

Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: November 6, 2012

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U.S. President and Vice-president Jill Stein and Cheri Honkala

When the Jill Stein campaign chose the leading anti-poverty advocate in the US—Cheri Honkala—as the Green Party Vice Presidential candidate, they may not have predicted that just weeks later, Jill and Cheri would end up spending the night in a Philadelphia jail cell after being arrested for “defiant trespassing” during a sit-in at a giant bank. The protest, called by the Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign, sought to halt foreclosure proceedings against two Philadelphia residents. The story of Jill and Cheri’s arrest was covered in over 200 news articles.

“The developers and financiers made trillions of dollars through the housing bubble and the imposition of crushing debt on homeowners.” Stein said at the sit-in. “And when homeowners could no longer pay them what they demanded, they went to government and got trillions of dollars of bailouts. Every effort of the Obama Administration has been to prop this system up and keep it going at taxpayer expense. It’s time for this game to end. It’s time for the laws be written to protect the victims and not the perpetrators.”

As a 62-year old Harvard-trained Massachusetts physician, Jill Stein had never been in jail before and described the experience as “one of the most powerful events of my life.” She stood for nearly 24 hours, with one bench for three people sharing a one-person cell, “like living in an outhouse in very close quarters the brave ones lay on the floor in front of the toilet”. Food was white bread and

processed cheese. Jill told the Daily Beast in an interview, “This should be a required experience for anyone in public office.”

But VP Cheri Honkala has been arrested more than 200 times. As a formerly homeless single mother herself, she has been confronting banks and mortgage companies for decades, demanding that they adopt policies to keep families in their homes. She works directly alongside the poor to build the movement to end poverty, and has organized tens of thousands of people to take action via marches, demonstrations and tent cities. In 2011, Honkala became the first woman to run for sheriff in Philadelphia and the first and only sheriff candidate in the country to run on a “no evictions” platform, pledging to help families in foreclosure stay in their homes. She received local and national endorsements, including from the National Organization for Women and has received numerous awards.

John Nichols, writing for the Nation, in his August 2nd article, “A Presidential Candidate Willing to Get Arrested to Fight Foreclosure Abuse”, pointed out the real work being done by Stein and Honkala: “Even if Stein does not take office—and she’s realistic about the challenges facing third parties—she is putting important ideas on the agenda. And she’s doing more. She and Honkala are securing ballot posi-

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OAKLAND OFFICES

We are very pleased to have three great Green Party candidates running in Oakland this year: Theresa Anderson for Oakland City Council, at large; Don Macleay for Oakland City Council, District 1; and Randy Menjivar for Peralta Community College, Area 2 (in East Oakland). You can help support our candidates’ campaigns via the Oakland Greens’ website (www.oaklandgreens.org/) or their campaign phone number: (510) 866-7488. Please join in with the campaign just as soon as you possibly can!

Oakland City Council, At-Large Theresa Anderson (Don’t vote for Ignacio De La Fuente)

Theresa Anderson chose to run for City Council after years of community service. Deeply concerned with our youth and other underserved Oaklanders, Theresa has organized events providing food, blankets, clothing, school supplies, and toys for thousands of people. She has worked for Local Currency, the “Ban the Box” effort, and the Oakland Army Base Redevelopment Project. Theresa favors a fee for each container entering the Port of Oakland, to add revenue to the General Fund. She is running as part of a team with other Oakland Green Party members Don Macleay (see City Council District One) and Randy Menjivar (see Peralta Community College Board, Area Two). Please give Theresa your first-rank vote. After that, please use your second and third-place votes for anybody except De La Fuente.

Oakland elections feature an endless parade of candidates complaining that Oakland doesn’t have enough police. At the At-Large Candidate Debate sponsored by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (August 29), Ignacio De La Fuente said the current number of police was not adequate. Rebecca Kaplan said we need to rehire the laid-off police. Theresa brought a breath of fresh air with her statement that we have enough police, and the police must

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ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

Sheri Spellwoman, Peter Maass, and Nick Pilch (Don't vote for Michael Barnes)

Seven candidates are running for three open Albany Council seats. One, Sheri Spellwoman, is a Green Party candidate. Green Party questionnaires were sent to all candidates. Three returned the questionnaires; the others declined.

Please see the “Referendum on UC Development” section below for background on this important issue in the election.

Sheri Spellwoman is a registered Green and, although a relative newcomer to city politics, demonstrates thoughtful analysis of the city budget, with progressive solutions, such as limiting the nearly \$1M budgeted for staff overtime. Spellwoman supports local and organic food security, green building, green and locally owned business, bike- and pedestrian-friendly development, and protecting the Albany waterfront. She favors a smaller-scale development than has been approved at UC Village and wants to ensure long-term stability for sports fields there, preservation of farming and establishment of an agro-ecology center. She offers several potential strategies for pursuing the latter goal, including designating the land as an agricultural trust, land trust, or landmark.

Peter Maass has served 6 years on the Albany Planning and Zoning Commission, and many of his priorities reflect

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BERKELEY OFFICES

To see returned questionnaires from the candidates, go to the right-hand-column link under “All about us” at: www.berkeleygreens.org

Mayor Sharing # 1 & # 2: Kahlil Jacobs- Fantauzzi & Kriss Worthington # 3 Jacquelyn McCormick, with reservations

Vote for Kahlil Jacobs-Fantauzzi and Kriss Worthington for mayor, ranking either one first and the other second. Both are advocates for progressive policies, genuine diversity, and a true sense of community in Berkeley. Our third choice is Jacquelyn McCormick (see below)

Kahlil is a Green Party member, teacher, a social activist, KPFA advisory board member, former Peace and Justice Commissioner, small business owner, UC Berkeley alumni, former Youth Commissioner and neighborhood block cap-

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Berkeley Measure S - No, No, No! No Sit Law

Measure S would make it illegal to sit on any sidewalk in a commercial district between 7am and 10pm. Violators receive a \$75 citation.

Measure S is the latest salvo in Berkeley’s decades-long war over who gets to use our public spaces. Nearly everything that annoys anyone about street behavior is already illegal in Berkeley, so this measure represents nothing more than another swift kick aimed at the down-and-out.

In 1994, the last time a ban on sitting was before the voters, it was tied to expanded services and sold as a compassionate compromise. The fight was bitter—nearly every precinct with large street populations voted against and precincts in the wealthy Berkeley Hills voted overwhelmingly in favor. The city was left deeply divided, and only lying on the sidewalk during the day was added to the long

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STATE PROPOSITIONS Proposition 37 - YES Genetically Engineered Foods, Mandatory Labeling

The Genetically Engineered Food Mandatory Labeling proposition requires that all genetically engineered (GE) raw food and most processed food containing GE ingredients be clearly labeled as such if it is sold in California, starting in July, 2014. The initiative also prohibits labeling such foods as “natural” (many foods currently labeled “natural” contain GE ingredients.)

Passage of this initiative would impose labeling rules similar to those in place in dozens of countries including Europe, Japan, China, and India. If this proposition passes, California consumers—and presumably consumers nationwide as it’s unlikely that companies would design separate packaging only for Californians—will be able to make informed decisions regarding whether to buy and eat GE food.

Why would consumers want to know whether their food is genetically modified? Significant health and environmental consequences of consuming GE foods have already been documented even though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not require safety testing of GE products and the GE industry has all but strangled independent scientific research on the safety of the foods.

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) states that consuming GE foods causes adverse health effects. Consumption of GE foods has been linked in animal studies to changes in key organs including the liver and kidneys, infertility, decreased birth weight, genetic changes, and intestinal damage. AAEM concludes that “because of the mounting data, it is biologically plausible for Genetically Modified Foods to cause adverse health effects in humans.”

In addition to direct impacts of the genetically modified material in GE foods, most GE foods are heavily treated with pesticides because almost all genetic modification is

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For special info on the Partisan “Top Two” Races: Please see page 13 Box and page 15 article.



The Green Party of Alameda County

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

Your Green Party

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

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

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

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

Ways to reach us:

County Council:

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

Website: www.acgreens.wordpress.com

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

GreenPartyofAlamedaCounty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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

Locals:

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

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

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: We are running three candidates in the November election. Please join our campaign as soon as you possibly can. For additional info, please see our website, YahooGroup, or telephone us: www.OaklandGreens.org, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens>, (510) 866-7488

East and South County Greens: We are looking for east and south Alameda County Greens interested in helping re-activate an East County and a South County local. If interested, please contact Maxine Daniel (510) 459-7610, maxine.daniel@gmail.com.

Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: David Arkin, Jan Arnold, Victoria Ashley, Bill Balderston, Dorothy Bevard, Paul Burton (page layout), Maxine Daniel, Richard Fitzer, Dave Heller, Greg Jan, Lauren Maass, Don Macleay, Bob Marsh, Patti Marsh, Michael Rubin, Sandy Sanders, Kevin Seal, John Selawsky, Larry Shoup, Kent Sparling, Pam Spevack, Lisa Stephens, Joan Strasser, Laura Wells, and Nan Wishner.

Voter Guide Contributions

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

Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

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

Some races aren't on the ballot

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



Our endorsement process

For many of the candidates' races, we created questionnaires for the candidates and solicited their responses. For others we conducted over-the-phone or in-person interviews. We also gathered information from Greens and others working on issues in their communities and from the public record. For local measures we gathered information as comprehensively as possible. The Green Party of Alameda County held endorsement meetings to consider all the information and make decisions. Our endorsements are as follows:

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

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

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

Taxes, Bonds, Fiscal Responsibility and the Green Party

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

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

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

Prop 13 flattened property taxes and prohibited imposition of any new "ad valorem" (according to value) taxes on real property. Prop 13 also requires a 2/3 vote of the

legislature to increase state taxes. This super-majority is a steep hurdle to jump, especially when slightly more than 1/3 of our legislators have pledged to vote against any and all taxes.

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

Bonds have been sold to voters as "no new taxes" rather than "spend now and make kids pay later, with interest." Bonds meanwhile enrich and give tax breaks to wealthy investors, and encourage scams by casino capitalists on Wall Street.

