

GREEN voter guide

Election Day: June 6, 2006

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

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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

District 2

Aimee Allison

The Green Party of Alameda County is proud to support Green Party member Aimee Allison for the Oakland City Council District 2 seat, in the June 6 primary election. Aimee's campaign is the number one priority for the county and the Oakland Greens, and we are encouraging all local Green Party members to step up and get involved in her campaign (please see info at the end of this article).

The Green Party of Alameda County supported Aimee in the special election in 2005, where Aimee placed fourth in a field of nine candidates, and the winner received less than 30 percent of the total vote. This time, Aimee is one of only three candidates, and the only progressive running, so her vote won't be split like it was last year.

Aimee's campaign is picking up momentum and excitement daily—Aimee's campaign was the first to qualify for Oakland's Matching Fund program and her impressive list of progressive endorsements far outpace both of her opponents. Aimee's endorsements include the Oakland Education Association (the teachers union), California statewide and local SEIU chapters, the Alameda County Central Labor Council, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, Oakland School Board members Dan Siegel and Greg Hodge, ACORN, United Health Care Workers and the Oakland Tenants Union.

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Proposition 81 Library Bond

YES, with bond reservations

Proposition 81 would authorize state general obligation bond money equaling \$600 million and dedicated to the renovation, construction, or property acquisition for public libraries. It would not fund ongoing operational costs of any new library facilities funded by this bond, nor buy books or library materials. Bond money could be used for capital improvements and some equipment and furnishings in existing library facilities.

35 percent of costs would come from local sources. This bond money would defray the additional 65 percent of costs. In 2000, voters passed Proposition 14, which allocated \$350 million in general obligation bond money for the construction, renovation, and property acquisition of local public libraries. That bond money has all been allocated, and there were an additional 60 projects deemed worthy of allocation, totaling about \$500 million in additional money. Proposition 81 would prioritize those 60 projects, and dedicates not more than \$300 million to them. The additional \$300 million would be open for new proposals. Also, \$25 million is set aside for collaborations/joint uses between educational institutions (school districts, community colleges, colleges/universities) and local libraries.

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U.S. SENATOR

For the first time, three Greens (all with previous experience with the party) are contesting for one of California's U.S. Senate seats. In particular, they are running to challenge the decidedly un-Green Dianne Feinstein in this November's general election.

The race against Feinstein could be a major opportunity for Greens in California to reach millions of voters with our alternative message, and perhaps to even convert many thousands of progressive Democrats and independents to our party and perspective, as our candidate publicizes the differences between Feinstein and the Green positions. However, in our write-up here, we are only providing you with a basic overview of the three candidates, as it is our practice to not make endorsements in contested Green Party primary contests (except for very unusual situations). Therefore, we strongly urge you to also review each of the candidates' websites (todd4senate.org, tianharter.org and mesplay.org) to learn more about them, in order to help us choose who will represent the Green Party this Fall in our challenge to Ms. Feinstein.

Todd Chretien for Senate

Todd Chretien calls for peace in Iraq. With 2,300 dead American soldiers, 100,000 dead Iraqis, and over \$370 billion spent, Chretien wants the troops home now. His campaign aims to win 'One Million Votes for Peace' in the senate race (the biggest vote ever for a third party peace candidate) and to register thousands of new Green Party members. His website, todd4senate.org, even features a picture of him with Cindy Sheehan.

Chretien is well known in the Bay Area for his years of leadership in protests and organizing, his campaign work for Greens and Ralph Nader, and his articles on websites like Counterpunch.org. An excerpt from a recent article he wrote illustrates Chretien's ability to inspire—"Imagine the dramatic changes that flooding our communities with education would bring—more hopeful youth, less crime, a spectacular increase in scientific interest and the arts, combating institutional racism and segregation, and showing the world that our country values children over military aggression." (*Counterpunch*, April 7—9, 2006).

Chretien has been instrumental in his efforts to end the death penalty, particularly his significant work on the 'Save Kevin Cooper' campaign in 2004, an ad campaign of signatures from notable people to save Cooper from execution. The ad ran in the *New York Times*, *San Jose Mercury News* and in France. Despite Schwarzenegger's refusal to stop the execution, Cooper won a stay of execution from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and his life was spared.

Chretien is also a strong advocate of union and health care rights, legalizing gay marriage, defending abortion rights, winning equal rights for immigrants, developing renewable energy to protect our environment and making the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, among other issues.

Todd Chretien is a 36-year-old long-time activist and member of the National Writers Union. He lives in Oakland with his three-year-old daughter, Isabela, and his wife, Jessie Muldoon, who is a public school teacher and a leader in her union. Todd believes that now is the time for the Green Party to lead the way for peace, justice and saving our planet.

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OAKLAND MAYOR

1) Ron Dellums,

with reservations

2) Nancy Nadel,

with reservations

Oakland has been treated as second-best ever since it was a good place to live while San Francisco was being rebuilt after the earthquake of 1906 and a good place to cut down redwood trees to ferry across the Bay for the rebuilding. When factories were dirty and noisy places, Oakland was a convenient place to locate them. After World War II, when real estate developers got rich building modest homes for working-class veterans, they built a lot of those homes in newly developing areas like Hayward and Fremont, not Oakland. It wasn't so long ago that the San Leandro line was where African-Americans could expect to stop finding places available for them to rent or buy. A thriving business area along Seventh Street (in West Oakland) was demolished for the BART line being built in the 1960's to whisk those Hayward and Fremont and Walnut Creek suburbanites to their jobs in downtown San Francisco.

But Oakland has also seen amazing movements of the left-out speaking up for their interests. Oakland is the home of the Black Panther Party, started in 1966. Bobby Seale's campaign for Mayor (1973) and Elaine Brown's campaigns for City Council (1973 and 1975) registered a lot of new voters and paved the way for the election of Oakland's first African-American Mayor, former Superior Court Judge Lionel Wilson, in 1977. The good news was; finally, an African-American Mayor. The bad news ever since then has been people's expectations of policies benefiting the majority of Oaklanders are disappointed as Mayor after Mayor, and City Council after City Council, hands scarce City funds to developer after developer to build whatever they decide will be profitable. Unfortunately, this resembles similar sad results in other U.S. cities as African-Americans mayors assumed responsibility while declining tax revenues during the 1980's and 1990's left them presiding over a shrinking pie.

Ron Dellums was invited to enter the race

By last summer there was a field of about ten potential candidates for Oakland Mayor, including several progressives. The front-runner was Ignacio De La Fuente who has busily raised money, close to

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Measure A Peralta Facilities Bond YES, with bond reservations

The Board of Trustees of the Peralta Community College District (College of Alameda, Berkeley City College, Laney College, and Merritt College) has put a bond measure on the June ballot. This \$390 million bond measure will provide for desperately needed improvements to the outdated and sometimes dangerous facilities at the colleges.

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The Green Party of Alameda County

The "GPAC" is one of the few County Councils that produces a Voter Guide for each election. We mail about 11,000 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 coupon on the back page 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 6:00pm. This is the regular "business" meeting of the Alameda County Green Party. We have several committees working on outreach, campaigns, local organizing. Please stay in touch by phone or email if you want to get more involved.

Ways to reach us:

County Council:

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

Website: www.acgreens.org

Email lists: To join a discussion of issues and events with other active Greens, send an email to GreenPartyofAlamedaCounty-subscribe@yahoo.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@yahoo.com

Locals:

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

Fremont - Union City - Newark Greens: greenparty_fre_uc_nwk@yahoo.com or Chuck Giese, (510) 585-6189

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party : 4th Thursdays, at 7 pm, Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park, Oakland. (1-1/2 blocks east of the Grand Lake Theater); Michael or Jan, (510) 436-3722

San Leandro/Hayward Greens: 2nd Thursday evenings , various locations — Bob Fox, (510) 562-3606

U.C. Berkeley Campus Greens : <http://www.greens.org/call/berkeley> or Christine at christine@berkeley.edu

Credits:

Our "unindicted Voter Guide co-conspirators" include: Jan Arnold, Victoria Ashley, Paul Burton (page layout wizard), Bob Fox, Jack Gerson, Chuck Giese, Greg Jan, Perrine Kelly, Khurshid Khoja, Susan King, Bob Marsh, Patti Marsh, Emily Montan, Preston Jordan, Wilson Riles, Michael Rubin, Michael-David Sasson, Susan Schacher, John Selawsky, Joan Strasser, Kate Tanaka, Sarah Zemore, and the rest of the Newsletter team!

Voter Guide Contributions

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

Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

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

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:

In cases in which we list "No endorsement," either we had unresolved differences that prevented us from agreeing on a position, or no position was warranted.

We only endorse bond measures for essential public projects that are unlikely to be funded otherwise. Our endorsement "Yes, with standard bond reservations" reflects our position that funding through bonds is more costly and therefore less fiscally responsible than a tax.

Where no recommendation appears, we did not evaluate the race or measure due to a lack of volunteers. Working on the Voter Guide is fun! Give us a call now to get signed up to help on the next edition!

