign finance reform, green jobs, racially-just redistricting, and the cleanup of incinerators, coal plants, and toxics. She was a principal organizer for the 2014 education and direct action campaign, Global Climate Convergence for People, Planet and Peace over Profit.

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

[www.jill2016.com](http://www.jill2016.com), [www.facebook.com/drjillstein](http://www.facebook.com/drjillstein), [www.twitter.com/DrJillStein](http://www.twitter.com/DrJillStein). #JillStein2016

## For Revolution, REGISTER Green Party

Is it time for a "political revolution" as Bernie Sanders has been talking about in his campaign? Well yes, of course it would obviously be great if the "revolutionary planks" in Sanders' platform could get enacted. In fact, for many years, the Green Party has been advocating for much of what Sanders is now campaigning on — and more.

But "political revolution" involves plenty of other components, beyond just elections. Given the entrenched power of the "1 percent" that has steadily grown over the past 35 years, we'll probably need to use every available tool we have to truly turn things around. For example, protests, direct action, lobbying, civil disobedience, media campaigns, political theater, strikes, and boycotts will likely all be needed.

Which brings us to an extremely simple yet often overlooked action you can take to help oppose the two political parties dominated by corporate capitalism. Yes, you can change your voter registration status to the Green Party!

Just imagine a scenario where the Green Party doubled its registration percentage every 6 months — within a couple of years 10 percent of all California

voters would be registered Green, and less than two years after that, a majority of all voters would be registered with the Green Party!

So resolve today that no later than July 4th ("Independence Day"), you'll become "independent" of the two corporate political parties! Now is indeed the time to engage in revolutionary actions, both large and small. If you'd like to read more about the Green Party, please see our national, state, and local websites: [www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org); [www.cagreens.org](http://www.cagreens.org); and [www.acgreens.org](http://www.acgreens.org). And in case you were wondering about this Fall's general election, all of the registered voters, regardless of their political party status, will be eligible to vote however they'd like to this coming November.

Take action this coming week, by picking up a postage-paid Voter Registration Card — they're available for free at most libraries and post offices, or if you'd prefer to register online, save this Voter Guide as a reminder, or bookmark this website: <http://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

For revolution, register Green Party, by Independence Day!

## U.S. Senator

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problems, and restorative solutions, can be found. Elizondo states, "Legalize hemp & marijuana, grow everywhere, profit from replacing current source of paper, fossil fuel products, hydro & nuclear energy, unemployment, dirty air, food, water, a failing economy & environment." She strongly supports taxpayer money going toward employment rather than imprisonment and war, and opposes Prop 14's "Top Two Primary," restrictive ballot access laws, and the electoral college. Our endorsement reservation is that her inconsistent statements may misrepresent the Green Party's firm belief that an uncorrupted, no-corporate-money political party can help create a government with a fair tax system that can effect needed changes.

John Parker has been endorsed by the Peace and Freedom Party. He is "running to highlight and encourage the Black Lives Matter movement and build solidarity - especially for Black and Brown peoples who face the brunt of state-sanctioned murders by police. The campaign will also expose how U.S. war and the economic war of austerity and imperialist trade policies are all part of the war here against working and poor people and fuel the racist attacks on the immigrant community." He has been effective in wide-ranging arenas: he initiated a Los Angeles ballot initiative for a \$15 minimum wage, and he participated in anti-imperialist work in the Middle East and Cuba. John Parker has been a prominent member of the Workers World Party, and there are aspects of the platform that we are not inclined to endorse, such as support for the North Korean government. We strongly stand in solidarity, however, with the Black Lives Matter movement and so we present John Parker as a choice in the U.S. Senate race. More information can be found on Parker at his GoFundMe site, [www.gofundme.com/b8td5vqw](http://www.gofundme.com/b8td5vqw).

In summary, Pamela Elizondo and John Parker have long-standing commitments to very important issues, and they reveal an understanding of the interconnections among the broad range of problems we face.

Turning now to the "status quo candidates" on the ballot this year, who undoubtedly will receive almost all of the "mainstream media" coverage for this race, here is our commentary about them: just when we all believed, following a series of "top level" presidential debates, that the mainstream competition for higher office in our nation could not go any lower, and feature a group of less convincing, more mediocre candidates (partly excepting Bernie Sanders) the system has sprung the California U.S. Senate "race" on us. Reading up on the biographies and issue orientations of this group of greedy, ambitious but empty-headed "leaders" is depressing, and summing it all up is a task that is difficult to "get one's head around." The best formula to deal with this situation is to focus on the emerging "top" candidates in each of two major parties, and the key issues that they should be speaking out and fighting hard to solve. That way we can reveal why none of them are worth voting for, and encourage all of us to redouble our efforts to both build the Green alternative and engage in the mass direct action that will be fundamental if we are to save our planet and our species from the likes of such "leaders." The three fundamental issues that we the people should demand that the politically and economically powerful face and deal with are, first, the gross economic and power imbalances and injustices characteristic of our undemocratic society, resulting in millions of alienated and suffering people, a large proportion from historically excluded minority populations, but also including substantial numbers of women. A second issue is the vast military/war complex with its endlessly violent and destructive attempts to remake the world for the benefit of U.S. capitalism and its wealthy owners. Third, the ecological

crisis that develops out of the entire human-environment interaction and includes climate change, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss, chemical pollution, and impacts from profit seeking changes in land use. The dominant grow-or-die capitalist system is characterized by ecocide, it threatens the entire web of life on planet earth 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 status quo candidates on the ballot for U.S. Senate this year.

Let us start with two of the top three Republican Party candidates. Both Duf Sundheim and Tom Del Beccaro are former chairs of the California state party. Neither supports the openly fascist Donald Trump for president, rather both represent what can best be labeled the plutocratic establishment sector of their party. One surprising fact about both is that their web sites only have the very briefest and most simplistic of discussion of what they see as the issues that might inform, enlighten and convince potential voters. Each of the two focus on only five key issues. Three of these roughly overlap and play to the Republican base: the drought/water crisis, economy and taxation and foreign policy. Sundheim has a grand total of sixteen sentences to cover all of his five issues, an average of a little over three sentences each. He wants to "put children first" by which he means parental choice of schools. His foreign policy view that "leadership" is key fits into just one sentence about knowing what we stand for. The water crisis can be solved through recycling, storage and desalinization. Del Beccaro believes that a slow step-by-step approach will solve any immigration problems and that de-regulation, a freer market, technology, and a flat tax system are the keys to economic growth, prosperity and solving the water crisis. For him, overthrowing Obama's Iran deal and trust building are keys to solving foreign policy issues. The remaining better-known Republican, businessman Ron Unz, only entered the race at the last moment. Unz is perhaps best known as the sponsor of 1998's Prop. 227, which challenged California's bilingual education programs. (Although we opposed 227, it ended up being approved by the voters). He also ran for Governor in 1994, but lost in the primary to incumbent Pete Wilson. Unfortunately, as we go to press in mid-April, Unz doesn't yet have an actual campaign website. Thus far, his main motivation for being in the race is to help preserve Prop. 227, which of course is a state, and not a federal, issue. In any case, none of these Republicans are even mentioning such vital issues as inequality, militarism/war mongering and the ecological crisis that threaten California's and humanity's future.

The two leading Democrats are only a slight ("lesser evil?" "more effective evil?") improvement over the Republican offerings. Both Loretta Sanchez and Kamala Harris are establishment Democrats, but representing respectively the "moderate" and "progressive" wings of the dominant plutocratic establishment. 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 Democrat party. She did oppose the Bush II war on Iraq but votes for all war appropriations. Her lack of consciousness has created an image problem for her. This is illustrated by her attempt to hold a fundraising party at the Playboy Mansion in Holmby Hills, withdrawing the idea only after criticism from other Democrats. When told she was addressing a group of Indian Americans, she greeted them by chanting "woo woo woo woo" believing that this was the supposed "war cry" of Native Americans. She later apologized for offending the Indian American group. She also once stated that: "anywhere between 5 and 20 percent" of American Muslims favored overthrowing the U.S. to create a caliphate.