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

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

Sales taxes have been relied upon for balancing budgets, and weigh heavily in the fact that, as updated annually by the California Budget Project, when looking at family income, the poorest 20 percent pay more in state and local taxes than the richest 1 percent. Those who average \$12,600 pay 10.2 percent and those who average \$2.3 million pay 7.4 percent.

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

Green Party of Alameda County

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

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



Name: _____

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

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

email address: _____

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

Credit card #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

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

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

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

State law requires that we report contributor's:

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Thanks for your contribution of:

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

Support Your Green Party

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

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

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

U.S. President, U.S. Congress

President

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tions nationwide. Stein's making a big push for inclusion in this fall's presidential debates (along with Libertarian Gary Johnson). And Stein is getting arrested to focus attention on the issues. That's a vital role in American politics, as vital as the role played by Socialist Party presidential candidate Norman Thomas in 1932, when he used big ideas and big activism to place on the agenda many of the ideas that would form the New Deal."

Indeed, central to Dr. Jill Stein's candidacy is the Green New Deal for America, a plan for a renewables revolution—an emergency four-part program of specific solutions to create thousands of green-collar jobs, end unemployment and rein in the extremist power of the finance sector. The Green New Deal includes a 50 percent reduction in military spending, the withdrawal of U.S. military bases from over 140 countries, and the restoration of the National Guard as the centerpiece of the system of national defense. As Jill states, "This change will never come from the top. It never ever comes from the career politicians or the powerful Washington lobbyists. Real change has to come from the grassroots."

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

MIT Professor Noam Chomsky describes a vote for Jill Stein as "a vote for resurgent democracy" in his endorsement for her campaign: "I hope you'll take the opportunity . . . to cast a vote for resurgent democracy. A democracy that thrives outside of the Democratic and Republican Parties that are sponsored by and subservient to corporate America. . . There could hardly be a better time to open up political debate to the just anger and frustrations of citizens who are watching the country move towards what might be irreversible decline while a tiny sector of concentrated wealth and power implements policies of benefit to them and opposed by the general population, whom they are casting adrift. Please join me in supporting Jill . . . and securing a voice for a peaceful, just green future in the presidential race."

Of course, if you support a president who would sign the National Defense Authorization Act (NDSS) into law, as Obama did in May of 2012, to allow the indefinite military detention of any American anywhere in the world without a trial, or if you think it's good to fire missiles from unmanned drone aircraft to assassinate people the CIA claims are "terrorists," or if you think that it was wrong to close Guantanamo, but rather, think that prisons for "enemy combatants" (people waterboarded more than 100 times, intimidated with power drills and threatened with the sexual assault of their mothers) should simply be forgotten about, or, if you think that it was a good thing to bail out Big Banks instead of allowing Americans to keep their homes, well then, Obama is the president for you.

We also note that along with Jill and Cheri, two other progressive candidates are running with the Peace & Freedom Party: Roseanne Barr and Cindy Sheehan. However, the Peace & Freedom party only has ballot access in California, with approximately half as many registered voters in the State as the Green Party of California. The Green Party is the only national progressive political party in the US.

Is it worth voting for Obama to stop the possibility of Romney? Aside from the strong likelihood that Obama will win this election (perhaps part of why Romney chose a white male zealot as his VP), we don't think rewarding bad behavior to keep from getting worse behavior is a viable way to bring change, especially here in California, which Obama is going to win anyway.

Vote Stein / Honkala! You can read about Jill and Cheri's arrest here: www.jillstein.org/stein_and_honkala_arrested Jill Stein & Cheri Honkala's campaign site is here: www.jillstein.org

U.S. Senator No Endorsement

[Please see the last paragraph of this article for information about "alternative candidate" options.] All progressive and working class people, beginning but certainly not ending with Green Party members, should oppose the reactionary corporate Democrat Dianne Feinstein (DF) the senior Senator from California. Feinstein's politics are characterized by the gradual destruction of whatever

remnants of democracy that still exist in our country; full support for militarism, imperialism and criminal wars; and the destruction of life giving ecologies by big corporations and their political allies.

Democracy vs. Plutocracy

In the epic struggle now being fought by people all over the world for their democratic rights in the workplace and daily life as well as for direct representation in society's larger political and economic decisions, DF has always been on the wrong side of the struggle. She and her husband, the finance capitalist Richard C. Blum, are extremely wealthy, own six different homes, an entire hotel and a private jet for their own exclusive use. She could fund her own campaigns for public office, but instead takes large donations from dozens of the biggest corporations. We need public financing of elections, instant runoffs and proportional representation to begin to break the stranglehold of the 1 percent, but DF opposes all of them, she favors the continued corporate domination of politics.

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

Militarism, Imperialism and War

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

Ecological Destruction

The ongoing and accelerating global ecological crisis should be alarming to every thinking person. The crisis is deeply rooted in the anti-ecological imperatives of capitalist production and exchange for profit and accumulation. As could be expected, DF and her husband's political and economic activities routinely undercut ecological needs in favor of the accumulation of more wealth and power for themselves and their favored system, capitalism. One example is DF's relationship to wealthy corporate farmer Stewart Resnick, owner of over 100,000 acres of prime farmland in the San Joaquin Valley. He has written big check after big check to her political campaigns, as well as hosted her at least two of his mansions. When Resnick called Feinstein in 2009 to weigh in on the side of corporate agribusiness in a drought fueled ecological dispute over water to big landowners or water for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta's ecological needs, Feinstein pushed the agribusiness viewpoint onto two Cabinet level secretaries and calling for a sweeping review of the science to allow more water to go to Resnick and other big operators. Due largely to excessive water diversions, the Delta's ecology is in serious trouble, with fish populations in catastrophic decline.

Blum and Feinstein also favor and work for "wilderness," she in the Senate sponsoring legislation to set aside public lands as preserves, and he as a member of the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society. In fact, humans are never outside of nature, our lives depend upon it, and we live as part of nature and we change nature simply by existing. The earth, nature, plants and animals including humans, must be viewed as a part of a whole, and destroying the air, water, oceans, and forests that lie outside "wilderness" will impact, even destroy the "wilderness" as well. The Blum-Feinstein-Wilderness Society approach of creating a few islands of non-development in a sea of life destroying capitalist ecocide is clearly inadequate as a strategy of ecological and human survival. What is required is for us to envision what a rational, egalitarian, life affirming economy and society would look like and struggle to bring that system into reality. The long term survival of the planet and its wonderful life forms cannot be coaxed out of a system of alienation that tramples anything and everything that gets in the way of profits and capital accumulation. This is the reality that all of us, including Dianne Feinstein, must eventually face.

The Republican candidate, Elizabeth Emken (EM), a former executive at Autism Speaks and IBM, is equally as bad as DF, she just expresses her policies more openly. As could be expected, EM pushes typical tired Republican nostrums and propaganda: the supposed need to foster "free market capitalism;" focusing on reducing government to stop "high cost green failures;" "tax reform" to lower taxes on corporations; and a "pipelines to prosperity" energy policy focusing on more fracking, more oil drilling, and more coal mining. Of course, since her own son has autism spectrum disorder, she successfully lobbied for a billion dollars of government money to go to this cause, but most other rank and file causes she sees as worthless. She reminds us of the typical double standard of both major political parties, they want massive government spending on militarism, war, as well as tax breaks, favors, and bailouts of big business and the rich, but they want the smallest government possible when it comes to helping working class people get by in the current capitalist depression with very high unemployment and massive cutbacks of essential services like education. Greens and progressive people should protest this electoral farce of two right wing candidates.

In this year's June primary election we endorsed Peace and Freedom candidate Marsha Feinland for U.S. Senate. (No Green Party candidate filed for the race). Unfortunately, our right to formally cast a vote for a write-in candidate in the general election was lost when Proposition 14 was narrowly approved in June, 2010. However, we encourage you to protest this (and record your write-in vote) at this website: www.CAVoterChoice.org.

U.S. Representative, District 13 No Endorsement

How Deceit, Self-interest, Narcissism and Hypocrisy Run Washington in Secret

Barbara Lee, who has over the last 10 years won each election with between 81 percent and 86 percent of the vote, has already raised over \$850,000 for her 2012 re-election campaign. Her corporate donors include the following: Gilead Sciences \$10,000 (one of her top 5 donors, a company which was run by former Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, and of which he is still a current major stock holder); Clorox Corporation \$8,500; Duke Energy \$5,000 (They operate coal fired power plants and a nuclear power plant providing electricity for the mid-West and South Carolina. It begs the question as to why they are donating to a California Congresswoman.); Safeway \$3625; Berkshire Hathaway Group (Warren Buffett CEO) \$2,500; PG&E \$2,500; Honeywell International (which produced cluster bombs, land mines and napalm for the Vietnam War) \$2,500; Comcast \$2,250; Wells Fargo \$1,750; Lockheed Martin \$1,000.

According to public documents, Lee spent \$1,156,304 on her re-election campaign in 2010, while her Republican and Green challengers spent \$0. Where does all that money go? \$548,700 went for fundraising and administrative costs, \$124,700 in campaign expenses and the rest went for other expenses.

As we pointed out in our Primary Voter Guide, Barbara Lee has made some bad votes. She voted to bailout the banks for their unethical behavior while leaving the homeowners stuck with upside down mortgages. The banks recovered their money with public funds while thousands of families had their homes foreclosed on and the banks retained those assets. A win/win for the banks and a lose/lose for the public. She also voted for a bloated defense appropriations bill, which included \$100 billion for the war in Afghanistan.

Marilyn Singleton, Representative Lee's opponent in November has only raised \$38,807 as of June 30th, AirTech Sales, a Roseville based HVAC systems company has donated \$6,000 so far to her campaign. Additionally, a teacher and a physician from Los Angeles donated \$2,400 and \$2,500 to her campaign, respectively. Her political views are largely Libertarian.