A Note About Bonds, Financing Taxes and Fiscal Responsibility

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

In spite of these realities, we often endorse bonds for socially and environmentally responsible projects WITH RESERVATIONS. Why? Structural inequities in the tax system make responsible and progressive financing impossible. With the passage of taxpayer

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

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



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

In order for the Green Party to be an effective alternative, we each need to contribute money and/or volunteer time. Please send in the coupon on the back page with your donation today! And give us a call if you can volunteer your time.

Please clip the form on page 6 and mail it in today to help your Green Party grow.

Local Measures and Races

ALBANY

Measure F - YES,

with parcel tax reservations

Facility Improvement Tax

Measure G - YES,

with parcel tax reservations

Special Library Services Tax

Measures F and G are parcel tax measures. As such they are regressive, however this is partially mitigated by a low-income home owner exemption for both. Such an exemption would not obviously be available to low-income renters, however, as the property owner would pay these taxes and ultimately pass them on to the renter.

Despite the parcel tax drawbacks above, Albany has few other means for raising funds. Albany has a notoriously small sales tax base relative to other nearby East Bay communities. While Albany has taken some steps to increase this segment of the tax base, the desire is generally to move cautiously when considering retail development.

As far as the specific programs these measures will fund, Measure F is for street and storm drain repair. As pointed out in the ballot argument, the need for such measures is partially or entirely due to the state's taking an increasing portion of property taxes (which is in turn due to Proposition 13). This hits Albany particularly hard as property taxes make up a larger share of its tax base than in surrounding communities and is why Albany must resort to parcel taxes.

Measure F calls for the funds raised with the parcel tax to be used for ongoing repairs rather than funding a bond. This seems more fiscally prudent than the predominant trend of using bonds to put off infrastructure payments.

Measure G will fund increased Albany library services and hours. It is difficult to think of a more sustainable government service. Libraries save the production of numerous additional books and thus save considerable resources. In addition, the ballot argument notes that usage of the Albany library has increased 40 percent in ten years. This is positive news in these times, and this usage should be supported so that it can increase further.

Although we dislike the regressive nature of parcel taxes, the projects and programs that Measures F and G would fund are important and worthwhile. We therefore endorse both of them, with "parcel tax reservations."

Measure H - YES

Charter Amendment:

Terms for Appointees

Measure H changes the committee and commission appointments from concurrent with the term of the council member to a fixed term of two years. Council members are elected to four year terms. Committee and commission members could be appointed and removed at will by Council members in the past. Several years ago a Council member decided to remove all her appointees mid-term and make new appointments. This led to consternation among the pool of citizen volunteers who typically fill these appointments and led to a successful ballot initiative to disallow removal of appointees without significant cause. The current measure seeks to shorten the duration of appointment while still providing removal for just cause.

Limiting Council members' ability to remove their appointees obviously reduces the Council members' power and is essentially undemocratic. The Council member is the elected official and should be able remove appointees at will. They will be penalized at the ballot box if the electorate views a particular Council members' use of this power as capricious. While Measure H does not fully restore this power, it provides the Council members with more flexibility which should be their prerogative by dint of having been elected. Vote Yes on Measure H.

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Dist. 2 - Aimee Allison

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Of course, Aimee has the strong support of the Green Party at all levels, and is supported by Berkeley City Councilwoman Dona Spring, former President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Matt Gonzalez, current S.F. Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, Richmond City Councilwoman Gayle McLaughlin, Berkeley School Board member John Selawsky, and former Oakland City Council member Wilson Riles, among other current and former elected leadership.

Aimee is right on the issues that matter to Oakland. She will take the lead in protecting the city from out of control development and ensure that all new development projects directly benefit Oakland residents. Aimee will push to leverage Oakland's resources, especially the Port of Oakland, to generate revenue to support vital city services. She will work with affordable housing advocates to ensure that the housing needs of Oakland's most vulnerable populations are met and fight to stop the gentrification that threatens Oakland's rich diversity. Aimee understands that the best way to address crime and violence is to meet the underlying needs of our young residents and provide real alternatives to our youth. As a mother, former teacher and activist, Aimee will put working families at the top of her agenda at City Hall.

Of course, we need the support of all Greens in Alameda County to help ensure that Aimee gets elected this June. The campaign office, located at 3208 Grand Ave. (next to the historic Grand Lake Theater), bustles with activity daily: precinct walking (Sunday thru Thursday evenings), phone outreach (Monday thru Thursday), and weekend visibility throughout the district on weekends. The county and Oakland Green Parties – as well as activists from other Bay Area Green

Party chapters — are well represented among the many volunteers involved in Aimee's campaign.

As a Green candidate, Aimee refuses funding from corporations and developers, which means that every dollar that you can give really matters. Fortunately, Oakland offers a matching fund program, which matches every Oakland donation dollar for dollar, up to \$100, so your gift is doubled if you are an Oakland donor.

To find out more about Aimee's campaign, or to get involved, please go to her website: www.aimeeallison.org, stop by the headquarters 3208 Grand Ave, or call the campaign: 510-277-0812

City Council, District 4 No endorsement

Jean Quan is running unopposed for another term representing District 4. Her answers to our questionnaire were not bad, considering that she represents the most "mainstream" part of town. For example, Ms. Quan opposes the State trusteeship over Oakland's public schools, and wants local control returned to the school board as soon as possible. (She formerly served on the School Board.) She supports an inclusionary housing policy (to mandate developers to provide some housing for the low-income). Her approach to police issues is carefully balanced—community policing, more officers on the street, and also youth violence prevention and intervention programs as provided in Measure Y. She generally supports Instant Runoff Voting.

But on the whole, her answers were tepid and uninspiring. She might be in favor of a minimum wage in Oakland (that is, higher than the State minimum wage) such as San Francisco passed, if supported by a study. Considering the large number of "work-

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Aimee Allison
DISTRICT 2
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Oakland City Offices

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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ing poor” people in Oakland, this is not good enough. We asked an open-ended question on the environment (“What do you see as environmental problems to be addressed in Oakland?”). Ms. Quan’s response shows enthusiasm for the City’s parks, storm drains, and creek restoration, and, in keeping with her hills District’s special vulnerability to wildfire, she recognizes the need for vegetation management planning. Ms. Quan does acknowledge there’s a lot of work needed to meet the Zero Waste goals and to expand green building. She did not mention problems of toxics or global warming. Ms. Quan’s approach to environmental issues seems to be “think locally, act locally.”

Unfortunately, Ms. Quan is more of a follower than a leader on the Council. For now, we accept that she will be reelected without our endorsement.

City Council, District 6 No endorsement

Desley Brooks, the incumbent, was elected to the City Council in 2002. Before that, she served as Chief of Staff to Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson. We endorsed her in 2002, as the then-incumbent had little to recommend him, and we felt that Ms. Brooks had the progressive outlook, training, and background to be an excellent Council member. Sadly, during her first term on the Council, she has shown herself to be somewhat too pro-business and somewhat too anti-union for further endorsement. Her answers to our questionnaire show little wish to make demands on business. When the Council voted to block a proposed WalMart superstore (that is, a WalMart that includes a substantial grocery section), Ms. Brooks voted on the WalMart side.

Her answers to our questions about the Oakland Police Department also showed a puzzling lack of criticism of police misconduct. She worded her answers as if the problems of the OPD were a problem of perception. Our members who have been following these issues are convinced that police misconduct is a serious and ongoing problem and not just an issue of “perception.” Her responses are puzzling because we remember her opposition to the criminalization of “sideshow” spectators. At the time of that heated debate, Ms. Brooks stood strongly for finding alternative venues for “sideshow” participants and against the “law and order” mood of the majority of the Council.

Similarly, our members who are Oakland teachers are struggling to end the State-imposed dictatorship, but Ms. Brooks sits on the fence, saying “for many Oaklanders the jury is still out as to the State Superintendent’s performance and public support for return of local governance has become less vocal.” We are looking for a Councilmember who will lead, not take opinion polls to decide what she thinks of democratic local control of the schools.

Unfortunately, neither of Ms. Brooks’ challengers seem to be up to the task. Marcie Hodge is the weaker challenger and we urge Oakland Greens NOT to vote for Ms. Hodge. Some of her answers were in line with our values; for example, she is generally supportive of Instant Runoff Voting and a higher minimum wage. But her reason for running (“To improve conditions for the residents of Oakland”) is an example of several non-answers she submitted to us. (She gave similarly brief and casual answers to the Labor Council’s questionnaire.) There are reports that Ms. Hodge is running with the support of Ignacio De La Fuente, who probably finds Ms. Brooks too independent-minded for his convenience. Like Ms. Brooks, Ms. Hodge has no criticism of police behavior, and sees police problems with the community as a relationship problem.

The other challenger, Nancy Sidebotham, has run

several times for this seat. She gave good answers to several questions, on campaign finance reform, Instant Runoff Voting, same-sex marriage, and charging developers fees (to fund services) as is done in other cities and suburbs in the Bay Area. She shows that she understands the problem of “redevelopment” diverting funds from general Oakland needs. But she accepts business on the big-box (Emeryville) model and thinks property taxes are too high. She is concerned about air pollution but loves the Port and trucking despite that. She “fully supports” the Oakland Police Department and seems insensitive to police misconduct issues. All in all, we do not see her as potentially an improvement over Ms. Brooks.