She sees seven key issues as defining her campaign for the U.S. Senate, these are: education, human rights, defense/homeland security, the economy, healthcare, veterans and immigration. Inequality, problems of militarism and war, and the ecological crisis are not mentioned as among her key concerns, and almost all of her seven issues are oriented toward helping already favored groups in society, or are lame half measures. For example, she defines "human rights" as championing "religious freedom" and "free speech" in Vietnam (Saudi Arabia and other U.S. supported dictatorships are, of course, not mentioned). This reflects the fact that her Orange County district has a large grouping of refugees from Vietnam. Her interest in the economy leaves out workers needs while stressing expanding "entrepreneurship in California." Her view of "defense" is to support the troops and vets while securing military spending to benefit her

district. Homeland security is "securing America's border." Healthcare is the so-called "Affordable Care Act" with no public option, not single payer for all. She closes with 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 completely refutes this ploy to ensnare the unaware voter.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris is the favored candidate of the Democratic 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 and power broker Willie Brown in the early 1990s. He had her appointed to obscure but high paying state jobs with easy, once a month meetings like the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and the California Medical Assistance Committee. Brown and other members of the plutocratic wing of the California Democratic Party (such as the billionaire Feinstein and the multimillionaire Pelosi) then helped Harris with jobs, endorsements and election fundraising while Brown was mayor of San Francisco. 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, during the past five years, Harris has routinely flown first class and regularly spends over \$1,000 per night in luxury hotels. In sharp contrast, her staff reportedly flies coach on Southwest Airlines and stay in cheap hotels.

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 "progressive" Democratic Party 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. Harris sees seven issues as central to her campaign. These are: civil rights; justice; environment; foreign policy; education; immigration; and "repairing the ladder of opportunity." These progressive-sounding issues are properly seen as mere words when examined more closely. A couple of examples will suffice. The environmental plank has a positive aspect in that "climate change" (not the broader and more comprehensive ecological crisis for life on earth) is at least understood as an "existential threat to humanity," and that "bold action" is needed. However, the specifics offered focus on capitalist market based non-solutions like a carbon tax and a cap-and-trade market for carbon pollution. Such "solutions" let 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 cannot be continued on our finite planet is also left out of the Harris program. These obvious and essential steps are apparently beyond "bold action" as envisioned by Harris. Similarly, the foreign policy plank consists of the usual self-promoting dogma about the U.S. being the "beacon of justice, equality, and human rights," ignoring all the central facts about the constant wars of U.S. imperialism, the mass incarceration of people of color, unending police violence in our cities, the gross inequalities of our society, as well as the support for death squads and repressive/dictatorial regimes abroad. Harris, like the other mainstream candidates for U.S. Senate are the facilitators of a higher immorality, ignoring the real issues facing the people and the planet, while focusing on typically inadequate and lame "solutions."

As Albert Einstein once stated: "We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive." Clearly, the leading Democratic and Republican party candidates do not offer such thinking. For the June primary election, vote for either Green candidate Pamela Elizondo or Peace and Freedom candidate John Thompson Parker.

### \*\* 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](mailto: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!

# U.S. Congress, State Senate, State Assembly

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

To date, Democratic Party incumbent Barbara Lee has raised \$583,870 for her primary election, not including the \$83,690 left over from her last campaign. Keeping in mind that she has never won an election with less than 80% of the vote and that she has no Democratic Party opponent, the need for such a campaign war chest becomes a curious question.

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; he is also 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. And she's also taken money from J Street PAC, a pro-Israel, Zionist organization (\$3,750 from an individual associated with the PAC and \$3,500 from the PAC) as well as Bend the Arc Jewish Action PAC.

Also donating to Lee are DTE Energy PAC, a company associated with gas piping (the fracking industry) and nuclear power: \$3,000. And Dickerson Employee Benefits, a health insurance company (\$9,800 from Jean and Carl Dickerson of Pasadena, CA: why they felt the need to donate so much money to a candidate who has never won with less than 80 percent of the vote and has no viable opponent in the primary is a bit of a mystery.) 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 \$667,560 total, she has spent \$487,744 on "Operating Expenses," which is mostly throwing parties to raise money to throw parties to raise money and \$57,115 on "Other Expenditures," which is mostly money to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and other Congresspersons running for office, including Stacey Plaskett of the US Virgin Islands, a non-voting member of Congress. Is all of this "money laundering" and acceptance of corporate money really what you want from a so-called "progressive" member of Congress?

And to top it off, Lee's only 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 Senator

*continued from page 1*

favors public financing of campaigns. If elected, he will be the only African American from northern California to serve in the State Senate in more than two decades. (If you are wondering, currently only 12 of the 40 State Senators are women). [www.sandreswanson.org](http://www.sandreswanson.org)

Nancy Skinner represented Assembly District 15, Oakland north to Hercules, for three terms, served on the Berkeley City Council from 1984-92, and on the East Bay Regional Parks District Board from 2006-08. 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 from Amazon, initiating higher income taxes on the super-rich, and removing dangerous chemicals from building materials. As chair of the Budget Committee, 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 gave detailed responses to our questionnaire, highlighting her legislative record and activism both inside the Legislature and out. 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." Skinner has outstripped everyone in the race with contributions, amassing a war chest of close to a million dollars as of January 1. She has many small individual contributors, lots of funding from the solar industry, some from labor, and (predictably) from local pro-development interests in Berkeley, and, most disturbingly, from the anti-rent control California Apartment Association. She says she will not take money from tobacco or Walmart. 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. [www.skinner4senate.com](http://www.skinner4senate.com)

There is only a little daylight between Swanson and Skinner on policy positions, and both have impressive progressive legislative records. They both support rent control, meaningful prison and police reform, single payer and rank choice voting, and oppose fracking. In terms of Sacramento politics both have represented us well, and will move a progressive agenda forward within the existing political context. The real difference may come down to principle vs. pragmatism, and when and where to draw that line. (Sound familiar?)

Katherine Welch is running on a single issue platform to be a voice for children in Sacramento by advocating for adequate funding for public education. On this she is knowledgeable and passionate. She has spent the last four years as the board chair for the parent-led all volunteer organization Educate Our State. She is a single mother with a Public Policy Degree from Duke University and an MBA from Harvard. She has the endorsement of former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin and others involved in public education. Her responses to our questionnaire on other policy issues were brief with few specifics (except where it intersects her personal experience), but lend general support for policies and a budget "that strengthens families and vulnerable communities." She has never held public office. Welch's experience as a candidate has made her more committed to campaign finance reform, stating that the system is "rigged against non-incumbents and those without wealth."

She is not a "fan" of ranked choice voting, and while she supports building more affordable housing with incentives for developers and fees to subsidize it, she did not state a position on rent control. Nearly all of her campaign contributions are from individuals, with a large percentage coming from the candidate herself. [www.welch4senate.com](http://www.welch4senate.com)

Due to an error on the Alameda County Registrar of Voters website, we did not know that San Pablo Mayor Rich Kinney was in fact going to appear on the ballot until just before our deadline, so he was not given the opportunity to fill out our questionnaire. His website has a nice little video about why he is running—he loves the Bay Area—but as we go to press, it has no policy positions or endorsers. Absent any real information on where he stands on important issues and given that he is an active member of the state Republican Party, we can see no reason for progressive voters to consider him. <http://votekinney.com>

Because all of the candidates in this race belong to one of the two corporate controlled parties, we are not able to endorse any of them. But this doesn't mean you shouldn't vote: this open seat will be one the most prominent contests on the June ballot in Northern Alameda County, and whoever wins in November will likely be there for eight years! Please visit us at <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires> to read the full responses to our questionnaire.

## State Assembly, District 15 No Endorsement

The 15th Assembly district 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."

In some cases, his 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 open meetings. At campaign stops where he does appear, he seems 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 the Richmond Progressive Alliance, 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. His thoughtful, concrete answers told us about specifically-chosen legislative events that may have made him appear more progressive than he actually is, overall. 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 AB1323 moratorium). But in 2014 and 2015, he voted AGAINST fracking: SB4 (regulations—an easy vote for him), and the failed AB669 (to protect water from fracking—a more difficult vote for him).

In 2015 Bonta supported SB277, the unpopular mandatory vaccination act—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, but that still leaves a lot of corporations from which 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, e.g., "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." She has received no endorsements as we go to press.

The 18th Assembly District 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.

 **HELP WANTED**  
...to build the Green Party!

**FOR OUR  
FALL VOTER GUIDE**

Writing  Election Analysis  
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**We've got a LOT of races and  
measures coming up for the  
November election,  
so we're definitely going to need more  
help to produce our next issue!**

**We'll be working on the Fall Voter  
Guide from July until September,  
but please contact us during  
May or June.**

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

**If you can help with any of the above tasks,  
please contact us at: (510) 644-2293 or  
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**Alameda County Superior Court***continued from page 1*

have a history of civic engagement, but the courts tend to already be heavy with former prosecutors, so they would not bring significant diversity of experience to the courts. And as long-time career prosecutors, they are not just attorneys who did it for a time to gain experience or build a resume. While there are no specific red flags for either Jackson or Lim, we are reluctant to endorse either one.