This year, because of Prop 14, there will only be two choices in the November General Election, and no space for a write-in candidate, which in our view is not democratic. Then again, neither is a candidate spending \$1.1 million against opponents who spend nothing by comparison.

State Propositions

State Propositions

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to enable crops to survive doses of pesticides that would otherwise kill the plants. This means both increased adverse environmental impacts from growing of GE food and health risks from the pesticide residues to those who consume the food.

Finally, contamination of organic crops with genetic material from nearby GE crops (pollen does not stay in the field where it's produced), as well as from the increased pesticide spraying that goes with GE crops, is a major risk.

The impact that proponents of the GE labeling initiative hope for—and that the industry fears labeling will have—was neatly summed up nearly 20 years ago by Norman Braksick, president of the Asgrow Seed Co., a subsidiary of Monsanto, which is a major producer of seeds that are genetically engineered to survive exposure to Monsanto pesticides. Quoted in an article in the Kansas City Star on 3/7/94 “If you put a label on a genetically engineered food you might as well put a skull and crossbones on it.” Very little GE food is sold in Europe where labeling has been in effect for 15 years. Given a choice, consumers shun GE products. The best of all outcomes will be that labeling will be the death blow to the GE industry.

If this proposition passes, a lot of products will sport the metaphorical skull and cross bones because more than 90 percent of soybeans, canola, and cottonseed oil produced in the U.S. are genetically modified, and sugar beets and corn are also high on the list.

Opponents of the proposition claim it will increase costs, but the proposition requires only that food be labeled. The fact that the proposition does not cost more—i.e., that it does not mandate an enforcement structure to ensure that food is correctly labeled—is, in our view, one way in which it does not go far enough.

Other ways that this initiative does not go far enough in protecting human health and the environment include: it exempts animals or products (such as milk) from animals who have been fed GE feed from labeling as well as processed foods that contain small amounts of one or many GE ingredients, freshly prepared food sold directly to the public, and restaurant food.

Why shouldn't consumers also have the right to know whether freshly prepared food they eat contains GE ingredients? And failure to label animals who consume GE feed creates a huge and significant information gap now that GE alfalfa has been approved because alfalfa is the main feedstock of the dairy industry. We know that consumption of GE feed directly affects an animal's health and thus could affect consumers of dairy products from that animal's milk. Unfortunately, even after this proposition passes, the only way to know whether milk and other dairy come from an animal whose diet consists largely of GE alfalfa will be to purchase organic products.

Despite these shortcomings, this ballot proposition is a huge step forward in “outing” a dirty, dangerous contaminant in our food supply.

Proposition 30 - YES **with reservations and a call to action** **Temporary Taxes for Education,** **Public Safety**

Proposition 38 - NO **Tax for Education and Early** **Childhood Programs**

Prop. 38, Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs: Molly Munger, a wealthy heiress and civil rights attorney from Pasadena, is the primary advocate and funder for this tax initiative. It raises income taxes on incomes above \$7,316, making part-time workers at minimum wage pay an increase of 0.4 percent. The increases progress slowly and end with a mere 2.2 percent increase for a tax bracket above \$2.5 million a year. A “no” vote is recommended. The initiative perpetuates the idea that this kind of “shared sacrifice” is needed to resolve our schools' budget problems. Please see the write-up below for more information.

Prop. 30, Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding: The phrases “over a barrel” and “better than nothing” come to mind when considering how to vote on this tax initiative. It has been carefully maneuvered into the position that if it does not pass, the consequences would be dire. Millions of people would be “shot” by the “trigger cuts”—people and services that have already suffered significant cuts for many years: our public schools and their students, parents and teachers; providers and recipients of in-home supportive services; healthcare providers and recipients; a growing number of

people needing safety net services; and many more.

Proposition 30 raises temporary taxes primarily through increases to high income tax brackets beginning with \$250K, and also through a 1/4 cent increase in sales tax. The funds allocated to education would go 89 percent to K-12 schools and 11 percent to community colleges. Funds would not be used for administrative costs, and charter schools would continue to be funded along with public schools. The initiative also amends the Constitution to guarantee funding for jails and other public safety services realigned from state to local governments.

From a technical point-of-view, the compromise initiative Proposition 30 is better than the Millionaires Tax or Molly Munger's tax in that it helps address the entire budget gap rather than earmarking funds to only some areas, thus leaving other areas vulnerable to more draconian cuts. From a strategic point-of-view, in order to get any tax initiative to pass, many believe that fewer tax initiatives on the ballot improve the chances that one will win.

The Tax-The-Rich movement has had a powerful effect on this initiative, and can build on this momentum. Failure of this initiative could weaken the chances that better proposals will be brought forward in the near future. The analysis likely to be widely disseminated—by mainstream media and politics-as-usual—is that voters simply don't want to raise taxes, period. That could stall the Tax-The-Rich movement rather than empower it to push on.

As to sales tax, just over a year ago Californians were paying 1 percent more. Jerry Brown wanted to keep that in place, but his attempt to get a special election in 2011 failed. The sales tax increase Brown advocated went from 1 cent in 2011, to 1/2 cent in early 2012, to 1/4 cent in the compromise tax initiative developed in March 2012. The sales tax dollars are small in total (15 percent of the projected revenue) and for individuals. If individuals making \$20,000 a year spent half of their income on taxable goods (not a realistic scenario), they would be paying \$25 more in sales tax a year.

As to income tax, Brown's proposals changed under pressure, as follows. In 2011, he would have continued the regressive Schwarzenegger taxes (reducing dependent child credit and raising some rates). In early 2012, he proposed two tax brackets over \$250K (adding 1 percent) and \$500K (adding 2 percent). In March 2012, that changed to three tax brackets: over \$250K (adding 1 percent), over \$300K (adding 2 percent), and over \$500K (adding 3 percent). According to the California Franchise Tax Board, the increase in income tax is imposed on the top 3 percent of taxpayers, and represents approximately 85 percent of the projected revenue in this tax initiative.

The Tax-The-Rich movement caused this progression. The movement includes independent political parties like the Green Party and Peace and Freedom, democratize-the-unions activists, and Occupy activists especially Occupy Education and its March 1st to 5th actions across the state. Many individuals also make up this movement, as proven by polls that placed the real Millionaires Tax ahead of Jerry Brown's and Molly Munger's. That reality check essentially forced Jerry Brown to make his tax initiative more progressive.

With reservations and a Call to Action, we are endorsing a “yes” vote on this better-than-nothing initiative.

Call to Action

The last part of the endorsement is a Call to Action. To make up for voting “yes” on a tax initiative that could and should have been much better, here is a list of actions to take. Watch for, sign, and circulate petitions for future tax initiatives, such as a real Millionaires Tax focused on the highest incomes, a wealth tax to take aim at the enormous disparity of wealth that is still growing, an oil severance tax, and a financial transaction tax. Possibilities also include establishing public banks such as a State Bank or County Banks; closing loopholes on corporate property taxes; and eliminating the 2/3 majority required to raise revenue, a rule that has given a minority of legislators veto power over taxing the rich. Also, take to the streets as often as you can, carrying signs like “Tax The Rich!” Yes, we can effect positive change when we take to the voting booths and take to the streets.

For the short term, vote “yes” on Proposition 30. For the longer term, support initiatives for fair taxes, work to change the system, and vote for people not funded by the 1 percent and their corporations.

Proposition 31 - NO **State Budget, State and Local** **Government**

“The Government Performance and Accountability Act” slogan (from the ballot argument in favor) is “Limit Government Spending—Increase Public Confidence in

State Budgeting.” We urge you to focus on the real overall purpose, to Limit Government Spending. The California Democratic Party's website shows their position as “No on Proposition 31: Locks California into permanent underfunding of education, health, and other vital services.” This time we agree with the Democratic Party. We agree that recent state budgets have not provided for the needs of California's residents, and ask you to vote NO on Prop. 31.

One major provision would ban the Legislature from establishing a new state program or expanding the scope of an existing program if that action would add \$25 million yearly (or more) to state costs unless they cut something else at the same time, or raise revenue. Since raising revenues requires a two-thirds vote and so is almost impossible, labor unions, such as the California Federation of Teachers (whose top officers signed the ballot arguments against Prop 31), and others representing people who need government services, oppose the measure for that reason. Other opponents include Anthony Wright of Health Access, Sarah Rose (CEO of California League of Conservation Voters), and Lenny Goldberg, Executive Director of the California Tax Reform Association).

The California state budget now requires only a simple majority to pass. Prop 31 would give the Governor the power to cut the budget unilaterally during “declared fiscal emergencies if Legislature fails to act.” While his cuts could be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the Legislature, that still grants too much power to the Governor. (We would prefer that when faced with a “fiscal emergency” the Governor had the power to unilaterally raise taxes on taxpayers whose income is in the top 1% in California, rather than cutting programs that benefit the other 99%.)

The measure also seeks to establish a two-year budget cycle, requires performance goals in state and local budgets, requires publication of all bills at least three days prior to legislative vote, and gives counties power to alter state statutes or regulations related to spending unless vetoed by the legislature or state agencies. Democratic Party legislative leaders probably don't want some of these changes. Environmental organizations can be expected to oppose localities being allowed to ignore state regulations.

So, how did this measure get on the ballot? Prop. 31 was written by California Forward, “a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to bring government closer to the people and move the state in the right direction—forward,” according to its website. Their rhetoric is vague and tries to be all things to all people. But this ballot measure is so flawed that several of their Board members resigned, including Bob Balgenorth, who said it “contains serious flaws... and will further harm California.” In the immortal words of Jim Hightower: “There's Nothing in the Middle of the Road but Yellow Stripes and Dead Armadillos.”

Ballotpedia reports that the signature-gathering was bankrolled by an eccentric billionaire, Nicolas Berggruen, who seems to think he can unilaterally decide how government could work better. Berggruen is among about 50 billionaires who has pledged to give away half his wealth (like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett). For example, he buys expensive art works and donates them to museums. (www.mirror.co.uk/ article of 4/7/2012) We suggest he stick to charitable donations of that sort and stay out of efforts like this ballot measure. Vote NO on Proposition 31.