School Board, District 2 No endorsement

Incumbent David Kakishiba is running for reelection unopposed. Like most of his school board colleagues (with the notable exceptions of Dan Siegel and, to some extent, Greg Hodge), Kakishiba has been nearly invisible during the 3-year regime of State Administrator Randolph Ward.

School Board, District 4 No endorsement

Incumbent Gary Yee is running for reelection unopposed. If anything, Yee has been more docile than District 2 Board member David Kakishiba.

School Board, District 6 Chris Dobbins

Chris Dobbins, a third-generation Oaklander and an Oakland native, is also an Oakland public school teacher. He received most of his education through our local public schools (Carl Munck Elementary, Montera Jr. High, and Skyline High School, all in Oakland; U.C. Berkeley, B.A.; and CSU Hayward, Single Subject Teaching Credential) — he also earned a J.D. and M.B.A. from Golden Gate University. He is endorsed by the Oakland Education Association and by outgoing incumbent School Board member Dan Siegel.

Although Dobbins appears to put too much faith in school—business “partnerships,” he has expressed opposition to State Administrator Randolph Ward’s regime and promised to support a fair contract for OEA. He seems to be strongly motivated to devote his energies to helping Oakland schools, even citing a “golden time” that once existed in Oakland, when its public schools were so sought after by students that parents used to put down false addresses on their documents in order to get their children into Oakland’s public schools! His opponent, Wandra Boyd, is a long-time vocal opponent of teachers and teacher unions. Vote for Dobbins.

Measure B No endorsement School Bond

State Administrator Ward has placed a \$435 million bond measure on the ballot to pay for school building improvements and construction. Before it will endorse the measure, the Oakland Education Association (OEA), which represents Oakland’s classroom teachers, wants guarantees from Ward that he will make more money available to students, teachers, and educational programs—specifically more money from Measure E, which was supposed to be used for these purposes. Without such guarantees from State Administrator Ward, the OEA cannot recommend a “Yes” vote on this measure. As the Green Party Voter Guide goes to press, the Oakland teachers have not yet received the assurances they seek. We agree with their concerns and stand in solidarity with their struggles. Therefore, we cannot recommend a “Yes” vote on this measure.

OAKLAND MAYOR

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\$400,000 by now (more than he can legally spend in this race), from every developer and friend of Don Perata on both sides of the Bay. A coalition of business leaders and social-justice activists of all ethnic backgrounds, including well-known Greens, collected thousands of petition signatures urging Dellums to enter the race. When he agreed to do so, he became the instant front-runner and many Oaklanders felt their expectations rising for the first time in years. (Several candidates dropped out of the race in favor of Dellums or because they saw no chance to win this time.)

Why the Green Party endorses Ron Dellums as first choice (with reservations)

Greens supporting Dellums see him as a man who “thinks globally and acts locally,” a man of vision. Dellums is campaigning for Oakland to become a “safe, sustainable, healthy 21st century model city.” Dellums intends to address the serious issues—poverty, education, health care, housing, maintaining diversity. Greens who support him believe that Dellums is seriously and sincerely concerned about the many young people in Oakland—disproportionately low-income Black males—who are dumped by “the system” and too often find their way into state prison or an early death. Dellums plans to “bring together Oakland’s enormous talent, expertise, and goodwill” and he pledges to “embrace the diversity which is Oakland’s strength and future and ensure that no one, particularly our youth, feels unheard, uninvolved or locked out.”

There are some criticisms of Dellums on specific issues and some Greens who feel that we want to maintain the independence of the Green Party by not endorsing Democrats, even in local nonpartisan races. Also, it’s easier to make promises than to carry them out, as Oaklanders have seen in the past. But even some Greens who do not want to endorse Dellums are looking forward to joining in the major collective effort he is planning to involve hundreds of Oaklanders in working to improve Oakland.

Why the Green Party endorses Nancy Nadel as second choice (with reservations)

We see Nadel as the City Councilmember who has most consistently worked for the interests of the left-out people of Oakland during her three terms on the City Council. For example, Nadel spearheaded a ballot measure to raise taxes in order to fund programs nurturing the young people whose backgrounds put them “at risk” of school failure and criminal behavior. Her proposal emphasized prevention and early intervention over funding for more police, and lost narrowly. The measure was then rewritten to emphasize more police but still contained money for crime prevention programs. Although we did not support the second measure (“Measure Y”), which passed, it’s a good illustration of Nadel’s continuing efforts to find ways to get what little she can for those in need. Nadel stayed in the race even after Dellums entered it because of her detailed knowledge of Oakland’s city government and the wish to offer voters the chance to elect Oakland’s first woman Mayor. Many Oakland Greens have worked with Nadel over the years on various issues and we hope to continue to do so. Some specific criticisms coupled with the wish by some Greens to remain independent of Democrats added up to an endorsement of Nadel “with reservations.”

Why the Green Party does not support Ignacio De La Fuente

At this writing, the first glossy mailer has arrived, and it features De La Fuente’s supporters—(Oakland Mayor) Jerry Brown and (San Francisco Mayor) Gavin Newsom. During Jerry Brown’s eight years as Mayor, the most visible expression of “business as usual” in Oakland has been a building boom, mainly in “market-rate” (expensive) housing. Of course, all this ex-

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Oakland, Peralta Comm College, Statewide Offices

OAKLAND

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pensive housing exerts pressure on rents, and the general opinion is that thousands of lower-income people have been forced out of town by rising rents while moderate-income people leave town in search of affordable homes to buy. Jerry Brown has been openly contemptuous of the problems of low-income tenants. Those of us who love Oakland's racial and economic diversity are in danger of seeing Oakland run for the benefit of those who may be enticed to move here because we are convenient commuting distance from San Francisco. De La Fuente has adapted to the Jerry Brown ethic of "the business of Oakland is business." Of course he promises to improve Oakland's schools, reduce crime, and "continue the economic revitalization efforts" which seem to consist of saying "yes" to any and all developers.

De La Fuente is also completely in sync with Mayor Brown on issues of crime and policing—they see the crime problem as a few thousand bad individuals, and the sooner they are shipped off to state prison the better. De La Fuente has gathered a few endorsements from unions for whom he has made arrangements, and to that degree, his union background still shows. But favors for a few unions is not enough.

Three other candidates entered the race...

At the last minute, three additional candidates entered the race; perennial candidate Hector Reyna, Arnie Fields, and Ronald Oznowicz. None of them say anything compelling our attention.

City Auditor

No endorsement

Has the incumbent Auditor, Roland Smith, created a hostile workplace for his staff, or is he being targeted because of the aggressive audits that he's pursued? According to newspaper accounts, an investigation conducted by a private law firm found that he was indeed creating a hostile work environment, including verbal abuse, retaliation against complainers, and derogatory statements about women and Asian employees. Consequently, city officials essentially shut Smith's office down in January, cutting his staff to just two members.

However, some city officials believe Smith is "being targeted because of his aggressive audits and difficult personality." For example, the incumbent has criticized favored deals and projects, and he was able to get an investigation of overtime spending in the Oakland Police Department by the Alameda County Grand Jury. Smith himself replies that the allegations are "distortions and fabrications," and he says that he is frustrated that he cannot respond due to laws requiring confidentiality for personnel matters.

Unfortunately though, because of a shortage of volunteer time, we were not able to determine the truth about these various accusations. Smith and all three of his opponents did respond to our questionnaire. Most of the incumbent's answers were rather vague and lacking in specifics, especially about his priorities for the city. That's quite surprising given that he has been in office for almost 8 years, since 1998. Challenger Courtney Ruby spoke well of the incumbent and seemed to be offering the same or similar priorities as Smith, but we did not find any strong reasons to support her campaign.

Michael Kilian worked under Smith and alleged that there has been a high turnover due to Smith's lack of leadership. Yet his priorities are also very similar to Smith's. He promises to bring civility and rebuild the staff. But as Deputy Chief Auditor, he could have already done much of this. And Stewart Bollinger, who has plenty of government experience, did not demonstrate much political know-how. Although his answers were in standard professional auditor language (which is not necessarily negative), his depth

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GOVERNOR

Peter Camejo

Peter Miguel Camejo may be a familiar name to Californians for his campaign for Governor in 2002, unprecedented participation in the California gubernatorial debates of the 2003 recall election, and his anti-war run with Ralph Nader in the 2004 presidential election. A first generation Venezuelan-American, Camejo has a long history of work for social and environmental justice. He has marched in Selma, Alabama with Martin Luther King, worked to defend the rights of Latino workers in the U.S., fought to free political prisoners in Latin America and was active against the war in Vietnam, among many other actions. Today, Camejo's message of Green values and dysfunction of the political duopoly inspires many through his participation in debates, protests and open challenges to current politicians.

Camejo underscores the fact that California's budget crisis exists only because of tax cuts for the rich and corporations. "Today," Camejo says, "the poorest Californians pay a tax rate 57 percent higher than millionaires . . . People are becoming fed up with the needless war, unfair taxes, global warming, the decline of our schools, violations of civil liberties, the death penalty, three strikes . . . The two corporate parties' answer is to beat up on immigrants and promote wars over oil. I believe our slogan, 'One Million Votes for Peace,' is realistic."