Barbara Thomas is a solo practitioner, doing both civil and criminal litigation. She states that she has been “volunteering my services working with prisoners, veterans and the homeless to help better their lives,” and her ballot description is “Victims’ Rights Attorney.” She is a former city council member in Alameda, and has been politically active there.

The nature of the legal work that Thomas has taken on indicates a more progressive orientation than the other two candidates, with more emphasis on legal work to benefit the disenfranchised. In addition, she has a significantly broader range of legal experience than Jackson or Lim while also being engaged with her community. At the same time, we are somewhat concerned that the writing on her candidate website is occasionally odd and somewhat rambling. Accordingly, we endorse Barbara Thomas, but with reservations.

**Alameda County Superior Court, Office #2: No Endorsement**

For Alameda County Superior Court Office #2 there are two candidates: Jennifer Madden and Jonathan Van Ee.

Jennifer Madden is yet another career prosecutor, having been with the Alameda County District Attorney’s office for 19 years, with a current focus on human trafficking. She does not appear to have any civil litigation experience, and she does not seem to have been particularly politically engaged, although on LinkedIn she is a member of the group “Kamala Harris for California Attorney General,” which is not a plus. She does have a record of non-governmental civic engagement, primarily with African-American attorney organizations. Again, similar to Jackson and Lim above, we are reluctant to endorse Madden.

Jonathan Van Ee worked for a series of large law firms for over seven years (this work would likely have mainly been for large corporations), and then has had his own law practice for 10 years. His current practice appears to be business-focused, serving both small and large businesses, including civil litigation. (The URL for his law practice website is <http://www.probusinessattorneys.com/>) He appears to have little or no criminal law experience.

On the ballot he identifies himself as a “Public Interest Attorney,” but outside of an interest in using technology to improve the legal system, it is not clear how much public interest work he does. Under the heading “Diversity Champion” on his campaign website, he cites to the fact that one of his best friends is African. We do not have a clear enough picture of Van Ee to endorse him.

Accordingly, we do not endorse either candidate for this office.

**Alameda County Superior Court, Office #14: Margaret Fujioka**

For Alameda County Superior Court Office #14 there is only one candidate: Margaret Fujioka.

Fujioka has a broader and less conventional background for a judge, as she has worked as an Administrative Hearing Officer, an attorney for the City of Oakland, a policy analyst for an Oakland City Council member, and she is currently the mayor of Piedmont. It is not clear how progressive she may be, but she has accumulated an overwhelming number of endorsements from a wide range of citizens, judges, attorneys and government officials, including 12 of Alameda County’s 14 mayors (not including herself) and 14 Alameda Superior Court judges. With her relatively diverse experience, dedication to public service, and overwhelming support among those who know her, we recommend a vote for Fujioka.

**Alameda County Supervisor District 4: No Endorsement District 5: No Endorsement**

Before reviewing the individual candidates, let’s first take a look at how the existing Board currently operates. All of the Supervisors have little supervision. The County government is supposedly the single largest employer within the geographic boundary of Oakland yet almost no one keeps an eye on it or even really knows what it is respon-

sible for. In reality, like most governmental bodies, it’s the appointed members who run things. In the county, it’s the county administrator. She is in charge of the bureaucracy.

The “regular” Tuesday Board of Supervisors meeting is perfunctory. Maybe it’s the “chicken-egg” thing but almost no one knows of this meeting or of the few committee meetings even exist. Agendas are supposed to be posted three days in advance. Sometimes they are as late as the day before and there have been a few meetings when it’s been posted afterwards.

This is not like Oakland’s City council. The committee meetings do not cover all of the items that appear on the full board meeting agenda. There can be over 50 main items on a given agenda and maybe a few have been discussed before the public in committee. In most situations, the people who are sitting outside the bar are department staff and people there to accept ceremonial plaques. When the meeting begins near 10:45am, one of the Supervisors will typically make a motion to wrap all of the Consent items into one bundle with the Regular items and move to pass all of them. Someone will reflexively second the motion and then they will quickly pass it unanimously. More often than not, the clerk has to interrupt the Board to remind them if there is the odd resident of the county who might want to address their representatives regarding an issue. In most situations this interruption occurs after the lightning-fast passage of the items. By far the largest amount of time is spent on the ceremonial items. On rare occasions, a Supervisor might specifically speak on an item so as to explain why they are casting a no vote or abstaining on that particular item.

So almost no one knows what goes on at the county level. It gets worse. Now those (5) elected Supervisors chose among themselves, to appoint themselves to as many as a dozen other regional agencies. And of course, almost no one knows what happens at those agencies, but of course their administrative heads will always say that “well, the board members are mostly elected officials from other jurisdictions.”

As a group, the Supervisors will always vote for regressive taxes (sales/property) whether it was the recent sales tax for (mostly) road repairs or the upcoming issues: BART, the S.F. Bay Restoration Authority, county, city, etc. As a group, they appear to give the administration whatever they want. And they never ever go against what Sheriff Ahern wants.

What we need is to dedicate people to each agency and keep a watchful eye on it. Provide agenda/info links, a brief paragraph synopsis of certain important issues, and tally the votes on a website dedicated to “our” government. The press has not and will not do it. The recent folding of the McTribune into the other Bay Area News Group papers in the area just makes an already bad situation even worse.

**District 4: No Endorsement**

Having said that, The County Board of Supervisor Race for District 4 is well under way. Incumbent Supervisor Nate Miley represents the residents of Alameda County’s Fourth Supervisor District, this diverse district includes portions of Oakland, from Montclair in the north to Oracle Arena and the Coliseum area in the south, and the communities of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, El Portal Ridge, Fairmount Terrace, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and Pleasanton. Nate Miley, the current supervisor, is now up for his 5th term, and he has a challenger this year, Bryan Parker. Although Mr.Miley has done some good things in the county we don’t feel that he has done enough to help the overall county find the money necessary to maintain and improve county services, particularly in these economically difficult times.

Bryan Parker, through his position as Port of Oakland Commissioner is no stranger to the political scene. He cites his experience in finance and development to bring new development to District 4. He really believes in the private sector and is very pro-business and pro-market. In his previous bid for Oakland Mayor he is police friendly with little to no emphasis on community policing or other efforts to transparency. He is facing a uphill battle in a District where the incumbent is firmly entrenched.

**District 5: No Endorsement**

Incumbent supervisor Keith Carson is once again running unopposed. While this time he returned his questionnaire, we’re disappointed that in several of his responses he tried to “pass the buck” regarding taking action on important issues -- specifically, opposition to the Urban Shield war games and weapons show, and the creation of a Public Bank of Alameda County. In fact this entrenched politician hasn’t shown any decipherable progressive difference since what we wrote the last time he ran, in June, 2012: “While he’s done a reasonably good job in the past, and more recently with a handful of issues such as the county’s Transportation Expenditure Plan, we feel that overall, during the past

several years he hasn’t really made use of his office to be a strong, outspoken leader for progressive change. After all, he does represent the most consistently radical part of Alameda County (Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and North and West Oakland).

A number of important county functions continue to be managed very poorly, such as Family Court and Child Protective Services. These, and also other programs, should receive regular reviews and audits so they can be overhauled to provide the highest level of quality possible.

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

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

**Alameda County Board of Education**

There are two contested board seats for the Alameda County Board of Education, Districts 2 and 3 (largely in Oakland and Alameda), while Districts 5 and 6 (in the southern part of the County) are uncontested. The two challengers filed their papers at the last moment and their understanding of the office is unclear. It should be mentioned that as we go to press, neither the Oakland Education Association nor the Oakland Justice Coalition has taken a position on these races.

**Board of Education, District 2: No Endorsement**

In District 2 (West Oakland and Alameda) incumbent Marlon McWilson is challenged by Amber Childress. We received a questionnaire response from both McWilson and Childress. McWilson is a former athlete and Oakland teacher who remained active in West Oakland (especially at McClymonds High School) and in the community. He has done consulting work and is someone self-identified as a businessman working with non-profits.

While he is known to often meet with community groups and has not been aligned with defectors such as GO Public Schools, his responses (and informal inquiries into seeking other offices) leads one to believe that he does not have a great understanding of the problems facing public education in Alameda County. His comments on charters, fiscal responsibilities, LCFF (local control funding) and general priorities do not create real confidence in his role on the County Board.