Proposition 32 - NO **Special Interest Money,** **Prohibits Political Payroll** **Deductions**

The intent of this initiative is to weaken the ability of unions to participate in the political process. The voters of California have voted similar initiatives down twice before.

The current version has some language which gives the appearance of equal treatment for business and labor. In section 1E, Title, Findings, and Declaration of Purpose, the Purposes of this initiative are: 1. Ban both corporate and labor union contributions to candidates, 2 Prohibit government contractors from contributing money to government officials who award them contracts, 3. Prohibit corporations and labor unions from collecting political funds from employees and union members using the inherently coercive means of payroll deductions; and 4. Make all employee political contributions by any other means strictly voluntary.

In section 1B, fiscal problems are blamed on “special interests.” We believe fiscal problems are the result of businessmen not paying enough taxes. When Peter Camejo ran for Governor he pointed out that in the past, two-thirds of revenue came from business and one-third from individuals. Now it's just the opposite.

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In Section 1C, we find the following language: “These contributions yield special tax breaks and public contracts for big business, costly government programs that enrich private labor unions, and unsustainable pensions, benefits and salaries for public employee union members, all at the expense of California taxpayers.” Despite the complaints about business, what really steams the author of this proposition is government policies that help unions and workers, like the Davis-Bacon Act, which mandates prevailing wages on public construction projects. Project Labor Agreements on public works projects provide for union labor and in return contractors get labor peace guaranteed. The relatively decent wages and benefits of public sector workers are also a problem for the proponents. In this section they’re trying to divide public and private union members as well as trying to incite people who are not in unions against those who are. The 1 percent laughs all the way to the bank while the 99 percent fight among themselves. The Green Party believes all workers deserve good wages and benefits.

Section 2 of the initiative adds a lot of language to the government code governing campaign contributions. A number of the provisions in this section are truly outrageous and internally contradictory. Not only are corporate and labor union contributions to candidates prohibited but such contributions to political party committees are also prohibited if the committees make donations to candidates. The proposition bans payroll deductions for political purposes and also includes provisions that make unions and businesses get each employee’s consent for even voluntary contributions each year. This is designed to burden unions and cut down on workers’ contributions.

The way it currently works in many unions is that a member will sign a card authorizing a Committee on Political Education (COPE) deduction from his or her paycheck. Such authorization remains in force until the member stops the deduction. (This resembles the direct deposit of the paycheck to a financial institution account, which remains in effect until the worker changes it.)

Another part of section 2 defines “political purposes” to be way beyond just candidates (including candidates for party central committees). It even applies to the qualification and passage of ballot measures. Talk about doubtful constitutionality.

Section 3 (Implementation) has language stating that this measure shall be “liberally construed,” an attempt to influence judicial review. Further, if anyone wants to sue to enforce this measure, should it pass, the burden of proof shall be on the union or business to prove their compliance. This has the effect of turning the legal system on its head. You are guilty until proven innocent.

In these days of the “Citizens United” Supreme Court decision and increased weight given corporate personhood an initiative like this will hurt labor much more than any business. In fact, it is quite likely that the prohibitions on business would not stand up to judicial review. But then, that’s exactly what the proponents had in mind. Vote NO.

Proposition 33 - NO Auto Insurance Prices Based on History of Coverage

The 2012 Automobile Insurance Discount Act is a benign looking bill that will change the current law to permit Insurance Companies to set prices based on whether the consumer has carried continuous automobile insurance with any insurance company. It would allow insurance companies to give proportional discounts to drivers with some prior insurance coverage. It will also allow insurance companies to increase the cost of insurance to drivers who have not maintained continuous coverage. It does make allowances for lapses in continuous coverage if the lapse is due to active military service or loss of employment or if lapse is less than 90 days.

We do not like this bill and we feel it is very deceptive. We find it difficult to believe that the Insurance Companies (read Corporations) would go to the expense of putting an initiative on the ballot if it would not expand their profit margin. The initiative creates another criteria for raising automobile insurance rates for drivers. The state’s mandatory insurance law does not mandate continuous coverage. So this is an artificial construct by the insurance companies in the hope that we the people will vote against our own best interest in promise of a discount for a few.

Insurance Code Section 1861.02. (a) Rates and premiums for an automobile insurance policy, as described in subdivision (a) of Section 660, shall be determined by application of the following factors in decreasing order of importance:

- The insured’s driving safety record.
- The number of miles he or she drives annually.
- The number of years of driving experience the insured has had.

• Those other factors that the commissioner may adopt by regulation and that have a substantial relationship to the risk of loss.

Continuous coverage is not one of the factors and we hope you as voters will not make it one. Also in Section 1861.025 A person is qualified to purchase a Good Driver Discount policy if he or she meets all of the following criteria (a) He or she has been licensed to drive a motor vehicle for the previous three years and has no more than one violation point.

We think this initiative is very divisive. It changes the law to create another tier for insurance rates and premiums all under the guise of giving a discount to drivers. Yes, some of us will qualify for a discount but we feel that it will be to the detriment of the majority of drivers. What about the students that gave up their car to pay tuition and have been bicycling for years to get through school? What about that person that has been ill and swamped with medical bills or those who have lost everything in an effort to save their homes?

In 1987 the state made the insurance companies roll-back their rates and premiums 20 percent because of their egregious and discriminatory rates and premiums. This is another attempt by the Insurance Companies to maximize profits and increase their bottom line. We recommend an unqualified No on this bill.

Proposition 34 - YES with reservations Death Penalty Repeal

The Green Party opposes the death penalty. As expressed in our state party’s platform (see: cagreens.org/platform/violence), “Governments have a special responsibility to set good examples through their policies and actions. We, therefore, oppose the death penalty because executions are motivated more by vengeance than by justice. It has also been proven that executions are carried out in disproportionate numbers among minorities and the poor... The Green Party (supports) incarceration rather than executions, with the provision that dangerous criminals will not be released as long as they pose a threat to society or other individuals”.

So therefore we should vote “Yes” on Prop. 34, correct? But wait a moment! The arguments being put forward by the Prop. 34 proponents are almost entirely different than the arguments expressed in the Green Party platform. Prop. 34 is primarily concerned about the cost of the death penalty—how the money is not being put to good use in the “war against crime”! In fact, Prop. 34 would actually take \$100,000,000 of precious state general fund money and transfer it to local and county police and sheriff departments, at a time when both the statewide education budget and critical state services are being cut for lack of funds.

In addition, the NoDeathPenalty.org website (nodeathpenalty.org/blogs/californiacdp) has published a number of letters from current death row prisoners who are opposed to Prop. 34—especially because Prop. 34 would take away their appeal money, to prove their actual innocence. Another consideration is the “life without the possibility of parole” (LWOP) sentence which current death row prisoners would instead receive under Prop. 34. The conditions for California LWOP prisoners are brutally oppressive, such that a number of them have committed suicide, and with prison work programs paying less than \$1 per hour, it’s the modern-day equivalent of slave labor.

Of course, the official opposition to Prop. 34 does not raise any of these points and instead argues that justice requires the continuation of the death penalty. So in other words, the “Yes on 34” and the “No on 34” campaigns are both highly problematic. Regardless of whether Prop. 34 passes or not, the resulting situation will not be a humane or fair criminal justice system for those who are on, or who would be on, death row. So therefore, whichever way we vote, we will need to commit ourselves to correcting the many remaining injustices.

Approving Proposition 34 would mean that California would join in with the vast majority of countries around the planet that have eliminated the death penalty, but it would be at best a very muddled step towards eventually creating a potentially better overall situation. Therefore, taking into account all of the many defects cited above, we have decided to endorse Proposition 34 with reservations.

Proposition 35 - NO Human Trafficking, Penalties, Sex Offender Registration

Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act (CASE)—There are some bills with regard to social issues that politicians in Sacramento fear introducing or supporting as doing so may endanger their re-election. Abolition of the death penalty is one of these. Tough on crime bills, however, do not fall into this category. Since passage of the 2005 Trafficking legislation, at least four assemblymen (Swanson, Block, Steinberg, Hill) have introduced many bills further refining and strengthening that legislation, most of those adopted specifically targeting sexual slavery. The present initiative addresses some progressive issues which may require further legislation. It specifically prohibits the use of sexual history or a commercial sex act engaged in as a result of trafficking to impeach or prove criminal liability of a trafficked victim. It removes the need to prove force to prosecute sex trafficking of a minor. It mandates two hours human trafficking training for law enforcement, which hopefully would sensitize police not to victimize victims. These provisions, however, could become law through the legislative process. Most politicians and most of the public do not want to see minors become the prosecuted victims of trafficker crimes.

But this initiative includes other provisions, some of which are harshly punitive and others which make possible the prosecution by over zealous DA’s of those long since rehabilitated. The initiative proposes a lifetime requirement for anyone who registers as a sex offender (this includes traffickers) to provide a law enforcement agency a list of internet identifiers and internet service providers. Any addition or change in provider or identifier must be reported within twenty-four hours. In a recent sex offender registration case, a man served eight years of a twenty-eight year sentence for being three months late registering an unchanged address required by the Sexual Offender Registration Law. This was a third strike, the sentence was sustained when appealed in the state, and only overturned by a Federal Appeals Court. In view of this case, it is easy to imagine grave injustices befalling people at any point in their lifetime, a lifetime during which a crime of early adulthood will continue to haunt them, and a failure to report a change in internet provider within twenty four hours can provide DA’s reason to convict. (It may be noted that 94 percent of the funding to get this initiative on the ballot was provided by Chris Kelly, who ran for Attorney General of California in the 2010 Democrat primary, and whose former career had been as Chief Officer of Privacy and Security at Facebook, Excite@Home and Spoke Software.)

Legislation requiring seizing of assets of sex traffickers is already in place, so the enormous increase in fines for trafficking, up to \$1.5 million would appear unnecessary. If money earned in legal employment after a prison sentence were to be garnished, the continuation of a criminal life upon release from prison would only be encouraged.