Camejo's 5-point plan, described on his website votecamejo.com, would increase revenues for the state by \$32 billion per year. First, a fair tax would be established in which the richest 5 percent pay the same rate as the poorest 20 percent pay. Second, single payer universal health care would be brought to California. Third, Camejo would raise the minimum wage to what it was in 1968, \$9.40. Fourth, he would return corporate taxes to what they were 20 years ago. And last, tax fraud and tax loopholes for the rich would be brought to an end.

With the extra \$32 billion a year added to the budget in Camejo's plan, he believes we could engage many creative improvements, such as launching a crash program for alternative energy with a state subsidy to make these alternatives market driven, cutting taxes on the bottom 60 percent of California residents and shifting our allocation of funding for teachers to what it was 50 years ago—over 50 percent of our budget—among other ideas.

This governor's term will last from 2007 to 2011. California voters must ask if we can continue to afford to be governed by Arnold Schwarzenegger until 2011. We think Peter Camejo is a much better option, and strongly support a vote for Peter Camejo for Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Donna Warren

Donna Warren is a native of South Central Los Angeles who, for the last fourteen years, has supported human rights and social justice struggles in Los Angeles starting with Mothers ROC (Mothers Reclaiming Our Children) and continuing with her 10-year association with Families to Amend California's Three Strikes (FACTS).

In 2002, she garnered over 400,000 votes as the Green Party's candidate for Lt. Governor with Peter Camejo. In 1998, Donna was the lead plaintiff in the class action lawsuit against the CIA and the Department of Justice for their part in 'allowing' the infestation of South Central with crack cocaine. Recently Donna sat on the board of the Pacifica National Board, serving as the secretary to the board in 2005.

As Lt. Governor, Donna will be a real leader in California's Senate and fight to amend Three Strikes to violent felonies only, end the death penalty, fund

schools (not prisons and corporations), ensure healthcare for all, lower college fees, stop the 50 percent high school drop-out rate and register inmates to vote.

Donna retired from the Department of Defense in June 1996 and is a Certified Government Financial Manager. She has a daughter and a son (who was killed by the drug wars), and 3 grandchildren. We strongly support a vote for Donna Warren for Lt Governor.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Forrest Hill

Forrest Hill is running for Secretary of State of California because our democracy is in a crisis. He notes that voter turnout is among the lowest in the western world and describes the new paperless voting machines as a part of a 'Faith-Based Democracy.' "The fact that nobody can verify the count," Hill says, "together with the fact that touch-screen programming is trade secret software, creates secret vote counting." Indeed, one of the most important issues for the California Secretary of State in recent years has been electronic voting. For example, in 2003, California election officials discovered, after the election, that Diebold Election Systems had run uncertified software in 17 counties in California.

To solve these and other problems, Hill believes that California's electoral system needs a complete overhaul, not bandages. He emphasizes three main reforms he would enact as Secretary of State (described on his website, voteforrest.org)—public financing of elections, instant runoff elections and proportional representation. Proportional representation means that each political party has a percentage of representation in the legislature, rather than zero representation if they do not win the election. Hill states, "Under our current winner-take-all system, if 49 percent of the citizens in a legislative district vote for the party of their choice, they get zero percent representation." Proportional representation can change that.

Hill is also a defender of immigrant rights, among other issues. "It is a well know fact that California's economy depends on undocumented workers from Latin American, Asia and the Philippines. Yet, politicians in Sacramento and Washington want to keep them in an apartheid-like status by using fear tactics to keep them in check," he writes. "This is hardly the stance of an enlightened and compassionate country, especially a country that was founded on immigration."

Forrest Hill is a research scientist with a doctorate from MIT, financial advisor, electoral reform activist and environmentalist. He has been a technical advisor for several government agencies including the California Department of Fish and Game and the Sonoma County Water Agency, and currently specializes in Socially Responsible Investing using investments for economic, social, and environmental transformation. While working as a research scientist at UC Davis, Hill worked with the Davis Human Rights Commission to pass a resolution opposing the USA PATRIOT Act and authored a resolution opposing the war in Iraq that was adopted by the Davis City Council in 2003. He also founded the UC Davis Green Party, one of the largest campus Green Party chapters in the country.

We strongly support a vote for Forrest Hill for Secretary of State.

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Statewide Offices

STATEWIDE OFFICES

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CONTROLLER Laura Wells

Laura Wells knows that there are solutions to the problems we face in California. She believes that our task is to derail the centralization of wealth and power and help empower people to change the system, particularly the electoral and tax systems. Wells notes on her website, laurawells.org, that the State Controller is a member of the tax boards of the state and thus holds an important position to bring about needed reforms. Three questions she suggests we should ask when we consider how public work is financed with our tax dollars are: "Do people benefit, or corporations? Do we pay now, or do our children pay later? And, do regular people benefit, or just the extremely wealthy?"

Wells also points to vital changes that she sees are gaining momentum on both the state and local levels, such as ranked choice (instant runoff) voting and public campaign finance. "With these systemic changes," Wells says, "there is hope that other solutions will be implemented." Through travels outside the US doing political research, Wells has examined what the solutions can look like: "In Venezuela I saw how the Chavez government empowered citizens," she states, "and in Ottawa, Canada, I learned how citizen councils create city budgets, regional development plans, and electoral reform ballot initiatives." And in 2006 Wells returned to Venezuela to attend the 6th World Social Forum.

One area she has paid special attention to has been Prop 13, promoted in 1978 to California voters as a way to reduce taxes and keep fixed-income seniors from losing their homes. But since then, as Wells points out, "the bulk of the 'tax relief' goes places the voters never intended: giant corporations." This is partly due to the fact that corporate properties are rarely re-assessed, and corporations don't die and rarely sell. "Until we change Proposition 13," Wells says, "so that it benefits people and local communities, not giant corporations, we are stuck with measures and propositions that are financed by bonds, which benefit the extremely wealthy, and are paid for later by our children."

With over 17 years experience in financial systems, eight years in nonprofit fundraising and administration, and the highest Green Party of California vote total in history during her 2002 candidacy for State Controller, we strongly recommend a vote for Laura Wells for Controller in 2006.

TREASURER Mehul Thakker

As a second generation South Asian American whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from India in 1969, Mehul Thakker is passionate about securing economic justice for low income and minority groups in the U.S. He strives to educate on using the power of investment to create positive social change both locally and globally. Thakker stresses the need to balance the scales of economic and social justice by managing California's investments to benefit all the citizens of California, not just financially, but also socially and environmentally.

Thakker's strong Green values are reflected in his priorities as California State Treasurer - shifting greater state investment into community development, affordable housing, community banks, and microloan funds to help people living in poverty. He will also focus on implementing renewable energy revenue projects to fund public schools and increase teacher pay. In fact, he believes that the treasurer can have a significant role to play in making California a center of the 'Renewable Energy Revolution' by using creative "public benefit-private finance" relationships so that concentrated solar power, wind farms, and other forms of large-scale renewable energy can generate jobs and money to balance the state budget and produce a cleaner environment for California.

Thakker has years of experience in the areas of environmental protection, high technology, Internet software, and financial services. He is currently an investment advisor in Oakland with a focus on socially responsible investment and community development. Thakker has also served as treasurer of NetIP-SFBA (Network of Indian Professionals), holds a B.S. in Business Administration, and is active in the movement for shareholder rights and corporate social responsibility.

Importantly, Mehul Thakker's website (votethakker.com) states, "I am the only candidate for Treasurer not accepting donations from Corporations, because I want to ensure Independence for the Treasury, and a focus on putting People First." We strongly recommend a vote for Mehul Thakker for State Treasurer. [This is not true; what about P&F candidate??]

ATTORNEY GENERAL Michael Wyman

Michael S. Wyman's candidate statement for the California Voter guide gets right to the point:

"Most Californians prefer life imprisonment without parole to the death penalty. Most Californians oppose lengthy prison sentences for non-violent offenders. Most Californians agree that the War on Drugs has been a complete failure. Most Californians think that their police have better things to do than arrest the terminally ill for using medical marijuana. Most Californians don't believe they should be spied upon by their own government. I agree with them."

The Attorney General in California has a role in core civil and human rights issues, such as the recent huge demonstrations for immigrant rights and the ability of the state to continue to execute people following the blocked execution of Michael Morales in February of this year.

The good news is that Michael Wyman has a Green Program for reforms in California. He focuses on three areas: to end crowding in the prison systems, to achieve equal rights for all Californians, and to defend the state from threats foreign and domestic, as outlined on at his website, votewyman.org. He believes that justice can be put back in the justice system by enforcing laws humanely and challenging those laws that deny Californian's their rights.