Ms. Childress clearly is better informed on fiscal matters, especially policy around LCFF. She also understands the general role of the County Board with more insight. That said, her very negative comments about the politics of of McWilson seem factional, and her endorsements by Jumoke Hodge and Sheila Jordan are matters of real concern, based on Hodge’s pro-charter views and Jordan’s insensitivity to the circumstances in Oakland. Likewise, her answers regarding charters, her critique of what has caused financial chaos in districts, especially Oakland, and her thoughts on suspensions are worrisome.

Therefore we are not recommending an endorsement in this race.

**Board of Education, District 3: Ken Berrick, with reservations**

In District 3 (East Oakland, Fruitvale and Oakland hills), the incumbent, Ken Berrick is challenged by Randy Menjivar. We know Randy from a previous race for the Peralta Board and appreciate his activism, but he has absolutely no understanding of this office in any substantial way. His opponent, Mr. Berrick has an impressive resume of work around vulnerable youth such as those involving residential services and mental health needs. His understanding of issues around LCFF, financial issues and the powers of the Board versus the County Superintendent, his priorities involving a social justice approach to suspensions and interdistrict transfers, his critical approach to charters, and his general experience leads us to call or an endorsement, albeit with reservations, for not being more outspoken about the fiscal malfeasance in Oakland and the role of the ‘defectors’ (like GO Public Schools) in dominating school politics there.

## Hayward City Council

### Hayward City Council We endorse in the following preferred order: **Al Mendall, Elisa Marquez, Francisco Zermeno, Matt McGrath, Mark Salinas, and John Taylor**

Only four seats are to be voted on, yet we have endorsed six candidates. However, we have ranked these six candidates in the order of our preference for them to be elected to the Council. So we leave it to you, the voter, to make the final decision regarding which four you will be voting for. We also note that some Greens are concerned that two years ago the City Council voted for a wage cut for City employees in order to help balance a major budget deficit (which the majority of the employees understood and were in accordance with, but a minority fraction were not.) Unfortunately, due to a glitch in our process, our questionnaire failed to poll the candidates about this subject. Hence, our evaluations and this article do not address that issue. Here are our specific comments on all ten candidates on the ballot:

**Al Mendall:** Councilman Mendall is clearly one of the strongest choices by Green Party values—he champions sustainable development, campaign finance reform, mandatory green building requirements, a climate action plan, adding more open space, protecting the shoreline, banning plastic bags and Styrofoam, installing LED streetlights citywide. He signed the City's voluntary spending limit, and was co-chair in the past of Campaign Solutions for Hayward (CA\$H), a grass roots organization that advocated for local campaign finance reform. He fully supported the bike patrol in downtown that was added in ~2012, then began advocating for a bike patrol on Tennyson Ave, which began October of 2015 and is apparently making a difference. He was a founding member of the Hayward Sustainability Committee, and is the current Chair, which implemented a number of green policies that have led Hayward to be recognized for its environmental leadership in 2015 with the Green Leadership award from the U.S. EPA and the environmental Beacon award from the CA League of Cities.

As Chair of the Sustainability Committee, he is working to implement a zero-net-energy policy for all City of Hayward municipal operations, Hayward's Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) being a successful example. He further supports community choice energy aggregation for Alameda County with strong local build-out requirements. Further, he led the effort to get all new housing developments in Hayward to include solar panels on the rooftop and EV charging stations in the garage.

He also advocates for many other policies on water conservation, improving public transit, increasing walkability in the downtown etc. Ultimately, he is clearly concerned with climate change and its effects, and says he is “committed to this cause for the sake of my children and future generations.”

We give him an unqualified thumbs up.

**Elisa Marquez:** Marquez is a current Councilmember and filled out our questionnaire thoroughly and thoughtfully. Her focus is a bit more on social issues, but she also says “We were one of the first Cities to adopt a Climate Action Plan which I helped adopt as a Planning Commissioner, the City implemented a Green Building Ordinance and adopted sustainability measures as one of our Council priorities. The City of Hayward has recently received numerous awards for our environmental stewardship. I'll continue to advocate and support for sustainability as a core component of Hayward's future. I recently voted to approve adding a sustainability section to our staff reports, that will highlight the sustainability features in new development projects.”

And as one specific thing not mentioned by others, she says she “would support funding through [Hayward's] Capital Improvement Program to support adding solar panel coverage to city owned parking lots and buildings.”

Also, she says she “would collaborate with the Hayward Chamber of Commerce to outreach to the businesses throughout Hayward with huge roofs that could support the installation of solar panels. I would also work closely with City Staff to make sure that our businesses are aware of the PACE financing program and other incentives such as leasing, and Business Renewable Energy Tax Credit.” Further, she says she has “encouraged many developers to provide the charging infrastructure in new developments.”

It's clear she already has a strong environmental record, and will continue this if re-elected.

**Francisco Zermeno:** Zermeno is a sitting council member and filled out our questionnaire very thoroughly, and in a collaborative spirit in several places actually says, “Would you like to work on this together?”

Some of his achievements and notable points:

- “This is a good time to mention trees, and having our City continue being a Tree City, as it has been for 29 years. I constantly plant them, and have planted five fruit trees at Chabot College. Hopefully the Green Party of Alameda County will help me with that endeavor.”

- “One of the reasons that Chabot College has solar paneling on its parking lot is because I encouraged our college to install them. I have also mentioned to the Southland Manager that they should explore solar paneling on its parking lot.”

- “I have always supported public transportation, and living close to work, offering my case as an example, where I normally bicycle or walk to work.”

We feel he has a strong and community-minded record and give him a fully supportive endorsement.

**Matt McGrath:** McGrath worked for the City of Hayward for 30 years, and was a member of the City's Executive team as the Director of Maintenance service, responsible for the Fleet, Facilities, Streets and Landscape divisions. He says this gives him “a unique understanding of the Hayward community and the City's origination [sic].” We found his answers to be practical, grounded, environmentally positive and future-oriented. He likely has some amount to learn to make the transition from staff to a Councilmember, but does have an intimate understanding of how things work in the city's infrastructure.

As for achievements thus far, he says he “was part of the solar project at the City's animal control building [and] prior to retiring .. was looking into carports and solar panel roofs for [the city's] facilities..” Further, he says “under my leadership we installed the 13 EV chargers in the City, 11 at the parking structure and 1 each at the corp yard and WPCF [the Water Pollution Control Facility]. I purchased the first electric vehicles in the City Fleet, and was looking into more.”

We believe he will work well with the other Councilmembers in 'greening' Hayward further.

**Mark Salinas:** Salinas was a former Hayward city councilman from 2010-2014, and thus has a good amount of experience in how the city runs. His focus is on education and economic development, but he does regard good environmental stewardship as a part of this platform as well, and he filled out our questionnaire quite thoroughly.

He says explicitly that he is

“committed to reducing greenhouse gasses and promoting cleaner and greener neighborhoods,” and otherwise covers much of the same ground as Mendall does above, but it's clear this isn't where his central interests lie, so for now we give him a thumbs up, at least.

**John Taylor:** Taylor sent a long answer back and as a former police officer, is clearly very spirited in his caring about safety in the city, and he even touched on environmental themes, but mostly in generalities, and clearly has a fair amount to learn on how these issues actually get worked out practically.

We will give him a “positive mention” but feel that the other candidates will make a stronger “green team” together at this point.

**Wynn Greich:** She had a very ambitious and highly eclectic response—though she is clearly passionate and involved in many local and wider causes, and is apparently a 'character' at the Council meetings regularly, it is not clear she would know how to pragmatically with other Councilmembers to implement many of her ambitious ideas.

**Leo Ram:** Ram's answers were very brief, but he does say he is a vegan and drives an EV—intriguing, but doesn't indicate that he knows how to work practically with others on getting things done in the city. Perhaps someone to watch in the future.

**Brian M. Schott:** Schott explicitly wrote us back, “I have decided not to seek endorsement from your organization for my run at Hayward City Council. Thank you again for your outreach efforts,” so we cannot offer any opinion.

We note that as of our press deadline there is no mention of any environmental issues on his campaign website.