Maximum prison sentences for all offenses set by present law are to be increased by this initiative, from eight years to fifteen years, from twelve to twenty, and fifteen years to life when the offense involves a minor and “force, fear, fraud, deceit, coercion.” California at present sends more of its citizens to prison with longer sentences than any other place on earth. It’s hard to see how these increased sentences will deter most traffickers.

Most likely to be convicted of these fines and enhanced sentences are easily arrested street pimps, often young adult men of the inner city, whose victims are girls five or ten years younger, young men whose lives have given them little hope of succeeding in the world of legal work. Longer sentences and greater fines can only make the transition to a productive life less likely for them. Our resources should be put toward their education, vocational training, rehabilitation in community facilities. We could begin with universal pre-school. It’s a lot cheaper than twenty to life in prison. Vote NO on CASE.

Proposition 36 - YES Three Strikes Reform Act, Repeat Felony Offenders

The Three Strikes Reform Act is an enormous improvement over the present Three Strikes law. Stories of injustice in sentencing resulting from the present law have become legendary. This initiative has inserted the words “violent and serious” before the word “felony” when referring to any of the three convictions being considered for sentencing. No longer will citizens face indeterminate lifetime sentences for having committed three low level felonies in the course

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of their lives. These low level “third strike” sentences will be a sentence of two to three times the sentence for the third felony as a first offense. Only three violent and serious strikes will result in life sentences. The initiative also allows present three strike prisoners who had committed a non serious non violent crime on the third strike to request re-sentencing consideration to be determined by a judge. The initiative does, however, exclude some citizens from benefiting from the changes its passage will bring. If either of the first two convictions included a murder, rape, child molestation, or selling cocaine or heroin to minors, the third felony, no matter how minor or how many years subsequent to the prior conviction, will result in a sentence unchanged by this initiative. This is unfortunate as many people mature throughout the decades of their lives, and a minor incident in middle age can ruin an otherwise rehabilitated person’s life, due to crimes for which time has years since been served. Despite the limitations of change in the present law that passage of this initiative will bring, it’s passage will result in less injustice, and the initiative is worthy of endorsement. Vote YES on the Three Strikes Reform Act.

Proposition 38 - NO Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs

For write-up, please see Proposition 30, above.

For more on Prop. 38: <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides>

Proposition 39 - YES Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses, Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Funding (CEJA)

The California Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) sounds too good to be true, but refreshingly, for once, there is nothing nefarious going on behind the curtain.

What’s important about the CEJA is that it would close a little-known state corporate tax loophole (which only California and Missouri have), and redirect the recovered monies towards energy efficiency projects, clean energy development, the General Fund, and education.

Historically in California, corporate taxes have been calculated on a formula that considered three factors: a company’s sales, workforce and property. But as part of a late-night tax deal during the budget crisis of ‘08-’09, the Legislature agreed to the creation of a loophole allowing out-of-state corporations to use an “optional” single-sales factor to calculate their taxes, i.e., use whichever formula costs them less.

According to George Skelton, writing for the *Capitol Journal* in May 2012, “This corporate loophole was opened as a price for securing Republican votes in each

house for income, sales and car tax increases—temporary hikes that Gov. Jerry Brown last year tried unsuccessfully to extend.”

State Senator Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) described the all-too-familiar story: “It passed at 2 a.m. with no one in the Legislature understanding what was taking place. We were dealing with very arcane, complex stuff. There was no hearing. No public testimony. And these are the consequences to our tax policy.”

In a recent opinion piece to the San Jose Mercury News, CEJA advocate Thomas Steyer wrote: “There is a loophole in California tax law that allows corporations to make a choice: They can pay taxes based on the amount of business they do in our state, or they can pay taxes based on the number of buildings and employees they have here. It is a foolish option because it means companies that employ few people here but have plenty of sales do well by our tax system, and companies with significant operations and large workforces in California are handicapped.”

The CEJA would close that loophole and replace it with a mandatory “single sales factor” tax policy for most multi-state firms.

About 60 percent of the new revenue for the CEJA would be used for clean energy retrofitting of buildings, creating up to 30,000 construction jobs. Then after five years, all that money would go instead into the state General Fund and the other 40 percent would go to K-12 schools and community colleges. If the measure is approved, California would join Michigan, New York, Illinois, and more than 15 other states that also recently closed this tax loophole. The measure also includes the creation of a Citizens Oversight Board of 9 members appointed by the Treasurer, the Controller and the Attorney General.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates the fiscal effects as “approximately \$500 million in additional state General Fund revenues in 2012-13 and \$1 billion each year thereafter . . . with about half of the additional annual revenues from 2013-14 through 2017-18 supporting energy efficiency and alternative energy projects”, and an increased “funding guarantee for K-14 schools of roughly \$225 million annually from 2012-13 through 2017-18 and by roughly \$500 million each year thereafter, as a result of additional state General Fund revenues.”

The proposition has major funding from San Francisco billionaire Thomas Steyer, who is responsible for funding the creation of the TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy at Stanford University, and in August 2010, he and his wife joined 37 other American billionaires in pledging to give away at least half their fortunes to worthwhile causes. Steyer contributed millions to defeating the Koch-funded Prop 23, which would have suspended AB 32, a law that required that greenhouse gas emission levels in the state be cut to 1990 levels by 2020.

The CEJA is endorsed by the Green Chamber of Commerce.

We recommend voting yes on the California Clean Energy Jobs Act. See www.cleanenergyjobsact.com.

Proposition 40 - YES in opposition to the referendum Redistricting, State Senate Districts, Referendum

The genesis of proposition 40 begins with the new state senate districts (based on the 2010 census) which were drawn last year by the Redistricting Commission. The Republicans didn’t like them, believing they favored the Democrats, so they filed a lawsuit to overturn those new districts. However, the state supreme court decided against the Republicans last Fall. Therefore, this referendum represents the Republicans’ last remaining option to overturn the new districts.

In California, referenda are worded so that a “Yes” vote maintains the original law or decision, and a “No” vote overturns the existing situation. Therefore, if proposition 40 is approved, the new state senate districts drawn by the Redistricting Commission (which we’re currently using for this November’s election) would continue to be used through 2020. But if proposition 40 is defeated, those districts would be discarded, and the state supreme court would appoint a new group of individuals to draw new districts.

There are several reasons why the Redistricting Commission’s work should not be tossed out—why we should cast a “Yes” vote on this proposition. First, the state supreme court already reviewed the Republicans’ complaints about the new districts and unanimously found them to be without merit. (The submitted complaints had to do with not respecting city and county borders, diluting minority representation, and not creating compact districts). In addition, if proposition 40 is defeated, it’s very doubtful that better people would be chosen to create new districts, and in any case, they will continue to be an unelected and unaccountable body. (Under the previous system, in place for many decades prior to the 2008 proposition that created the Redistricting Commission, the elected state legislature is responsible for drawing the lines). Finally, the overall system of our representatives being chosen from single-member districts (40 for the state senate, and 80 for the state assembly) guarantees that substantial portions of the electorate simply won’t receive genuine political representation—especially compared to, for example, the proportional representation election systems used in almost all European countries, as well as in many other countries across the planet. It’s time that we instituted major positive electoral reforms such as proportional representation and public campaign financing, rather than deceptions such as new redistricting processes or the “top two primary” that has now been thrust upon us.

We recommend that you cast a “Yes” vote on proposition 40, to retain the new state senate districts—and then help groups such as Californians for Electoral Reform (www.cfer.org) to transform our electoral system with substantial and truly-democratic alternatives.

Countywide Measures

Measure A1 - No Oakland Zoo Parcel Tax

If your core values are that you care for biodiversity and sustainability, then you will want to Vote No on Measure A-1 to preserve the Oakland Zoo in Knowland Park. This Measure, A-1, sets in motion a stealth plan of Zoo expansion through loopholes giving carte blanche to spend the funds for “constructing” and “expanding” projects such as a 34,000 square foot building beside a rare chaparral plant community used by many species. The result will be the paving over of precious native wildlife habitat of Oakland’s largest wildland park.

If passed it would create a troubling precedent of taxing residents to fund a private operator with no true public accountability. The poor stewardship and past broken promises of free days and dumping events and lack of environmental considerations has broken the public trust. The Zoo already gets public funds from multiple sources and there are too many other needs that are of higher priority. For detailed information go to: www.saveknowland.org We recommend a No vote on Measure A-1.

Measure B1 - No County Transit Sales Tax

“In November 2000, Alameda County voters approved Measure B, a half-cent local transportation sales tax, scheduled to sunset in 2022. Virtually all of the major projects promised to and approved by voters in that measure are either underway or complete. Funds that go to cities and other local jurisdictions to maintain and improve local streets, provide critical transit service and services for seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as bicycle and pedestrian safety projects will continue until the current Measure B expenditure plan ends in 2022....While most of the projects promised in Measure B have been implemented or are underway, the need to continue to maintain and improve the County’s transportation system remains critically important. Alameda County continues to grow, while funding from outside sources has been cut or has not kept pace,” says the background and summary of the 2012 Alameda County Transportation Expenditure Plan (AC-TEP).

We agree our County transportation system is getting worse (less AC Transit service, more potholes on local streets) and that we really need more public transit and more bicycle and pedestrian safety projects.

By unanimous vote, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors placed the AC-TEP on the ballot. Every city in Alameda County supports it. TransForm, the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, the Alameda County Central Labor Council, and other organizations we respect have endorsed it.

What Green could possibly object? The money will come from raising the current half-cent sales tax to one full percent. We often remind readers that sales tax hurts lower-income people the most. There are local tax possibilities (such as parcel taxes based on property size or use) which would collect more from people and businesses more able to pay more.

But this time, the sticking point for us is that this tax will be collected “in perpetuity...from approval in 2012 for an unlimited period unless otherwise terminated by the voters, programming a total of \$7.7 billion in new transportation funding in the first thirty years. Voters will have the opportunity to review and approve comprehensive updates to this plan at least once prior to the end of 2042 and every 20 years thereafter,” says the AC-TEP.