Wyman would end crowding in the prison systems by making some key reforms: ending the death penalty, ending the drug war, decriminalizing adult drug use, reforming Three Strikes and ending lockup for non-violent offenders while protecting citizens from violent offenders. He also stresses equal rights for all Californians, such as ending the war on immigrants, supporting same-sex marriage and protecting citizens from corporations and corporate crime, among other topics. Finally, Wyman calls for defending California from threats both foreign and domestic, such as ending the war at home and abroad, abolishing the Patriot Act, and preserving our constitutional rights.

Wyman is currently a member of the board of directors a socially responsible investing firm in Oakland and is also a member of the board of directors of Voice of the Environment, a public charity based in Marin County. We strongly support a vote for Michael Wyman for Attorney General of California.

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Oakland City Auditor

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of understanding of Oakland politics and how his role would be intertwined with the City Council and Mayor's Office we found to be severely lacking. He also has no shining progressive endorsements.

Hopefully others who have more resources will be able to shed a clearer light on this very unusual race. If you have a moment, try contacting your favorite local progressive news source and ask them if they could cover this race. The auditor's office should be a strong, independent check on local governmental operations, but at the same time, the Auditor must be capable of adequately managing and leading their staff. Unfortunately, between the four candidates, we don't have adequate information to make a choice right now.

Green Party of Alameda County
2022 Blake Street, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94704-2604
(510) 644-2293 • <http://greens.org/california/alameda>

Name: _____
Phone (h): _____ Phone (w): _____
Address: _____
City/ZIP: _____
email address: _____

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

Credit card #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

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

If you'd like to volunteer your time, check here and we'll contact you.
There's much to do, and everyone's skills can be put to use.
State law requires that we report contributor's:

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Thanks for your contribution of:

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

Statewide Offices, Propositions

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER Larry Cafiero

Larry Cafiero, Green candidate for Insurance Commissioner in 2006, is a candidate with a mission. "Many people ask how regulating the insurance industry is a 'green' issue, and my reply is that there are many consumer and health care issues tied to the industry that are being ignored by the major parties," Cafiero says. "For this reason, having a Green candidate is imperative to advocate for these consumer and health care issues in a race where the major-party candidates would virtually ignore."

Cafiero's website, votecafiero.com, describes a disturbing problem with the current system - the leading Democratic candidate for Insurance Commissioner, former Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante, has already received over \$120,000 in campaign donations from insurance companies. Cafiero notes that "the Insurance Commissioner's race outlines a facet of state politics that is in dire need of change . . . When the Green Party takes no corporate donations, it ensures that the people, not the corporate interests, are represented in Sacramento." The current Insurance Commissioner is John Garamendi, a Democrat who is now seeking the position of Lt. Governor.

Cafiero's primary issues include the following: a true working reform of Workers' Compensation Insurance that serves the injured worker instead of lining the pockets of the insurance industry; making the Insurance Commissioner's office one of a consumer advocate rather than an industry "rubber stamp;" advocacy of, and implementation of, the Single Payer Health Care Bill which appears likely to pass in the legislature this year; stopping the insurance industry's "representation without taxation" and provide that they pay their fair share of taxes; expand the state's low-cost auto insurance for low-income drivers from the handful of counties to all California counties; and expand the scope of the California Organized Investment Network (COIN) to include economic development in depressed areas.

Cafiero is 48 years old and currently serves as a county council member for the Green Party of Santa Cruz County as well as the Liaison to the Secretary of State's office for the Green Party of California. We strongly recommend a vote for Larry Cafiero for Insurance Commissioner of California.

Peralta Comm. College Dist. Measure A

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This new bond measure is under Prop. 39 rules, requiring approval of 55 percent of the voters, and permitting that funds raised can be used for "construction, major rehab or replacement, including furnishing buildings, acquiring equipment or leases of real property." The bond measure would assess about \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) to a property owner's tax bill. It would also require an oversight committee at each college composed of all the major stakeholder groups — students, faculty, administrators, classified staff, and others.

Peralta's measure E, passed in 2000, was under prior rules of Prop. 13, which required a 2/3 majority and limited expenditures to capital construction only. Of the \$153 million in Measure E, a little more than \$22 million remains uncommitted.

The Peralta Federation of Teachers supports this bond measure to assure that students receive the quality educational experience they deserve. Although we have standing concerns about the use of bond financing (please see our article on page 2, "A Note About Bonds, Financing, Taxes and Fiscal Responsibility"), we concur, and urge you to vote "Yes" on Measure A.

STATE SUPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Sarah Knopp

Jack O'Connell is the Democratic incumbent seeking a second term. As state senator he was the author of the bill that authorized and created the current high school exit exam. His term as State Superintendent of Instruction has not been marked with anything that distinguishes him from any other current state politician. The California Labor Federation's COPE convention in Oakland (in March) declined to endorse O'Connell for re-election. The primary reason for the withholding of support was O'Connell's continued support of Randolph Ward, the state-imposed trustee of the Oakland Unified School District, and his anti-union policies. Not only did O'Connell issue a letter supporting Ward against the union and the findings of the State Mediation Service's fact-finding memo, but in response to a question from a Teamster official about "replacement workers" (scabs), O'Connell responded, "You mean substitutes. They're just substitutes."

Sarah Knopp is running for this position as a Green, though technically under state election law it is classified as a non-partisan seat. Sarah Knopp is a high school teacher at Youth Opportunities Unlimited Alternative High School in Los Angeles, California. This is her seventh year teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She is a member of United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) and is the Chapter Co-Chair (union rep) at her school.

Sarah's platform is pro-teacher and pro-student. She wants to reduce class size, stop the "testing and accountability craze," provide free pre-kindegarten for all, lower college tuition, give California's teachers a real raise, and end military recruitment on the campuses. You can read more at www.Sarah4Super.org. We are pleased to endorse Sarah Knopp for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

PROP. 81

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A seven member board would determine the allocation of Prop. 81 bond money. Priorities would be given to needs of urban, rural, and suburban library facilities, as well as to age and effectiveness of existing facilities.

Interest on this bond money would be almost equal to the principal amount, meaning the state will have to repay about \$1.2 billion on this bond.

Although we have ongoing concerns about the use of bond financing (see our separate "Note About Bonds" on page 2), we nevertheless endorse proposition 81 (with bond reservations) for a variety of reasons, not the least of which being because public libraries are a resource essential to our democracy, as well as a critical counterbalance to the biases and propaganda spewed by "mainstream" and reactionary media.

Vote Yes on proposition 81.



PROP. 82 - YES Preschool for all children

This initiative, authored by Rob Reiner, would create funding for a voluntary, publicly funded "universal preschool" program for all California children for the year prior to kindergarten. It mandates a credentialed teacher and an instructional aide for each 20 children; the teacher must have a minimum B.A. degree, something that an estimated 30 percent of current pre-school teachers possess. It also funds a 3 hour a day, 180 day a year program beginning in the year 2010.

County Offices of Education would administer the funds. The funding mechanism is clever, and fair: it imposes an additional 1.7 percent on the highest tax bracket, individuals earning \$400,000 or more, married couples earning \$800,000 or more, and heads of households earning \$544,457 or more per year. Provisions for the first ten year use of funds are provided for teacher training and facilities, two areas that are presently woefully inadequate to meet the capacity needs of this initiative.

There is a one-year emergency provision for collecting fees from parents, with a 2/3 vote of the legislature and the Governor's approval. This emergency provision would not deny access to any child who could not afford to pay a fee.

One further, editorial point: a few months ago northern Alameda County state senator Don Perata pulled his support for this initiative, based on the belief that these funds should be used to pay for the children most needy, and not be spent on children/families who can otherwise afford private pre-school. This belief is not consistent with decades of primary school and pre-school research: the fact is that young children learn as much, if not more, from their peers, as they do from teachers and adults. Vocabulary acquisition and reading and study habits come from one's peers, not from the teacher alone. A heterogeneous mix of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds in fact helps the lowest performing/achieving kids the most. Universal pre-school is not merely a feel good tool for integration, but it is a research backed model for a successful program.

This is a good step in the right direction. In addition, we hope that the proponents of other worthy programs will further explore the financing mechanism used by Proposition 82, so that we might begin reducing the enormous gap between the rich and the poor that has been growing by leaps and bounds over the past several decades. Let's now start by taking a firm step forward to give every child the opportunity to attend preschool, with a vote in favor of Proposition 82.

County Offices

COUNTY OFFICES Supervisor, District 2 No endorsement

There is only one challenger to long-time District 2 county supervisor Gail Steele, and that is Richard Valle. Mr. Valle is on the city council in Union City, and is vice-mayor. One of the questions we asked the candidates was about the possible deal between the county and the owner of the Oakland A's about helping them to build a new stadium for them in Alameda County. The county went through a deal some years ago for the new stadium in Oakland. The county officials backing it made it sound great, and not a big financial drain. The reality was much less rosy (surprise, surprise!) as ticket revenues fell far below projections. It ended up costing the county taxpayers many, many millions of dollars.

After that fiasco, some of the county supes are at it again (such as Scott Haggerty). Ms. Steele favors county backing of a new stadium. She opposes a loan, but favors equity in the venture (i.e., sinking public resources into it). But if revenues don't meet projections (that's what happened last time), we county residents will not only have to front this money or property, we'll lose part of it. At least with a loan, the business has to pay us back. Valle clearly gave a better answer on this question: "I would find it very difficult to give a private sports franchise public subsidies given the shortage of resources in our county."

On Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), Mr. Valle expressed enthusiasm, while Ms. Steele seemed hung up on cost. Unfortunately, neither candidate acknowledged the main advantage of IRV — in partisan races, it gives voters freedom to vote for parties other than the two big corporate-controlled parties, without such a vote helping to elect the corporate party they fear the most.

Both Ms. Steele and Mr. Valle have some progressives backing them.

Unfortunately though, we were not able to gather enough information to solidly distinguish between the candidates, so we cannot make an endorsement.

Supervisor, District 3 No endorsement

Alice Lai-Bitker, incumbent County Supervisor, describes herself as having a long track record of hard work for, and availability to, constituents. She says she is especially committed to Health Care for all, and helped pass Measure A (1/2-cent sales tax increase for the Alameda County Medical Center). She says she worked closely to open the Alameda County Family Justice Center and has held many meetings and workshops regarding Senior quality of life needs.

However, we have observed that Lai-Bitker is not a leader. She has to be lobbied and pressured on every important issue. The Alameda County Central Labor Council came to a similar conclusion and did not endorse Lai-Bitker (or any of her challengers).

Lai-Bitker has three challengers and we have also reviewed their websites. Jim Price, resident of Alameda, Business Analyst, states that he wants to make "positive changes for schools and Health Care," but fails to give a picture of how to "prevent another clinic or hospital from closing," and at the same time wants to prevent any more sales tax. He indicates that he has worked with many union leaders, managers, executives, county employees "to craft genuine solutions" but not in which context. He would need to clearly give ideas and vision for his candidacy to be seriously considered.

Glenda Nardine, longtime City Councilmember of San Leandro, speaks about Quality Health Care (she

is a Registered Nurse) and schools, but suggests no innovative ideas or bold initiatives.

Sheila Young, current Mayor of San Leandro, can be judged by her track record. Green voters should take a very careful look. An "eco park" business development led to Fed Ex Ground moving here. Her support allowed eight million dollars to be spent building an access road for WAL-MART. Support for big business has left small businesses closing. She also favors contracting-out of County health care services, which is unacceptable to us and to the unions. We feel she would be a poor choice for Supervisor.

In summary, none of these candidates merit our endorsement.

Superintendent of Schools No Endorsement

Sheila Jordan is the incumbent Alameda County Superintendent of Schools. As County Superintendent, she is the chief administrator of the County Office of Education whose primary mission is to promote teaching and learning, provide fiscal oversight to all K-12 public school districts in the County, and to educate youth in the County's juvenile court system. She was first elected to the post in 1999. Previously she served on the Oakland City Council; Jane Brunner replaced her on the Council. She also served on the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) Board.

As a member of the OUSD Board in 1988, Ms. Jordan joined with then Assemblymember Elihu Harris (at that time a candidate for mayor of Oakland) in an effort to have the State take over the Oakland School District. However, using a mechanism that other districts in California were using, the majority of the Board avoided this take over. (More detail is available in a *Berkeley Daily Planet* column by J. Douglas Allen-Taylor, in the April 14 edition, under the title "History Lesson: Making a Mess of our School Districts.") In 2003, in the midst of a OUSD financial crisis, now County Superintendent Jordan—in cahoots with Mayor Jerry Brown, State Senator Don Perata, State Attorney General Bill Lockyer, and State Superintendent Jack O'Connell—blocked OUSD from using the mechanism of transferring construction bond funds that other districts in California routinely use to balance their budget. This blocking action was the key to the State takeover of OUSD and the loss of local control. That is why Randolph Ward now runs the District.

Ms. Jordan's administration has been reprimanded more than once by the County Grand Jury. There are more school districts in financial crises in this County than almost any other county in California. She has been accused of attempting to pack the County Board to avoid criticism from her Board Members and being held accountable.

Unfortunately though, we were not able to gather sufficient information about her opponent, John Bernard, but we encourage you to review his website (www.johnbernard2006.com) as he does seem to have experience and strong endorsements. (For comparison's sake, the incumbent's website is: www.sheilajordan.org. We regret that we did not have enough volunteer time to do further work on this contest, towards a more defined and informed position. Therefore, we apologize that we are not able to make an endorsement in this race.

COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT I No endorsement

Jacki Fox Ruby is the incumbent. She has strong union background and support (former President, Berkeley Federation of Teachers), and has generally been a solid if unspectacular County Boardmember. We endorsed her in 2002 when she was elected to the Board. However, her close political association with Superintendent Sheila Jordan causes us concern. (Please see our write-up for Sheila Jordan.) Due in part to a shortage of volunteers, and in part to incomplete contact information submitted by the challenger to the County Registrar of Voters, we were not able to learn much about her challenger, Lois Corrin. We are unable to endorse a candidate in this race.

ASSESSOR No endorsement

The Assessor locates all taxable property in the County, identifies ownership, and appraises all property subject to property taxation. This is a powerful position that is prone to corruption by powerful business interests seeking to save millions of dollars by getting low assessments.

The unopposed incumbent, Ron Thomsen, has served as Assessor since 2001. Although his campaign website touts an outside audit completed in 2002 which concluded that "the Assessor's office is performing extraordinarily well by all measures of output", we did not have the time to determine if this audit actually tested for any possible favoritism in assessments. In addition, because the audit is now about four years old, it doesn't even cover the majority of time that Thomsen has held office. Further, despite repeated attempts to reach him, he declined to return our questionnaire, or otherwise reply back to us. We therefore cannot endorse him, and we wish someone else were running to question his performance.

AUDITOR -CONTROLLER - CLERK -RECORDER No endorsement

The Auditor-Controller develops and maintains the County's accounting, payroll, audit, tax analysis, budget and grants, and cost plan systems and procedures, collects court-related fines and restitutions, Social Services Agency over-payments, etc.; records all recordable documents and maps, collects and distributes fees and taxes from recording documents, and maintains vital statistics registers, including birth, death and marriage records.

The unopposed incumbent, Patrick O'Connell, has served as Auditor-Controller for 20 years, since 1986. He hasn't made much effort to attract attention, and despite repeated attempts to reach him, he declined to return our questionnaire, or otherwise reply back to us. We therefore cannot endorse him, and we wish someone else were running to question his performance.



County Offices, Superior Court

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

No endorsement

Incumbent District Attorney Thomas Orloff is running, unopposed, for yet another four-year term. Orloff first assumed office in 1995 and has served as DA since then. (He has been unopposed in all subsequent elections.) In his conversations with us, he expressed relatively progressive views regarding the drug war (e.g., the office has not prosecuted any needle exchange cases, and Orloff supports keeping medical marijuana available, if not the specific provisions of Proposition 215). However, we are very concerned over his stance on the death penalty.

Orloff told us that his office is obligated by state law to seek the death penalty in cases involving the commission of homicide in conjunction with other violent felonies, and that his office has pursued the death penalty in approximately one out of every four eligible cases. But two years ago San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris showed us that county DA's actually have wide discretion over potential death penalty cases in their jurisdiction, in a case involving the shooting of a police officer. Harris was able to stand by her campaign pledge to never seek the death penalty, despite widespread media coverage and sharp criticism from U.S. Senators Feinstein and Boxer, the police officers' association, and many others.

Orloff also commented that he would prefer sentencing violent felons to life imprisonment, but would allow those sentenced to opt for the death penalty if they so choose. On the other hand, to his credit, Orloff has established Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Elder Abuse Units, and has strengthened the Sexual Assault Department of his office.

While we are in agreement with Orloff on some issues and actions that he has taken, we are very disappointed that he has not yet followed Kamala Harris's lead to now forego seeking the death penalty in all cases; for this reason, we are unable to give Orloff our endorsement.

COUNTY SHERIFF -

CORONER

No Endorsement

Gregory Ahern, currently a Division Commander in the Sheriff's office, is the only candidate for County Sheriff. In his reply to our questionnaire, he stated that his most prominent individual endorsement was that of the retiring Sheriff, Charles Plummer. We do not consider endorsement by the outgoing Sheriff as much of a recommendation, as the Sheriff's office has a history of police abuse, lack of professionalism, and difficulty working within its defined jurisdiction and abilities, as well as an inability to create positive community relationships."

Ahern's website (www.ahernforsheriff.com) has a very good biography for someone who might be applying for Deputy Chief rather than a politically elected office. He mentions some community outreach programs instituted during the previous Sheriff's reign but doesn't come up with specific ideas. He writes about preparing for terrorism and all of the training he had concerning that preparation. The residents of Alameda County would be best served by a Sheriff who is concerned about interagency communication in preparedness for a realistic emergency rather than "terrorism." Ahern also believes that the current Sheriff has done a great job for the past 20 years.

Although Ahern is unopposed, we decline to endorse him, and we hope that county residents will now instead choose to pressure Ahern to move beyond the weaknesses of his predecessor.