**Kenneth Rollins:** Despite repeated requests by e-mail and by phone, he never returned a completed questionnaire.



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### Measure AA

*continued from page 1*

around the San Francisco Bay with flooding and storm surges. Buildings, airports, roads, and other human-built infrastructure are threatened. We need about 100,000 acres of tidal marshes to provide protection, and we were down to 40,000 acres in 1998. "It takes time to restore a tidal marsh, but restoration of marshes has been underway since then; 40,000 acres have been restored or are in the works. To help raise funds for the remaining wetland restoration we need, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority has placed a region-wide, \$12 [yearly] parcel tax on the June 7, 2016 ballot. The tax would raise \$500 million over 20 years, enough to build 20 miles of new levees and restore an estimated 15,000 acres of wetlands." (League of Women Voters Bay Area (LWVBA) newsletter, Bay Area Monitor, February/March 2016.) According to news articles, the measure is supported by Save the Bay, Audubon California, League of Women Voters Bay Area Inter-League Organization, and SPUR (SF Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association). The Sierra Club's "Yodeler" (April-May issue) has a highly favorable article urging a "Yes" vote.

The first expensive mailer appeared more than three months in advance of the election, sent by "Our Bay on the Brink." San Francisco Bay is contaminated by various pollutants, "the depletion of wetlands and marshes, crumbling levees and rising sea levels mean increased risk of disastrous flooding." This mailer doesn't mention the proposed parcel tax. According to the San Jose Mercury News (1/13/16) the "campaign is being bankrolled by Silicon Valley business leaders and Bay Area environmental groups."

We support the goals of this measure. \$12 per year does not sound like much compared to the property tax a homeowner is already paying. However, this is a regressive tax; some of the largest and most profitable companies in the world will pay the same \$12. In 2014 the Green Party of Alameda County wrote to the SFBRA proposing a progressive tax, for example, based on the square foot area of the parcel, and proposing an exemption for low-income residents. We also suggested a way the SFBRA could collect damages from companies whose pollution has harmed the Bay. We received no reply to our communication.

If the wealthy businessmen whose sprawling campuses are threatened by the rising sea level cannot persuade the voters to pay for protective measures, they will probably adopt a "fortress mentality" and pay privately to protect their investments. On balance, we recommend voting "Yes" on this measure, because we believe we are all in this together when it comes to fighting pollution and rising waters. Our reservations are based on the regressive nature of the flat parcel tax.

### Chabot-LasPositas Community College District Bond, Measure A: No Endorsement

We are not endorsing either way on this bond. Here are some reasons why: we don't think bonds are the best way to raise money for major infrastructure projects, since so much interest must be paid back on the borrowed money over time, and this one is a big one—\$950 million. Nearly a billion dollars on two local community colleges.

On the plus side: as they say in their pro-argument, more and more students are relying on community college to get the education they need to move forward into their careers, as the price of college overall continues to skyrocket. And the money will all go to infrastructure, not administrator salaries or pensions, they say.

Things we would like to see: more of an emphasis on how they plan to spend the money in environmentally sustainable ways. More solar panels on the tops of new buildings, and covering parking lots for large facilities, such as these two colleges, are never mentioned, yet are a key component of local energy generation into the future. They also say who cannot be on the board charged with spending of this bond money, but never say how it will be chosen or elected, to whom it would be accountable, how transparent in their accounting practices they would be, and whether all the minutes and accounting would be open to the public online, etc.

There are good local progressives such as Rep. Eric Swalwell and Supervisor Richard Valle who are listed as supporting this bond, while the argument against is written by the President of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association (part of which lies in the Chabot-Las Positas college district.)

Other problems: This \$950 million bond is estimated to cost the taxpayer's almost \$2 billion over time. The taxes would be repaid on the tax rates levied on taxable properties. And there is no guarantee the projects would be completed because the \$950 million is not all the funds needed. "The allocation of the bonds proceeds will be affected by the

District's receipt of State matching funds and the final costs of each project." Again the corporations slide free because of Prop 13. Of course, this has the disclaimer about this may vary on when bonds are sold, market rates, etc. Because of the very unstable political arena, we do not necessarily feel this is a good time for a bond measure.

It lists a lot of projects that are needed. One in particular stood out: "the refinancing of outstanding lease obligations." Sounds like they are borrowing money to pay on borrowed money? Why would one finance such a lease? It brings up questions about how often leases are paid—monthly/quarterly/annually? They promise fiscal accountability, and an independent oversight committee that they will appoint. However, after looking through the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District site we found a group called the Mid-Alameda County Consortium represents that Community College District. We would like more transparency. Plus, we cannot fully understand why the County Assessors in the County of Alameda and the County of Contra Costa are involved? There are too many ambiguities for such a large bond measure.

We do at the same time see that some of the projects need to be done, for example, a big one is the removal of asbestos. We did see lights mentioned with a new enhanced security system, which is good, and also it said they would "make campus building more energy efficient" but not how. Lastly, again the college district has a closed bidding process so the projects do not go to competitive bidding.

For now, we do not have enough clarity on multiple sides, and are not endorsing either way on this bond.

### Albany Measures B and E: Yes, with Reservations School Bonds

The Green Party endorses Measure B and Measure E, with reservations. These endorsements are because these measures support education via facility bonds, which is consonant with a future focus. The reservation is because of the amount of these bonds and unequal assessments due to Prop 13—and the furthering of local school funding via parcel taxes in Albany, following on the heels of Measure LL in 2014, which extended Measure I of 2009.

In the absence of reform or repeal of State Proposition 13, taxes of this sort contribute to furthering tax injustice, as they are needed to fill the gaps between many parcels true valuation and the assessment that is on the rolls, with an annual increase severely limited by Prop 13. Measures such as these also tend to benefit school districts that value education and approve them, leaving others (often lower income areas) without the benefit of this support, and this in turn relieves some of the pressure toward enacting statewide reform.

As with all Albany measures, there are senior and low-income exemptions for homeowners and a low-income rebate for renters. However, in practice few apply for these, and with many rental properties this increase in property taxes will be used as a reason to increase rents, working in the opposite direction of affordable housing. Publicity is needed to ensure that these exemption provisions reach all who are eligible.

Measure B authorizes the sale of up to \$70,000,000 in bonds of the District to finance school facilities, with an estimated total possible debt service including principal of \$148,500,000. The tax to be levied to fund this bond issue is based on estimated ASSESSED valuations at a rate of 12 cents per \$100 (\$120 per \$100,000). Again, due to Prop 13 the assessed valuation of parcels in Albany as well as throughout California vary wildly, depending on when the home was purchased, and in most cases shifting the bulk of the tax to those who purchased their properties most recently or at upswings in the market.

The list of projects to be funded by Measure B includes the following: Rebuild Marin Elementary School, Rebuild Ocean View Elementary School, Relieve Overcrowding at Albany Middle School, Additional Classrooms at Albany High School, and Necessary Capital Improvements to District Facilities and Relocate District Office, with improvements listed that include seismic and fire safety, energy efficiency, renewable energy, ADA accessibility upgrades and others.

Measure E is a companion bond to Measure B, and is similarly tied to the assessed value of properties, at a rate of 6 cents per \$100 (\$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation). It authorizes the sale of up to \$25M and the best estimate of the total debt service including principal is \$37M.

The project list for Measure E includes Relieve Overcrowding at Albany Middle School, Districtwide Technology, Equipment & Furnishings, Necessary Capital Improvements to District Facilities, and Incidental Work Authorized At All Sites (which includes removal of hazardous materials, modernization, rental of temporary classrooms, and other site preparation needs including demolition, utilities, and landscaping).

The District has convened a Sustainable Design Committee, and that group is providing community oversight and design input. Their goals include the following: More classrooms to address overcrowding; Flexible learning spaces for longevity; Safe and accessible schools - security, seismic, fire and life safety; Buildings to function as community resource (used by community as well as schools); Sustainable design - specific recommendations to be determined - daylighting, energy efficiency, and healthy buildings at a minimum.

Arguments in favor of the measures note that the student population in Albany schools has grown by 900 since 2001, and all of the sites currently feature substandard portable classrooms. Also noted is that the measures help the District qualify for a share of state matching funds. And indeed good-paying construction jobs and related expenditures will help our state economy generally.

Nonetheless, relying on local school taxes to fund facilities improvements recreates the inequities of the state's prior education funding system that was based primarily on local property taxes and resulted in vast differences in the amounts spent per pupil in wealthy vs. poor districts. These inequities were the subject of years of litigation during the 1970s and 80s, ending with the current state school funding strategy, which combines local property tax revenue with state funds in an attempt to provide roughly equal per-pupil funding across the state, and similarly uses state bond measures to fund school construction and modernization. To the extent that localities supplement state funding through local taxes, we return to a system of unequal funding in which students in poor districts typically suffer once again. Thus our reservations with these endorsements.