The pessimism of “end of history” setting in stone our local tax system by agreeing our presently inadequate State and Federal tax systems cannot be changed in five years or ten years is more than we can swallow. Who predicted the Arab Spring of 2011? Who predicted the Occupy Movement? (For that matter, who predicted that Governor Jerry Brown would end Redevelopment?) We cannot predict the movements that could arise in the next five years or ten years. We cannot agree to locking in this regressive tax “in perpetuity.” In 2004, Alameda County’s voters passed a half-cent sales tax to help fund the Alameda County health care system, with a 15-year sunset clause. We would like to see this transportation measure return to the ballot with a similar sunset clause. Please Vote No (with regrets).

State Senate, State Assembly

State Senate, District 9 Mary McIlroy

Although incumbent Democrat Loni Hancock has been relatively good on certain state issues, such as education and campaign finance reform, she has had a very poor record on many local issues, such as supporting Gordon Wozniak for Berkeley City Council, and endorsing 2010's Measure R. (For more info on those, please see our write-up below on State Assembly, District 15). In addition, despite representing one of the most environmentally-conscious areas in California, Hancock has regrettably had a very mixed record on environmental issues. We are, for example, very disappointed with her lack of leadership in the fight to prevent the 2008 proposed aerial spraying of the Bay Area with pesticides for the light brown apple moth. Several other state legislators, including Sandre Swanson of Oakland, Mark Leno of San Francisco, and Jared Huffman of Marin county, were vocal critics of the proposed spray and introduced and fought for stronger bills to stop it than the bill Hancock introduced late in the game and did little to promote.

Hancock also continues to stick with a party that is clearly owned and controlled by the same corporate and wealthy elite that also runs the Republicans. No matter how progressive a Democratic politician might want to be, he or she must ultimately accept the will of the party leaders on imperialist, capitalist, and corporate issues, or be removed. That is why endorsing Democratic Party candidates in partisan races is unacceptable to the Green Party, and why we continue to work for electoral reforms such as instant runoff voting (ranked choice voting), public campaign financing, and proportional representation as the best means of gaining more democratic choice in our county, state, and country.

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

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

Join us in opposing the status-quo Democratic Party candidates and vote for Mary McIlroy for State Senate.

State Assembly, District 15 Eugene Ruyle

"A veteran and grandfather for peace, Eugene Ruyle is the Peace and Freedom Party... candidate in the recently re-gerrymandered 15th State Assembly District....Gene is a retired Anthropology professor who supports the Peace and Freedom Party Platform and Occupy Oakland. A Cal graduate, he wants to help build the movement to democratize and demilitarize the University of California as part of the larger movement to shut down the war machine, provide free education and health care for everyone, defend our personal freedoms, and protect our Mother Earth." These quotations are from Eugene Ruyle's web page, at www.peaceandfreedom2012.org

Democrat Nancy Skinner, the incumbent, has been a relatively strong progressive voice in Sacramento, where she has championed health care. Locally, however, she has been part of the Bates/Hancock machine. Skinner has been terrible on Berkeley's land use and development issues,

actively participating in the 2009 campaign against the Berkeley downtown plan referendum, where Greens and other progressives were successful (at that time) in halting the City Council's ill-conceived scheme for the center of Berkeley. In 2010 she then supported Measure R, which significantly raised downtown building heights, undermined landmark protections, and failed to require building affordable housing downtown, provide open space, or mitigate impacts to the neighborhoods adjacent to downtown.

As Ruyle says, "As Democrats go, Skinner is not particularly obnoxious. She supports better funding for education and opposes pepper-spraying student demonstrators But she is also a leader of the pro-capitalist, war-addicted Democratic Party that is busy bailing out banks, passing repressive legislation, and drone-bombing innocent people in Pakistan, Yemen, and elsewhere."

Republicans didn't even bother to run in the June Primary, and Skinner had no challengers from within the Democratic Party. That's why Ruyle's write-in campaign in June came in second. Under the new "Top Two" system of Prop 14, Ruyle will appear on the November ballot. We endorse his campaign for AD 15.

State Assembly, District 18 Don't vote for Rob Bonta

This race (in Alameda, San Leandro, and most of Oakland), among few competitive elections in Alameda County, is taking place because current Assemblymember Sandra Swanson cannot run again after 3 terms (6 years) in the California Assembly. Vying for this seat in the June Primary were three liberal democrats—Rob Bonta, Abel Guillén, and Joel Young—and a Republican, Ronda Weber. As a result of Proposition 14, passed in 2010, the top two vote getters in the June 2012 primary, two Democrats, Bonta and Guillén, are running against each other in the November 2012 general election. (See article in this Voter Guide about the legal challenge to Prop 14, page 15.)

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

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

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

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

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

We are disturbed that Bonta has accepted campaign contributions from several people involved in efforts to privatize public education. These donors include charter school champion Stefan Pryor, Connecticut Commissioner of Education, and Dmitri Mehlhorn, (Chief Operating Officer of StudentsFirst, founded and run by union-buster Michelle Rhee, relocated from DC to Sacramento). A generous Bonta donor is SF philanthropist Larry Stupski, retired President of Charles Schwab. Stupski was a major contributor to Gloria Romero, charter school advocate, in her failed 2010 Campaign for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Romero is now a strong supporter of Prop 32. (See "No on Prop 32", page 4.) Mialisa Bonta, Rob's wife, has worked with both StudentsFirst and the Stupski Foundation.

The biggest, most significant fight that Alameda recently experienced was that of the attempted land grab of 450 acres of Alameda Point (formerly the Naval Air Station) by SunCal, backed by a major Wall Street hedge fund. Because their plan involved over 4,000 residential units, a citizens' vote was required. The progressive community successfully organized to defeat this plan and did so by an 85 percent to 15 percent vote. While Mr. Bonta claimed,

after the election, that he was opposed to the SunCal plan, he did at no time take a public position against the plan during the campaign. Bonta was closely identified with council members who supported the SunCal plan and was perceived to be in that camp.

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

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

Bonta was part of the City Council's recent move to place a half of one percent sales tax for 30 years on the June ballot. This was soundly defeated by the community, 50/50 when a two-thirds vote was required. Proponents spent \$75,000 (mainly donated from the police and firefighters) and opponents spent \$3,500! This poorly constructed sales tax failed to cite on the voter ballot the fact that it was for 30 years. In addition, the council manipulated the ballot arguments to prevent the opponents' point of view in the voter handbook.

According to the Secretary of State's campaign-reporting website, Bonta has failed to file at least four separate campaign finance statements disclosing activity in his Alameda City Council campaign committee from July 2011 to June 2012. This revelation came soon after a grassroots group of Alameda residents launched an effort to recall Bonta. Recall organizers cite the ongoing local uproar over Bonta's City Council votes in favor of development projects supported by major campaign donors and his decision to run for the Assembly seat just six months after taking Council office.

Bonta seems to be treating his less-than a year tenure as a Alameda City Council member as a stepping stone to higher office, annoying supporters who worked hard and donated lots of money to put him in office.

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

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

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

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

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

Guillén has worked, with some success, to overcome years of mismanagement and waste by Peralta's administration and Board, to bring accountability and transparency to its finances, and to end to fraud and abuse. There has been progress, but the Peralta Board has a long way to go.

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

Oakland City Offices

Oakland offices

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stop killing people. In response to questions about pension “reform” (that is, cuts) and paying new public-safety hires less, De La Fuente and Kaplan favored wage cuts and more employee contributions so more police can be hired. Theresa said we keep putting money into police, not our children and youth. If cuts can be made, we should not spend the money on police; money should be spent on schools and other programs for our youth. Of the four candidates who appeared at that debate, Theresa stood out for her emphasis on the crisis among our youth, the homeless, those returning to Oakland after incarceration, and the underserved generally.

Rebecca Kaplan (www.kaplanforoakland.org), the incumbent, was formerly a Green, but reregistered as a Democrat in 2008. We see that decision as a shift toward status quo politics. When Kaplan ran as a Green for this seat (in 2000) she had a global vision and looked for local steps toward that vision. But now, one of her current three priorities (as stated in her reply to our questionnaire) is “Public Safety,” by which she means “focusing on work to make sure law enforcement resources are used effectively.” Kaplan opposes police misconduct, as does every candidate and elected official. But nine years after the settlement in the Riders case, mandated changes have still not been made in the OPD. Generalities at this point are not enough.

Ignacio De La Fuente has been thoroughly pro-business and pro-development on the City Council. In this election he is backing candidates (in District 3 and District 5) who he expects to be reliably the same. Don’t rank De La Fuente—that is, don’t vote for him at all.

Carol Lee Tolbert (www.tolbertatlarge.org) was on the Oakland School Board from 1992 to 1997. Tolbert answered our question about what motivates her to run with “the public has lost confidence in the ability of the [current] Council to lead. This was evidenced in the 2011 Special Election when the City sponsored measures failed.” We agree. Our questionnaire asked about the Oakland budget. Tolbert suggested “civilianizing more police department positions” and “seeking parity in funding pensions for all City employee unions.” She offered no suggestions about increasing revenue.

Mick Storm (based on his questionnaire and website, mickstorm.com) joins the chorus of candidates who are in favor of public safety and want to prevent and reduce crime. Storm does oppose youth curfews (because only about 10 percent of Oakland’s crime is committed by youths). He wants more police, and also wants “to eliminate waste and unnecessary programs from the city budget, and redirect resources to public safety programs and community policing.” Storm does understand that “youth in Oakland has many needs that are not being met. Quality schools, and safe areas for recreation are sorely lacking in many areas of Oakland.” Storm seems to lack relevant experience and we see no particular reason to support him for City Council.