TREASURER -TAX

COLLECTOR

No endorsement

While the office of the County Treasurer/Tax Collector is an elective office, the position is primarily administrative in function. A great deal of the responsibility of this office is billing, revenue collections and investing the county's funds — all administrative functions. The Treasurer/Tax Collector oversees a staff of about 60 people, and an annual operating budget of about \$4 million. Unfortunately though, we cannot endorse either candidate.

The incumbent, Donald White, was appointed Treasurer/Tax Collector in 1985 and is currently serving his fifth four-year term in office. Prior to 1985, White worked for the accounting firms of Ernst & Young, and then Adams, Grant, White & Co. However, despite repeated attempts to contact him, the incumbent did not respond to our questionnaire.

His opponent, Rusty Jackson, did respond, and based on his answers to our questions, he does seem to have the experience and background to be an effective administrator (which this position truly is). For 12 years Jackson worked either as a consultant to the Treasurer/Tax Collector, as the first County Business License Tax Supervisor, or as the Chief Deputy Tax Collector. He has made inroads to making payment of property and business tax easier for smaller businesses, the heart and soul of most Alameda County businesses. He understands the concept of conflict of interest on its face and is running a grassroots campaign, taking contributions from people rather than corporations.

However, one problem we noticed is his endorsement list posted on his website. Most of the list are relative unknowns to County politics. He did proudly write that he began his political experience working with former Oakland mayor Lionel Wilson, but since Wilson isn't viewed as a progressive, this is not a ringing endorsement for Jackson.

While he is cued into the retirement system (how it's big these days, i.e. University of California) and knows that investing funds conservatively and consistently ensures a healthy benefit, he did not specify how he's going to do this. Finally, he talks about using defaulted land sales to "increase the affordable housing stock when appropriate; working with banks to open satellite branches in underserved communities; and working with banks to provide financial literacy in the public schools." He didn't indicate though how he can convince banks to open branches in underserved communities. And while it would be gratifying to use wasted land for affordable housing, it would be unfortunate for that housing to be built on the backs of those taxpayers who couldn't afford to pay the back taxes on the land that they had owned. In sum, we simply were not able to find sufficient reasons to endorse either candidate.

SUPERIOR COURT, SEAT 21

Dual endorsement:

Dennis Hayashi and

Mike Nisperos

This year offers two very promising candidates for Superior Court Judge (Seat 21) of Alameda County: Dennis Hayashi and Mike Nisperos. Hayashi and Nisperos are distinguished from their rivals by their demonstrated commitments to social justice.

Dennis Hayashi is a public interest attorney with a focus on defense of civil rights, employment laws protecting low-income employees, and employment discrimination cases. His resume shows a dedication to social justice (including race, gender, age, and class) issues, and includes a five-year position as Director

of the Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His performance in that office earned him a DHHS Award for Distinguished Service in 1997. More recently, Hayashi served as Director of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the largest civil rights agency in the country. This organization protects the rights of seniors, women, the disabled, and minorities who face discrimination in employment, housing, or access to public accommodations. As Staff Attorney at the Asian Law Caucus, Hayashi was a lead counsel in the well-known civil rights case *Fred Korematsu v. United States*. Korematsu was convicted in 1942 for failing to obey World War II Japanese internment orders. Hayashi and the legal team successfully argued to overturn Korematsu's conviction. During his service as National Director of the Japanese American Citizens League, Hayashi coordinated efforts to pass the federal Civil Rights Act of 1991, and championed anti-hate laws in California. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board of Directors for the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and previously, he served on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Legal Assistance Foundation, Child Care Law Center, and San Francisco Coro Foundation. Other important memberships include the California Commission on the Prevention of Hate Violence, the White House Commission on Asian Americans, and the White House Working Group on Affirmative Action.

Mike Nisperos has served as both prosecutor and defense attorney in criminal trials. He has substantial experience in criminal law, immigration law, and the law as it pertains to legal ethics and professional responsibility. Nisperos recently served a four-year term as Chief Trial Counsel for the State Bar of California; he was heavily favored for this position (unanimously selected by the Board of Governors and unanimously confirmed by the California Senate).

During his service in that office, Nisperos supervised the largest investigation in the history of the State Bar of California, where his team sought to protect a victim class of small businesses from exploitation by a small group of attorneys extorting settlements. Perhaps his most noteworthy case, *People v. Stewart*, involved the defense of a woman charged with two counts of murder for allegedly causing the death of her 20-week twin fetuses by spontaneous abortion due to her cocaine habit. (She was sentenced to 3 years probation.)

Nisperos is a member of the Ethnic Minority Relations Committee of the State Bar of California, and was founding member of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California. Nisperos' communications with the Green Party suggest that he has thought carefully about how to address the problem of the prison industrial complex. He comments that the current prison system is a "waste of money and deplorable way of treating human beings and addressing public safety. At best, it is a knee-jerk legislative response to the problems of poverty and a poor education system."

Nisperos also demonstrates a nuanced and comprehensive perspective on the disproportionate representation of young people of color in the prison system (recognizing racism as a contributor), and a commitment to a less punitive legislative model, saying, "Absent a more compassionate, and in the long-term profitable, socio-economic design I will continue to be an advocate of developing the therapeutic jurisprudence model."

We urge you to cast your vote for either Dennis Hayashi or Mike Nisperos.

Green Party of Alameda County - County Council

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY County Council Candidates

Vote for up to ten of twelve candidates.

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

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

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

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

Janet Arnold

This is an exciting time to be active in the Green Party, with great candidates like Aimee Allison in Oakland and our statewide “Million Votes for Peace” slate (headed by Peter Camejo and Donna Warren). I’ve served one term on the County Council and I am seeking your vote for another two years of typing up the minutes, tabling with our wonderful Outreach Committee, running errands for the Treasurer, working on the Voter Guide, and proudly wearing a Green Party button at peace marches and labor-support picket lines and other places where good people gather. There are problems at the State and National level (see Chuck Giese’s statement) and I too am a member of Greens for Democracy and Independence seeking to improve matters. Vote for any ten of us—we have a full slate of dedicated, active, cooperative candidates.

Victoria Ashley

I have been on the Alameda Green Party County Council since 2004 and active in the Green Party on both sides of the Bay since 2000. I feel that some of my strongest contributions are my Voter Guide write-ups, which require both research and experience in local issues. I have degrees in architecture and psychology and am currently working as a psychology researcher. I also work as a volunteer research consultant with the website 911research/wtc7.net and help update the acgreens.org website with events and information. As the state of the US continues to decline and the Democrats continue their present behavior, I expect the Greens will take an increasingly center stage position, and am excited by the many new Green candidates running for office in California.

Chuck Giese

A crucial issue is facing California Greens. We have an old rule that is actually blocking our progress on several fronts. We don’t use majority rule; instead, we must get 80 percent approval to pass any policy decisions. Read it for yourself in bylaws section 5-8.1(d), pg. 13, at: <http://cagreens.org/bylaws/downloads/bylaws-2005-12.pdf>. This comes from a desire to protect those with a minority view, by giving incentive to the majority to listen sincerely to their concerns. But it goes way too far. It results in a 21 percent minority being able to block a 79 percent majority! It gives “no” votes FOUR TIMES THE WEIGHT of “yes” votes, because 20 “no” votes have the same strength as 80 “yes” votes. This is a gross violation of the principal of one person, one vote. Let’s use 67 percent for bylaws changes; otherwise 50 percent. Elect me to work in the state and county party for majority rule!

Greg Jan

I’ve helped coordinate much of our county party work over the years, including the process for our Voter Guide endorsements, write-ups, and fundraising. I also helped organize most of our County Council candidates to get on the ballot, and I’d be happy to see any combination of them be elected. However, I especially would like those running for the first time to be elected: Chuck Giese, Jessica Muldoon, and Wilson Riles.

After we finish distributing the Voter Guides and helping Aimee Allison for the June election, I strongly encourage all of you to volunteer for one or more of our county tasks, whether it be tabling, voter registration, fundraising, our newsletter, assisting the County Council with coordination work, etc. As an all-volunteer organization we need your assistance, even if it’s just once every month or two—whatever you can spare. (Please telephone us at (510) 644-2293). Thank you!

Tahan Jones

My name is Tahan Jones. I’ve been an activist for 15 years and a member of the Green Party for six years. In October of 1990 I stated my conscientious objector position on the Gulf War and I received a dishonorable discharge. I was put in the brig for 7 months. When I was released I decided to participate more in community activism. I have been active in Alameda County in seminars about police brutality, military base conversion, and anti-recruitment in local high schools. Currently I do outreach for the Green Party. I want to get more diverse youth involved in the Green Party movement.

Khurshid Khoja

I’m a Muslim-American attorney in private practice, a civil rights activist, and incumbent County Council member. I was appointed to the County Council in 2005 to fill the seat vacated by elected County Council member Suzanne Baker. Since then I’ve been primarily responsible for editing the Green Party of Alameda County’s quarterly newsletter. I’m a member of the Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers, and I regularly serve as a National Lawyers Guild Legal Observer at progressive political demonstrations.