### Hayward Measure D: Yes Renewal of the Utility Users Tax

This measure continues a tax that was instituted in 2009 to cover a hole in the city budget for services such as police and fire protection, emergency services, youth programs to keep young people away from gangs and crime, and disaster preparedness programs. This is a straight tax and not a bond measure, which will raise about \$16 million per year, for the next 20 years, at which point it expires unless renewed then.

Most of the city leadership is fully in favor of this, as are other local government watchdogs. The money raised by the Measure is also to be reviewed yearly by an independent third-party auditing agency with the results made available to the public. Given the recent transparency and effective functioning of the government of the city of Hayward, one does expect that this will be done effectively and be made available online. Further, the city now does rely on this income for its budget, and significant services would need to be cut if it were withdrawn.

The argument against the Measure relies on two basic premises: first, that it is unfairly applied across different utilities, and second, that the salaries of individuals such as firefighters should be reined in. As to the first argument, in fact, the state mandates which of the services can be taxed, and which cannot, which then the city must abide by. (Further, proliferation of complicated utilities, such as dish versus cable TV, etc., seems to make it inevitable that it would be difficult to figure out how to tax every single utility equally.) Thus this is not a strong argument against applying the tax to the most standard utilities to raise the money for essential services.

The second argument appears on the face of it to be somewhat stronger, as a number of Hayward firefighters (four, to be exact, found from <http://transparentcalifornia.com>) have their total pay & benefits totaling over \$300k/yr. The same website shows that Fremont, a larger nearby city, has only two firefighters who make over \$300k/yr, with more firefighters employed (82 vs. 53 for Hayward). Adjacent cities Union City, Newark and San Leandro apparently have not complied with the Transparent California requests, so that analogous numbers could not be found for them.

However, it turns out that some of those firefighters make much of that extra income doing overtime fighting major wildfires such as the Rim Fire, which the State pays them for, not the city, though their reported income shows the total. Another thing is that Hayward firefighters are all highly trained, every single one being a paramedic in addition to a firefighter, so it makes sense that they are paid at slightly higher than the average rate for neighboring districts (at about the 60th percentile, by city ordinance, in fact.) Also, given all the other services that the tax raises money for, and the inherent dangerousness of the job, it seems not so unfair that those who serve in such capacity should be fairly compensated. Further, this issue about setting the level of salaries for public employees seems to be one that should be dealt with separately, and not at the point of discussing an omnibus tax for essential services.

We endorse Measure D.



## State Propositions

### Proposition 50 No Endorsement Allows Salary and Benefits to be Withheld from Suspended Legislators

In general, we believe that Prop. 50 makes sense, except for one major problem, which thereby results in us being unable to support it.

The intent of Prop. 50 is to allow the legislature to suspend the salary and benefits of a legislator. Previously, a legislator could be suspended, but there was no way to prevent them from collecting salary and benefits. When three senators were suspended in 2014 for criminal investigations, they were still collecting salaries and benefits. As it turns out in those cases, investigations found them guilty and they were terminated, while California likely lost several tens of thousands of dollars.

We believe suspension of salary and benefits would benefit the balance sheet of California and prevent legislators from getting 'paid vacations' while under suspension. A suspended representative is already prohibited from exercising duties or powers of their office. The amendment basically adds the ability for their salary and benefits to be suspended as well. We interpret the wording of the amendment to mean that would be on a case-by-case basis.

California taxpayers should not be paying legislators who are suspended from performing their duties. The PDF document "05/23/14- Senate Floor Analyses" (201320140SCA17\_Senate Floor Analyses.pdf) available at [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140SCA17](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SCA17) describes the potential savings: "This resolution may result in significant savings if a Member is subsequently suspended and his/her salary and benefits are forfeited. The current salary for a Member of the

Legislature who is in a non-leadership position is \$95,291. Per diem payments average approximately \$28,000 per year, while forfeiting other benefits will generate additional savings of several thousand dollars."

The two-thirds majority required for the enactment of a suspension is a safety measure to ensure the strength and legitimacy of the Senate's decision to suspend a member.

In the official argument against, Sen. Joel Anderson (R-38) calls Prop. 50 "taxation without representation." Suspended representatives would not receive "salary and benefits" and "shall not exercise any of the rights, privileges, duties, or powers of his or her office, or utilize any resources of the Legislature." We see the point behind "taxation without representation" made by Senator Joel Anderson and Assemblyman Brian Jones: Citizens in a suspended member's district would not have representation for legislative votes during the suspension. Yet, almost all state legislature votes are cast along party lines, so a citizen would still be "represented" by others in the same party. Plus, legislators can already be suspended under existing law, so defeating Prop. 50 wouldn't actually address the "taxation without representation" question anyway.

However, we would have preferred for this amendment to have also included language describing in more explicit detail the criteria for suspension, such as illegal activities, and prohibiting political attacks on minority party members. In the official rebuttal to the argument in favor, Jon Fleischman (CA Term Limits) and Ruth Weiss (CA Election Integrity Project) state that Prop 50 gives legislative leadership options "NOT TO EXPEL," but actually the existing law lets the legislature expel or suspend. The rest of their argument is also deceptive, as Prop. 50 is not about whether a legislator should automatically be expelled upon indictment or conviction, rather, it is only about adding the elimination of compensation if suspended.

In the official rebuttal to the argument against, James

P. Mayer (CA Forward) and Helen Hutchison (League of Women Voters of CA) make a good point that "it may not be appropriate to expel that person until all the facts are known and the case resolved."

Legislators who are indicted for major crimes should be stripped of their power, salary and benefits. There should be no 'free ride' or 'paid vacation' for suspended representatives under investigation for illegal activities. Of course, Prop. 50 should not be used to "punish members who question authority" as Sen. Joel Anderson has suggested. Has anything like this ever happened? Is that even feasible in the transparency and openness of California legislative operations? Democracy is enlivened and evolves with legitimate and reasonable dissent and fear of retribution by the legislature seems unfounded.

However, we would expect that any suspension would be terminated upon a finding of innocence following an investigation, trial, or other legal proceeding. Which now brings us to the major problem that we have with Prop. 50 —there is NOT any provision within it which requires the reinstatement of suspended legislators who have been found to be innocent, including the return of their withheld salary and benefits! Although the legislature would likely "do the right thing" in that circumstance (especially given the probability of significant media coverage of the situation), we feel that this flaw in the actual text of the measure is just too large for us to ignore: hence, we are unable to endorse Prop. 50.

To conclude, the gist of the amendment is to more thoroughly detail the procedure for initiating suspension, and to permit salary and benefits to be withheld from suspended legislators. As previously noted, the law already provides that legislators may be subject to suspension or expulsion. However, because of the problem discussed in the previous paragraph, we are split over whether Prop. 50 should be approved or defeated.

## Special Articles

### Summing Up Our Lawsuit Against Proposition 14

Many of our readers are aware of state initiative Prop. 14, and are aware that we filed a lawsuit challenging Proposition 14. We lost. We were turned down at every level from the Superior Court to the Court of Appeals and the California Supreme Court. The final blow was that the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear our case in October 2015. Prop. 14 was approved by the voters in June 2010 after its proponents ran a terribly misleading campaign. The proponents claimed this would increase voter choice (in the Primary) but its real effect was to limit voter choice in the General Election. Only the top two candidates, regardless of political party, advance to the General Election. Not every elective office is covered by Prop. 14. It applies to elections to the U.S. Congress, the State Legislature, and the statewide offices (such as Governor). The Presidential Election operates by the former rules, and is not covered under this change. Local elections are not affected, as they are non-partisan.

This is terribly unfair to the small parties, in that at the time of the General Election, when the public pays the most attention to politics, our candidates are not on the ballot. In addition, the implementing legislation that followed the passage of Prop. 14, made it much more difficult for a would-be candidate to get on the ballot. Filing fees were raised greatly, and the enabling legislation also greatly increased the number of signatures needed to avoid paying the filing fees. For example, instead of 150 signatures, it now takes 10,000 signatures or \$3000 (or a combination of the two) to get on the ballot to run for statewide office.

We put together a coalition of individual plaintiffs and the Green Party of Alameda County (GPAC), the Peace and Freedom Party, and the Libertarian Party to file the legal challenge. Michael Rubin of the GPAC was lead plaintiff, and our lawyer was Dan Siegel.

Our lawsuit was filed in Superior Court of Alameda County November 21, 2011. We faced lawyers representing the California Secretary of State, and also the proponents of Proposition 14 were allowed intervenor status in the lawsuit and their lawyers were constantly present in the court appearances.