City Council, District 1 # 1: Donald Macleay (Ranked) # 2: Craig Brandt; (Ranked) # 3: Dan Kalb (Don’t vote for Amy Lemley or Len Raphael)

Our own Oakland Green candidate, Don Macleay, is our first choice. Making his second run for a city office, Macleay brings to the table a serious understanding of local Oakland issues with a strong set of proposals. He shares the priorities of the other Oakland Greens of youth issues first, reform of the budget and the budget process, and reform of our local election districts and rules. He is not in favor of any more speculative real estate, big “development” projects where the City of Oakland takes most of the risk.

Macleay defines the youth issues as the main issues that affect all of us, but fall harder on youth: our failing schools, high unemployment, the high cost of housing and a criminal justice system that traps people. His focus on crime is both on how to stop crime and how to stop people from becoming or continuing to be involved. With over 400 shootings resulting in over 100 deaths a year, almost all of which involve either homelessness, substance abuse, truancy or recidivism he feels that we do not have to look anywhere else for our priorities. Yet each year we continue to fail half our high school students and every day we send more young people, almost all of them of color, into the prosecution mill. Every day people come home from pris-

ons with no integration plan or social support. We seem to have funds to spend on ballparks, but always cut restorative justice and community policing. Macleay pledges to not allow such votes without a fight. Macleay promises that if elected, the next Oakland City budget will get debated in public in council chambers, not in two groups of four behind closed doors. He wants budget priorities that stop the cycle of two year crisis, threatening to close 14 out of 18 libraries in 2011 and dropping 80 police officers in the budget before that.

Macleay has been a social activist for many years. He has been a union organizer, international solidarity worker, advocacy environmentalist and school volunteer. His work background includes 19 years as a journeyman machinist, director of a small scale electric company, industrial arts teacher, and small business owner. Macleay is multinational and multilingual, including fluent Spanish and passable Mandarin. Few candidates bring such a wide background to public office.

Macleay’s only endorsements are from our Oakland Teachers and other grass roots citizen activists. He takes no money from any local economic interests and wants to go into office beholden only to his supporters and voters.

District 1 has seven sincere, informed and interesting candidates ranging from moderate Republican to Green. There are three traditional candidates, Kalb, Lemley and Raya who are of the standard “professional” Democratic Party politician type with campaigns based on connections, endorsements and money. They are the kinds of semi-insiders that surface when the incumbent owner of a seat leaves it “open.” All three will have many political debts (especially Democratic Party debts) that they will owe for those endorsements and donations making them “normal” candidates that our system produces.

Raphael and Brandt are concerned citizens, active in the community and informed commentators on local issues.

Except for Raya, these other candidates do not propose any changes in the way we form a budget or elect our representatives. They describe our budget issues as external for the most part and not one speaks of oversight or checks and balances. There is also a silence on police violence issues (except Lemley) and for the most part issues of race. There is a total, stunning silence on the subject of money influencing politics and all vaunt their fund raising abilities as an asset.

On the positive side, any one of these candidates has the background to be a qualified member of council and all bring a positive contribution to the table. Each has strong personal reasons to advocate the policies that they do and this is a refreshing change from other recent elections.

Craig Brandt: As a lawyer and community volunteer he has some insight to our police issues and in his response to the Greens’ questionnaire was the only one to mention the right of protestors to make an encampment and his opposition to policies that lead to racial profiling. Brandt is a citizen activist who has supported Riles for Mayor, but also candidates we find less progressive.

Dan Kalb is strong on policy advocacy and his public speaking shows his strong intellectual grasp of the issues. His connection to the Democratic Party seems based in his principles and his advocacy background. He is (correctly in our view) focused on parolee recidivism but his solutions are narrowly focused on the Cease Fire ideas of Kennedy (as are Lemley and Raya).

Amy Lemley: Her response to our questionnaire shows her strong grant writing skills and her answers showed areas of advanced grasp of the issues, especially the issues that relate to the difference between what the City is responsible for and what the County should be doing. Unfortunately her stated plan is to form a new majority on council together with Councilmembers Schaaf, Kernighan, and Reid. In public she says that 4 current council members will form a majority with her. (Outgoing member Nadel also supports her.) If you like the status quo politics in Oakland, then you will like her plan. Her other plans are also status quo: more police, more development projects and more “business friendly” policies. At least she is honest enough to tell us what her plans are. The Greens do not agree with a continuation of business as usual and recommend you do not vote for Lemley.

Don Link has more background in Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils than anyone else running. He is the only other grass roots candidate and the only other confirmed flatlander. He supports many things the Greens oppose, including the Gang Injunction. He is aware and open about the distrust that exists for the local government. He believes strongly in community policing from a pro status quo point of view. He thinks most Oakland youth are doing fine. We do not agree.

Len Raphael is a CPA with a serious grasp of our budget

issues. Why not Raphael? Mostly because he is a fiscal conservative of a moderate Republican stripe. He also supports “stop-and-frisk” and other measures that we Greens can not agree with. On the other hand, he came down in favor of democratic rights during the Occupy protest reserving police action as only warranted against those committing a real crime.

Richard Raya is the only candidate other than Macleay to discuss anything of the budget process. He is an advocate of Community Budgeting and is a student of the initiatives taken in Brazil. He is another advocate of Cease Fire and makes outreach to youth at risk part of his core campaign. In most other ways he is a mainstream style candidate with credible Liberal Democrat credentials. But he is endorsed by Ignacio De La Fuente, which concerns us.

City Council, District 3 (Ranked) #1: Derrick Muhammad (Ranked) #2: Nyeisha DeWitt (Ranked) #3: Lynette Gibson-McElhaney (Don’t vote for Sean Sullivan)

After 16 years on the City Council, Nancy Nadel is retiring from public service. Her district includes Chinatown, Adams Point, Jack London Square, Pill Hill, West Oakland, and all of downtown Oakland, and is currently in the midst of a great deal of development – and a great deal of gentrification.

At the July 9 Sierra Club Candidates’ Forum, District 3 candidate Alex Miller-Cole indicated that homeownership should be for everybody; this is either an unrealistically idealistic position to take or a paean to condo-converting real estate developers, but either way, enforcement of such an opinion would drive even more low-income renters out of Oakland. We feel this city needs to continue offering affordable rental properties. (With all due respect to Nancy Nadel, who gives Miller-Cole her #1 ranking, we do not agree.)

Sean Sullivan has Ignacio De La Fuente’s endorsement for District 3, and given De La Fuente’s uncanny knack for steering Oakland in the wrong direction, such an endorsement makes Sullivan the least appealing of the six candidates. We recommend not voting for Sullivan in any way, even in the second or third-ranked positions.

Our first-place ranking goes to Derrick Muhammad. A former employee of the Port of Oakland, Muhammad is in favor of inclusionary zoning, and wants to help West Oakland become a flourishing center of social activism. His vision for job creation throughout his district is smart, community-minded, and well worth considering. We wish Mr. Muhammad the best of luck. He has earned endorsements from the Operating Engineers Local 3 and the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, from ILWU Locals 10, 34, 54, 75, and 91, from many church leaders, from the owners of Vo’s Restaurant and CANA Restaurant, and now a #1 ranking from the Green Party of Alameda County.

Dr. Nyeisha DeWitt is strongly committed to social justice and environmental protection; DeWitt is also working to “ensure more of our police officers and firefighters are actually from Oakland,” which is a worthy pursuit. Lynette Gibson-McElhaney advocates a more open and transparent City Hall, and has a vision for clean industry in West Oakland that would encourage more people to telecommute from their homes or live near their jobs. Gibson-McElhaney is also a strong advocate for affordable bus transit. Given Nancy Nadel’s #2 ranking (recommendation) of DeWitt, we recommend DeWitt for your second-place vote, and Gibson-McElhaney for third place.

Larry Lionel Young Jr. (who ran for Mayor in 2010) is also running. We do not feel he is ready for City Council.

City Council, District 5 Don’t Vote for Noel Gallo or Shelly Garza

The Fruitvale district is represented on City Council right now by Ignacio De La Fuente, who is leaving his seat—which is cause for celebration. The repugnant De La Fuente is running for the At-Large seat, and if all goes as we hope, De La Fuente and Rebecca Kaplan will split that contest, sending Green Party candidate Theresa Anderson (a.k.a. Tee-Moe) to victory for the At-Large council seat.

Meanwhile, who will represent Fruitvale on the council?

Dawn McMahan (www.dawnmcmahanforoakland.net)

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emphasized in her questionnaire her work with underserved populations, and her background in conflict resolution, crisis intervention, trauma recovery, and helping people with substance abuse issues. She brought up the rights of the disabled and the need for diverse arts programming. As a resident of East Oakland, she helped build the Oak Tree Arts Center in her storefront live/work space. McMahan is the founder and Executive Director of the Pythia Arts Foundation (www.pythiadance.org), a group whose mission statement is based on three verbs: Dance, Educate, Heal. Although she seems very well-meaning, her experience at this time is much more rooted in the world of non-profit arts administration rather than activism or community organizing, let alone with any political bodies. Therefore we are concerned about her ability to be effective, if elected.

Noel Gallo looks like a poor choice, frankly. Gallo is an Oakland School Board member, endorsed by Pat Kernighan, Ignacio De La Fuente, Wilma Chan, Port of Oakland commissioner Alan Yee, and Alameda County Board of Education superintendent Sheila Jordan. When asked why he chose to run for City Council, Gallo's first line of response was, "In 1992, I was elected to the Oakland Board of Education; today our School District is the most improved District in California." If Gallo thinks the Oakland schools have flourished, then he is far too self-deluded to be representing the Fruitvale district.

We asked questions of Shelly Garza, but she replied, "I will not be submitting the questionnaire." Regardless of whether or not she will answer our questions, she looks like a pretty terrible candidate too, actually.

We also are not able to endorse Mario Juarez (www.mario2012.com), but here is some information about him. Juarez has a plan for Fruitvale, Safety First, that "provides a multi-faceted approach including more support and services aimed at youth, better job training programs for parolees... and a commitment to community policing." To fund crime prevention programs, Juarez advocates a \$5-\$7 user fee for each passenger flying out of Oakland International Airport. New York City airports have implemented similar fees, and Juarez estimates such a fee would generate upwards of \$50 million per year.