I’m running because I believe that diversity within the Green Party is still a work in progress, and that it’s important for more Greens-of-color to serve on the party’s decision-making bodies. The future success of this party in Alameda county depends upon learning how to better mobilize communities of color behind a Green agenda, and we can only do so by securing representation of those communities on our County Council. That being said, my law practice occupies most of my time; if elected, I intend to resign my post as editor of the newsletter and redirect my Green activism exclusively toward getting fellow Alameda County Greens more involved in the civil rights struggle on behalf of the Muslim, Arab and immigrant communities.

Bob Marsh

As one of your Berkeley representatives, I’ve worked to keep the Green Party credible during a very difficult past two years. Due to a heavy work load at the non-profit I work for, I’m no longer able to act as GP Treasurer as I had for the last 5 years, but two other local Greens have taken on that responsibility jointly. If you vote for me, over the next two years, I’ll try to help straighten out some of the GP problems at the Calif state party level. Thanks for supporting your local Green Party!

Patti Marsh

I have been elected to the Green Party County Council twice, now serve as secretary, and am active on our Outreach committee. Over the past four years your county Green Party has expanded its infrastructure with the establishment of a newsletter, a website and popular Green Sunday programs. My goal is for us to increase the number of active Greens in our county in order to become even more effective in reaching out to our communities. The key to our success is YOU. Please consider joining us at Green Sunday and Council meetings, at our always lively Outreach meetings, at phone bank evenings and mailing parties, tabling in our neighborhoods or working on our newsletter and voter guides. Whatever your interests and skills, there is a place for you. We have a strong slate of County Council candidates who will all be working hard in the coming years to help the Green Party grow. Vote for any ten candidates.

Jessica Muldoon

I have been teaching in Oakland for 7 years, and have been a union activist for as long. I believe that public education is a fundamental right, and am distressed by the trends of union busting and privatization that are moving into the realm of public education, as well as other social services. I have been an activist for social justice for many years — against war, the prison industrial complex, and for human rights and civil rights for all peoples. I support the current wave of immigrants rights protests, and hope that we are at the start of something big.

I have been supporting the Green Party actively since 2000 when Ralph Nader shook up the 2 party election. I became even more activated when Peter Camejo ran for Governor in 2002, and then again in the recall election. I supported the Nader-Camejo ticket in 2004.

I’m really fed up with politics as usual and would like to see the Green party become a politically independent pole of attraction for newly politicized people in the Bay Area.

Wilson Riles

There are few things more important to me in life than political activism. Life, children and spouse, immediate family, extended family, and friends is about the order of those things that come before. The next, my love of my community is expressed in political activism; it is what I have to give. And it is given in agape, brotherly and sisterly love.

The best vehicle for that activism is the Green Party.

As Greens know, the Party embodies in its 10 key values the distilled essence of the learning of generations and thousands of years of human history: sustainability and future focus, personal and global responsibility, embrace diversity, feminism, community-based economics, decentralization, nonviolence, ecological wisdom, social justice, and grassroots democracy.

I ask you to give me the chance to do my best to help actualize these 10 key values in our party and our community in Alameda County.

Wilson Riles served on the Oakland City Council from 1979 to 1992 and ran for Mayor in 2002.

Green Party of Alameda County - County Council

MICHAEL RUBIN

I am a retired State employee. I currently serve on the County Council, having been appointed in 2005. During my work life, I was very active in unions; as a steward, contract bargainer, and I am still a Labor Council Delegate. As a union activist, I have seen firsthand the continual abandonment of the needs of working people and people of color by the Democratic Party. America needs an opposition party. The Democratic party has long since abandoned that role. Just look at the record of the Democratic Party on the issues of pensions, taxes, health care, trade, war and peace, equal rights, and the environment. The Green Party has a bright future if it retains its independence and clarity of vision and politics. I would like to see more candidates and a larger Party infrastructure to support them. I encourage more registrants to become active in our party.

KATE TANAKA

Prior to my active participation in the Green Party I poured my concerns into activist efforts involving various social and environmental justice efforts. However, like most activists I grew weary of begging for crumbs from those in power and began to realize that the sometimes slow work of building a political party free of corporate influence had to be done. While the crisis levels facing our precious world are daunting I feel optimistic that the Green Party we are building will become the coherent expression of the justice and peace we and our fellow human beings long for—a party which will unflinchingly oppose the evils of war, “free” trade, degradation of civil liberties, human labor and the environment. My top priority is to increase our active membership and presence in the community; to that end I am active in the outreach efforts of the Alameda County Green Party.

U.S. SENATE

continued from page 1

Tian Harter for Senate

Tian Harter is a grassroots activist who has been speaking out about the climate change and sustainability issue for many years, and goes by the slogan, ‘Don’t Be Fuelish!’ He sees walking the campaign trail as his way of exercising the First Amendment “right to petition the government for redress of grievances.” Harter’s grievance is that our current way of life is unsustainable due to the way we use energy, and the solution is going to have to be changing our habits.

Harter (tianharter.org) believes we need to stop voting for oil companies at the gas pump. His goal is to visit every Green group in California during this campaign to share his ideas with them. Harter fully supports the Green Platform, including withdrawal from Iraq, single payer health care, and fair wages, as well as the impeachment of Bush.

Before he became an activist Harter was an electrical and software engineer for about twenty years. He saw the technology change dramatically, and saw many jobs get exported. It was only near the end of that time that he learned about the toxic waste plumes left behind in developing that industry. The basic problem, he notes, was that management structures believe there are “more important things” than the environment and future. Harter thinks a paradigm shift that changes these beliefs are key to a sustainable future.

Tian Harter has been a County Council Member with the Green Party of Santa Clara County for the past 6 years, an Environmental Working Group Co-Coordinator and a Green Party Candidate for the 5th Congressional district (1992).

Kent P. Mesplay for Senate

Kent Mesplay is running for U.S. Senate as a Green Party candidate to help California become a national and international leader in areas critical to mitigating the effects of Global Climate Change. He calls for State and National Energy Independence based upon Renewable Energy (Wind and Solar), which will create jobs, help clean up the environment by reducing carbon in the atmosphere and improve our basic physical security by promoting decentralization of power. Mesplay underscores the fact that this issue also affects Foreign Policy: when we meet our needs in a sustainable manner at home we are less likely to concern ourselves with Oil markets elsewhere.

Mesplay feels that in its essence the Green Party is proactive, not reactive. In the Senate race as with his 2004 presidential race (he came in third in the final round of voting at the Milwaukee national convention), he advocates Single Payer Health Insurance and stresses our need to raise the baseline of medical care in the US.

Mesplay (mesplay.org) also advocates the tools of Democracy: Ranked Choice Voting as a step towards more proportionate representation and Publicly Funded Campaigns as a move away from the current system of legalized bribery in campaigning. Mesplay points out that we need more democracy, that as Ralph Nader said, Democracy is the best way for solving problems. The only way that Greens can really lose as a party, he believes, is when serious candidates are not run. Mesplay is a serious candidate and believes that the Green Party is here to stay.

Kent Mesplay was born in Madang, Papua New Guinea. He has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering and has taught high school math and served as an Air Quality Inspector in San Diego. He was Treasurer of the Green Party County Council of San Diego in 1996 and was a founding member of San Diego Citizen’s Action in 1996.

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voter guide

Green Voter Card

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

Federal Offices

U.S. Senator: Which Green should oppose Dianne Feinstein? Please see our write-up.

State Offices

Governor: Peter Camejo
Lieutenant Governor: Donna Warren
Secretary of State: Forrest Hill
Controller: Laura Wells
Treasurer: Mehul Thakker
Attorney General: Mike Wyman
Insurance Commissioner: Larry Cafero
State Superintendent of Public Instruction: Sarah Knopp

Judicial Offices

Superior Court Judge, Seat 21: Dual endorsement, vote for either Dennis Hayashi or Mike Nisperos

County Offices

Superintendent of Schools: No endorsement, please see write-up
Board of Education, District 1: No endorsement, please see write-up
Supervisor, District 2: No endorsement, please see write-up
Supervisor, District 3: No endorsement, please see write-up
Assessor: No endorsement, please see write-up
Auditor-Controller-Clerk-Recorder: No endorsement, please see write-up
District Attorney: No endorsement, please see write-up
Sheriff: No endorsement, please see write-up
Treasurer-Tax Collector: No endorsement, please see write-up

Local Offices

OAKLAND

Mayor (Please see write-up)
1) Ron Dellums, with reservations
2) Nancy Nadel, with reservations
Auditor: No endorsement, please see write-up
City Council, District 2: Aimee Allison
City Council, District 4: No endorsement, please see write-up
City Council, District 6: No endorsement, please see write-up
School Board, District 2: No endorsement, please see write-up
School Board, District 4: No endorsement, please see write-up
School Board, District 6: Chris Dobbins

State Propositions

81 — Library Bond: Yes, with bond reservations
82 — Preschool for all children: Yes

Local Measures

A — Perata Community College District Bond: Yes, with bond reservations
B — Oakland Unified School District Bond: No endorsement, please see write-up
F — Albany Facility Improvement Tax: Yes, with parcel tax reservations
G — Albany Special Library Services Tax: Yes, with parcel tax reservations
H — Albany Charter Amendment: Yes

County Committee

Green Party County Council: See statements inside.