We argued that Proposition 14 violated the civil rights of the small parties, our candidates, and the voters at large. What was shocking was the indifference of the courts at every level to the situation of the small parties, our candidates, and to the voters who might want a choice besides

the duopoly. However, we never were allowed to actually make that argument in court.

Our opponents argued that since the same rules apply to all parties and candidates, Prop. 14 was not discriminatory. We were reminded of a saying by the French political commentator, Anatole France, who remarked that both the rich and the poor had the right to sleep under bridges. Our opponents were able to make this into a procedural matter, by arguing that we didn't even have enough cause to merit a full hearing. We were reduced to arguing that point as opposed to the merits. That was the most disappointing aspect of our effort.

"Top Two" is still in effect. But one positive thing which at least partly resulted from our lawsuit is that the Democrats in the State Legislature made two important concessions to the small parties. Before Prop. 14 small parties had two ways to retain ballot status. One was keeping party registration above 1 percent of the total registration. The other was obtaining 2 percent of the vote for any statewide office in a Gubernatorial election year. The legislature passed a law lowering the 1 percent requirement to 1/3 of 1 percent in a Presidential election year, and changed the 2 percent vote test to the Primary election. Since it is highly unlikely we will be on a General Election ballot in a Gubernatorial year, this change is helpful to the small parties. However, the small parties still have to cope with the vastly increased number of signatures and/or filing fees required to get on the ballot.

Our party will persevere in running candidates even under these conditions. Thanks to all who contributed to the legal expenses.

### 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>



### Read the CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRES Online

Almost all of the candidates returned our questionnaires for the following races: State Senate, State Assembly, County Supervisor, County School Board, and Hayward City Council. 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: [acgreens.org](http://acgreens.org), and then click on the "Candidate Questionnaires" tab near the top of the page).

## Green Party County Council

*Vote for up to eleven of the twelve candidates.*

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

County Council meetings are open to the public, and are generally held the second Sunday of the month. All in attendance have full participation, including decision making. The only exception to this is if a vote is required (we attempt to reach consensus, and usually do), only elected Councilors have a vote.

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

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

### County Council Candidates

#### William Balderston

Bill Balderston is a long-time socialist and advocate for independent political action. He has in the past been part of the Labor Party Advocates, and more recently, a participant in the Elect Left network and locally, in the Oakland Alliance. He is involved in the Oakland Greens and was the Green Party candidate for state insurance commissioner in 2010.

In addition, Bill is a teacher union activist and involved in a range of labor solidarity work. He also has been active around climate change issues and immigrant rights. Lastly, he has worked on anti-war and international solidarity campaigns for many decades.

#### Dale Baum

I am a Vietnam era veteran who became active in the antiwar movement during the 1960s. While living for many years in College Station, Texas, I served as president of the Brazos Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and advocated for workers' rights by volunteering for the Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network. As a longtime Democratic Party precinct captain, I gradually realized that bold and fundamental changes that our nation needed would not be accomplished through the party. I voted in the 2012 election for presidential candidate Jill Stein. After retiring from teaching and moving to Oakland in 2014, I was appointed the following year to fill a vacancy on the County Council of the Green Party of Alameda County.

My top priorities for local political activism include the creation of affordable housing, decent jobs paying livable wages, police accountability via a citizen commission, banning coal exports from Oakland's former army base, and improving the quality of the city's public schools.

Nationwide, millions of young people have shown their disillusionment with the existing American political landscape through their participation in Bernie Sanders' campaign. The Green Party must harness their energy and enthusiasm to continue the struggle for a revolutionary change from the bottom-up.

#### Maxine Daniel

My name is Maxine H. "Mica" Daniel. I previously served five years on the County Council of Alameda County. I have served the last four years on the state Coordinating Committee, a position that I am stepping down from, effective June 30, 2016. I am running for County Council because I believe I can be more productive in promoting Green Party values at the local level. I have been active with the Green Party since 2005 even though I am a long time Green (since 1992). I was impressed with the "10 Key Values" and still believe that the Green Party is needed during these unprecedented times when big money can blatantly buy elections.

Doing my activism, I have advocated for equal rights, reproductive health care, environmental issues, medical cannabis, and a strong third party to challenge the status quo. I have struggled against racism, sexism, and domestic violence. As a black feminist lesbian I was born into the struggle.

I am a thoughtful listener, critical thinker, calm, honest and willing to do my share of the work. I ask for your vote. Thank you. Maxine H. Mica Daniel

#### Brian Donahue

Why I became a Green—I'm a blue collar American, 35 year Alameda County resident and was formerly a Democrat in the 1980s. But after President Clinton initiated NAFTA, a trade agreement highly damaging to ordinary Americans that every Republican was salivating over but none could have been successful initiating owing to its likely universal Democratic opposition, I realized that changed party, so enthralled with representing Wall Street, was no longer

interested in representing my interests, ordinary American's interests. I see the Green Party as taking up what the Democrats dropped long ago. And so, in 1993, I switched parties and now every time I venture into the voting booth, I'm helping to further my family's interests... and the interests of my fellow traveler Americans.

#### Greg Jan

I've helped coordinate much of our County Green Party work over the years, including the process for our Voter Guide endorsements, questionnaires, articles, and fundraising. I've also helped to find candidates, for both our County Council, and for our statewide candidate slate, and have helped in coordinating the placing of our County Council and statewide candidates' names onto the ballot.

From our beginnings, many Greens have consistently advocated for "political revolution," and "social democracy," and now that many people are finally becoming aware of these ideas, we need your help to insure that this momentum doesn't simply disappear after the June election. Opportunities that haven't existed for decades are now emerging—and perhaps just in the nick of time, given climate change, social injustice, and growing economic inequality.

So please "roll up your sleeves" and get involved! Whether it's registering voters, strategic planning, passing out voter guides, making phone calls, running for office, fundraising, and/or helping out with this November's voter guide, now is the time to take action! As an all-volunteer organization we need your assistance, even if it's just once every month or two—whatever you can spare. Please call us at (510) 644-2293. Thanks so much!

#### Tina Kimmel

I grew up in an active Democratic Party household, for example, my mother ran for US Congress in 1972. But the Dems and the Republicans have shifted ever-rightward in my lifetime, leaving "Main Street" more and more in the shadows of "Wall Street." So I moved my affiliation leftward to the Greens.

As a Research Scientist for the California Dept. of Public Health, I saw how important good public policy and laws are to vulnerable populations, such as children and other species. Especially since I retired, I am determined to make a difference in that policy.

I was an Election Precinct Inspector and Coordinator for the Alameda County Registrar of Voters for 20 years. Four years ago I became active in the Alameda County Greens, and two years ago I was appointed to the County Council. I have done computer database projects such as initiating the Paperless Voter Guide mailings in 2014. I have contributed in other ways to the Voter Guide and other functions for the Greens. I am happy to continue in this important work.

#### Lynette "Samsarah" Morgan-Becknell

Ms. Morgan is an Interfaith Minister and Counselor, Apprentice Midwife, Family Life Coach, Doula and Hypnotherapist. She is the founder of Nia Center for birth and family life. She is a birth and postpartum caregiver and childbirth and parenting educator, and is this year celebrating 36 years as a birth worker and trainer. She is the proud mother of five grown sons and the grandmother of three.

Samsarah is the Director of Shiprah's Circle Community Doula Program a comprehensive and full spectrum Doula support and parenting education program, which provides these services for low income and working class families.

She is a contributing writer for several online magazines, including Weight Loss Solutions 360 magazine, Every Little Thing, Birth Babies and Beyond, and Occupy Oakland Media Collective. She is the author of "The Children's Village; Musings of an Urban Nana." Her second book, "Birth: A Black Woman's Survival Guide," is scheduled to be published spring of 2016.

She is a member of the board for the Sacred Birth Angels Foundation, as well as a Founding Member of the Oakland Better Birth Foundation, and the Decolonize (Occupy) Pregnancy Birth and Parenting Caucus of Occupy Oakland, as well as KPFA Community Radio Local Station Board.

Her goal is to continue to work towards a recognition and healing of systemic racism. She wishes to provide mentorship to future Green Party members as well as to create channels that invite younger people as well as people of color to enter and participate in the Green Party in Alameda County and Oakland.

#### Michael Rubin

I am a retired state employee. I currently serve on the County Council, having been appointed in 2014. I have been a political activist since the 1960s. Many of those years were spent in the labor movement. In retirement, I remain a delegate to the Alameda Labor Council. In recent years, I have become very active in the battle against global

climate change. I am involved in System Change Not Climate Change, a national organization which argues that a successful fight against climate change requires systemic change. I am also involved in the campaign to keep Oakland from being an export terminal for Utah coal and also in the Northern California Climate Mobilization.

I believe that the dissatisfaction with the two-party system is growing. Our Green Party is going to have the chance to grow. I will work to help our party be ready for the new opportunities.

#### Phoebe Anne Sorgen

Hi! I teach piano and voice. Our paths have more likely crossed during decades of work for peace, the environment, and justice causes. As a Peace and Justice Commissioner, I was the primary force in getting Berkeley to become the 1st city to denounce corporate personhood, CAFTA, Bush's stolen 2004 election, and *Citizens United v FEC*. Hundreds of cities followed. I helped make Berkeley publicize cell phone safety guidelines despite being sued by Big Telecom.

I served on KPFA's Board. Arrested countless times for acts of conscience, I've also organized big protests, most recently against the TPP. I made Berkeley the first city to become a TPP and TTIP Free Zone and helped other cities do so. Democracy, not corporatocracy! I prioritize ending structural violence (1% v 99%) and all discrimination. Racism + sexism + antisemitism etc. = classism + divide + conquer.

I was "Outstanding Woman of Berkeley" of 2005 and a 2015 Tom Paine Courageous Spirit awardee. My achievements were joint endeavors with wonderful people and organizations (Green Party, Move to Amend, BFUU Social Justice Committee, BCA, Wellstone Club, WILPF.) Our planet is on the brink. Fortunately, Greens are playing significant roles in creating a sustainable, just world. It's an honor. Join us!

#### Pamela Spevack

For the past twelve years I have been an At Large member of the Alameda County Council and am serving on the state Campaigns and Candidates Working Group. I am now convinced more than ever that our grassroots approach and refusal to take corporate money is what will get corruption out of our political lives. Because more people are rising up for change, and examining the realities of the current system, it is an opportune time for us to grow the Green Party.

I come from a social justice background, having worked as an activist in NOW, Dyke TV; Women Organized for Employment, and currently involved in saving the environment and as a member of Older Lesbians Organized for Change. All people are welcome to our monthly Green Party topical presentations and meetings happening on the second Sunday of each month. Please Vote for any eleven of the listed candidates.

#### John Torok

Growing up in England, John Hayakawa Torok was politicized by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Greenham Common Women's Peace Encampment protests against the U.S. deployment of nuclear cruise missiles in the U.K. He has been active in Asian American matters and was most recently active with Occupy Oakland. His Cal Ethnic Studies doctoral dissertation examines Chinese immigration policy enforcement in Cold War New York Chinatown. He serves as a worksite shop steward in his state government job in San Francisco and as an SEIU Local 1000 delegate to the Alameda County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. He participates in the World Association of International Studies and the Oakland Livable Wage Assembly.

#### Laura Wells

My wish for 2016 is that the two-party system breaks up and the mass movement builds up. My wish for Alameda County is that we help make the Green Party the "electoral arm" of the mass movement. Two major breaks in this election year are that (1) presidential candidates—from Greens, as always, to Bernie and beyond—are making a point of taking no corporate money, and (2) there's an upsurge in people looking for "a new party" and for "strong third parties." Many people recognize the Green Party as the obvious choice while many others are in the evaluating mode. This year I will contribute what I can toward making the Green Party strong and welcoming. I have a long history with the Green Party as a voter registration organizer (your Green Party voter registration is more important than you realize!), and as a member of the County Council, co-editor of state and local newspapers, and candidate for state office. For my current focus areas, see NoCorporateMoney.org, my blogs at LauraWells.org and Tikkun.org/tikkundaily. Please vote for any 11 on this list of active, dedicated, cooperative candidates running for County Council. Another world is possible.

## Don Macleay, Candidate for Oakland Unified School District, District 1



**Macleay for Oakland USD Board  
People's District One 2016**  
Please send donations to P.O. Box  
20299 Oakland, CA, 94620  
FPPC # 1384267 limit \$500.00 per  
individual \$1,000.00 maximum

Don Macleay is a graduate of both Laney College and San Francisco State. He has been involved in progressive politics since he was a teenager.

Don has been volunteering in Oakland and Berkeley schools for 20 years.

Don Macleay was a machinist for 19 years, most of that time as a shop steward in the International Association of Machinists Union. In his youth he worked to organize his fellow manufacturing workers at Rehau Plastics into the CNTU. He has been a trade school teacher in Nicaragua and has taught English as a second language in China. Don Macleay's diverse background connects him with many residents. Don has lived abroad, where he learned to speak French, Spanish, Italian, German and Mandarin.

Don Macleay has two sons aged 26 and 13, both born in Oakland.

Don Macleay owns and manages a computer networking business and has lived in the Bay Area for 27 years, 15 of those years in Oakland and one year in China. As a responsible small business owner, he has been managing a business in Oakland since 2000. Don Macleay has hired workers who have been on parole and provided internships to local kids.

Don Macleay believes strongly in restorative justice and designing walkable neighborhood schools. He has first-hand experience of what works which, in turn, shapes his vision for Oakland schools.

### **Don Macleay's Whole School Philosophy**

Don Macleay supports the need for systematic change within the Oakland Unified School District for students, families and employees. We must create a more advanced and specific curriculum designed to fit the diversity found in Oakland regardless of socioeconomic status.

In order to provide all OUSD students with a well-rounded educational experience Don Macleay is determined to establish a Whole School concept in the Oakland Unified School District. The lack of whole school education in Oakland is a fundamental problem. A complete education entails healthy eating, frequent exercise, critical thinking, and play, and the citizens of Oakland owe it to their children to foster this type of environment. In addition, because many Oakland students are bilingual, it is essential to provide multilingual education programs for students; furthermore, for those students who graduate, the severe lack of art and music courses places them at a disadvantage in an ever growing world of creativity and innovation.

Don Macleay believes bilingual education should be available for any parent that wants in, and Spanish should be supported in all ways at all schools.

Advanced curriculum should include a return to the practical life skills and a return to vocational skills, such as traditional shop classes and modern technology and office employment skills such as bookkeeping.

Don Macleay specifically looks to improving schools to avoid the frequent criminalization of students in the OUSD. The current setup of the city's education system does nothing to avoid this counterproductive policy, and, in fact, is supporting the prison industrial complex by cycling Oakland youth continuously through the prison system.

**Green since 1992, Jesse Townley has been elected and reelected to the Berkeley Rent Board starting in 2008. He's been Chair of the Berkeley Rent Board since 2014.**

**Check out [TOWNLEY2016.ORG](http://TOWNLEY2016.ORG) for the latest election news and campaign information!**

***FOR A BERKELEY  
WE CAN ALL CALL HOME***

***TOWNLEY2016.ORG***

**FPPC# Pending**

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



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**Green Voter Card**  
 clip and bring with you to the polls  
 (and photocopy for your friends!)

**Federal Offices**

**President**

Darryl Cherney, William Kremi, Kent Mesplay, Sednam Moyowasifa-Curry, and Jill Stein are running in our Primary -- Please see write-up!

**U.S. Senator**

Pamela Elizondo, with reservations; or John Thompson Parker, with reservations

**U.S. Representative, 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**

Contested open seat: No Endorsement, please see write-up

**Superior Court Judge**

Office #1 -- Barbara Thomas, with reservations

Office #2 -- No endorsement, please see write-up

Office #14 -- Margaret Fujjoka

**County Supervisor**

District 4 -- No Endorsement, please see write-up

District 5 -- No Endorsement, please see write-up

**County School Board**

District 2 -- No endorsement, please see write-up

District 3 -- Ken Berrick, with reservations

**Hayward City Council --**

We endorse in the following preferred order:

Al Mendall, Elisa Marquez, Francisco Zermeno, Matt McGrath,

Mark Salinas, and John Taylor

**State Propositions**

50 -- Withholding of Suspended Legislator's Salary

No endorsement, please see write-up

**Local Measures**

A -- Chabot Las-Positas Community College Bond

-- No endorsement, please see write-up

B -- Albany School Bond -- Yes, with reservations

D -- Hayward Renewal of the Utility Users Tax -- Yes

E -- Albany School Bond -- Yes, with reservations

AA -- S. F. Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention, and Habitat Restoration Program Parcel Tax -- Yes, with reservations

**County Committee**

Green Party County Council -- See statements inside.

**Green  
 Voter Guide**

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

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

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for the thinking voter