Juarez also pushes for an end to the transfer tax exemption for lenders foreclosing on homes. He cites the 10,833 foreclosures in Oakland from 2008-2011, and suggests that once banks need to pay these transfer taxes, these costs could be a disincentive for them to rush to foreclose. However Juarez, who runs a real estate office in the Fruitvale, was actually part of the foreclosure crisis, with houses with "sub-prime" mortgages being sold by his firm. He also seems to "tell people what they want to hear," so we're concerned about being able to trust him.

City Council, District 7 (Ranked) # 1: Sheryl Walton; (Ranked) # 2: Beverly Williams (Don't Vote for Larry Reid)

Larry Reid, the President of the Oakland City Council, is running for re-election in District 7, and frankly, we feel that Reid's nearly-16-year tenure on the council has been disastrous. Since he took office in January of 1997, Reid has gradually become exactly the kind of machine politician that the Green Party opposes. It is time for someone to unseat Reid. And one of those people should be either Sheryl Walton or Beverly Williams.

Beverly Williams, due in part to her role as a Community Leader and Advocate for ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment), is a solid choice. Williams has worked for the past 18 months as an ACCE Advocate volunteer, and in that role helped collect \$1.6 million in "fines received for blighted bank-owned foreclosed properties" in Oakland. Her work with ACCE has brought her focus and attention to loan modifications, responsible banking, and foreclosure prevention, and for these reasons, she makes a good choice for the District 7 race.

Our top ranking, however, goes to Sheryl Walton. In response to our questions, Walton cites "the need for the elimination of infighting and disrespect between and among our current City Council members so that policy and decisions can move forward," a sentiment which we appreciated seeing. In February, she joined the Coalition to Stop Goldman Sachs, and in those answers she gave us, Walton attacked the bond swap deals which have crippled the city's budget.

As a public health employee—she earned a Master's Degree in Public Health from UC Berkeley—Walton helped implement the Bucket Brigade in Richmond, in which "residents were given buckets to trap the air when they smelled or saw toxins. They were empowered to take their samples to the lab themselves and have the air tested."

Sheryl Walton's site (www.walton2012.org) also discusses the five years she spent with Oakland's City-County Neighborhood Initiative working on violence prevention in Sobrante Park, and the TimeBank she established in that community, "which creates an exchange of time and talent and strengthens relationships between Latinos and African Americans."

The main objective in the District 7 contest is to unseat the incumbent Larry Reid. We very much hope that Sheryl Walton is able to accomplish this challenging feat.

City Attorney Don't vote for Jane Brunner

Current City Attorney Barbara Parker (www.cityattorneyeparker.com) was appointed to this post approximately one year ago, following John Russo's resignation. Prior to that she had served as Chief Assistant City Attorney for over 10 years. As detailed in her questionnaire responses, during her one year in office she established a Code Enforcement Unit to focus on foreclosures, blight, and other issues; and she also worked on initiatives to enhance local hiring, increase government transparency, and to protect residents and businesses from the devastating results of price fixing by banks.

Long-time City Council member Jane Brunner (www.janebrunner.com) has chosen to relinquish her Council seat and is now trying to oust incumbent Parker from her post. We have not had a favorable impression of Brunner over the past 15 years that she's been in office. We have not endorsed her for any of her four previous appearances on the ballot, and we see no reason to do so this year either.

The criticisms of City Attorney Parker which Brunner expressed in her questionnaire answers were excessive, especially considering that Parker has only held office for barely a year. For example, Brunner complains that Parker's office has spent \$6 million on outside law firms yet Parker has actually reduced the costs of outside counsel by over 40 percent during her one-year tenure. Parker of course needs to continue to improve the operations of her office, but she's certainly doing well enough to be retained. However, she also needs to move further away from the "business-as-usual" Democratic Party machine politics which continue to drag Oakland down, so we're not able to give her our endorsement right now. Therefore, our formal position is, "Don't vote for Jane Brunner."

School Board, District 1 Thearse Pecot School Board, District 5 Mike Hutchinson, with reservations

These two candidates are linked by a commonality that is critical for the future of public education in Oakland (and elsewhere): the willingness to help organize in the community and to stand up to the established power. While their opponents (Jody London in District 1 and Rosie Torres in District 5) have reasonable positions on a variety of key issues, including opposing the expansion of charters, limits of testing, and equity/support for student programs, they largely represent the status-quo.

London is seeking a second term and began her position under state administration of the District, where she rarely opposed the measures of Randy Ward, representing the new business model imposed by the undemocratic regime or questioned how the District debt was massively increased. Even now, she is often aligned with the current superintendent Tony Smith and was basically uncritical of the undemocratic and regressive process by which school closures were determined, all in the name of fiscal responsibility. She has gone along with measures that would destabilize schools thru undermining faculty continuity and staff rights. Likewise, Torres, although not an incumbent, reflects many of these same positions. Politically, they align with the liberal mainstream of the Democratic Party and have many of the endorsements of such elements as well as much of the union bureaucracy (although the teachers union, the Oakland Education Association (OEA) is backing both Pecot and Hutchinson), and to their credit, are not part of the GO Public Schools cabal, which will be dealt with in the discussion on the other two school board races.

While London and Torres are both parents in the District, Pecot is a parent activist who has helped lead the struggle against the closing of her neighborhood school, Sante Fe, as well as the other four schools, all of which were relatively stable and had substantial African-American student population.

Hutchinson was/is also part of this organizing and both

understand that it is not sufficient to simply make policy pronouncements but also to battle for new resources, actively oppose new charters, and build unity between the unions and community (including resolution of the new contract with the OEA whose members are currently working under an imposed "contract"); this will likely involve opposing and probably attempting to remove Tony Smith. Both show a passion for working with students and parents as well as teachers and other educational workers that overrides the greater experience of their opponents.

The reservations around Hutchinson center on two issues. One is his changing party affiliation recently from Green to Democrat, and the other involves his wavering on supporting canceling the debt which the OUSD owes the state that was greatly increased under state administration. Nonetheless, his focus on key issues around halting school closures and opposing charters, as well as his pro-labor stance, merits our support.

School Board, District 3 No Endorsements (Don't vote for Jumoke Hinton-Hodge)

Making a decision in this race is very problematic. Ben Lang did not respond to our repeated overtures for him to return his questionnaire; he apparently has no interest in being considered for our endorsement. Jumoke Hinton Hodge is the incumbent and claims to be a voice of the community. Nonetheless she has little support amongst traditional African-American groups like the NAACP and has totally alienated the teaching staff in her district. She is the most pro-charter candidate, advocates for undermining union rights and seniority and is endorsed by GO Oakland Public Schools, the grouping backed by the pro-corporate Rodgers (Dreyers) Foundation, advocating merit pay and more standardized tests. While she has some Democratic Party and union support, she is by no means a consensus candidate.

While Richard Fuentes appears the most overtly "pro-labor" candidate, we cannot in good faith endorse him either. He is a member of IFPTE Local 21 and is supportive of contractual issues proposed by the OEA. He opposes funding measures which will give money to charter schools and stresses jobs and addressing the drop-out rate. That said, he is an offshoot of Ignacio de la Fuente, for whom he worked and is linked to the union bureaucracy. While opposing school closures, he does not seem to advocate independent mass action. It is unlikely that he will support removing the current superintendent, Tony Smith

School Board, District 7 Don't vote for James Harris

There is no question that James Harris is not deserving of endorsement. He lives outside the district (there is a lawsuit pending), he is a strong supporter of the current superintendent, Tony Smith, and by extension the school closures and anti-union policies, and is endorsed by the previously mentioned GO Oakland Public Schools, a pro-corporate advocate for education reform. His links to education are limited and mainly outside the public schools.

As regards the incumbent Alice Spearman, she has long-time connections with many groups and schools in East Oakland. She did oppose the most recent school closures and has been critical of charters; she opposed the break-up of Castlemont. She also seems to be at odds with Tony Smith. Nonetheless, she has generally gone along with the current testing regime and expansion of charters. It is hard based on her overall record to endorse her, but she does have a streak of independence.

Measure J - Yes, with bond reservations Oakland School Bond

Measure J, the \$475 million bond issue focused on school facilities in the Oakland School District, is an extension of Measure B and will relate to the OUSD 2012 Facilities Plan, which deals with school modernization, seismic improvements and site program development. It will have a citizens oversight committee and an annual audit.

That said, all bonds are regressive in the sense that they fund interest to be paid banks and other financial institutions. The support to any such bond measure should be combined with demands to improve student services, provide resources for staff and help to stabilize school sites through funds freed up by such a measure. This fiscal measure requires a 55 percent vote to pass.

Peralta Board, Alameda

Peralta Community College

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

Four seats on the Peralta Board of Trustees are up for election, but only one Peralta race will actually be on the November ballot. This is because three incumbents are running unopposed, and the Peralta Board has opted not to pay the Alameda County Voter Registration office election fee (tens of thousands of dollars) for single-candidate races. The three incumbents, elected in 2004, are Bill Withrow (Area 1, Alameda, part of Oakland), Nicky Gonzalez Yuen (Area 4, Berkeley flatlands, Emeryville, Albany), Cy Gulassa (Area 6, Rockridge, North Oakland, Montclair, Berkeley Hills). These incumbents have been endorsed by the Peralta Federation of Teachers.

Peralta Board, Area 2 Randy Reynaldo Menjivar

The Peralta Board needs new blood, and this race (in far East Oakland, southeast from Seminary), will bring some. Incumbent Marcie Hodge, who served two 4-year terms, did not complete filing for re-election. Four newcomers are running for this seat (including Hodges' brother-in-law). All candidates submitted detailed and thoughtful responses to our questionnaire. All four candidates support

fiscal transparency, Proposition 30 (see write up, page 4), serving students, and improving the situation for part-time faculty.

We recommend Randy Menjivar (www.oaklandgreens.org/randy), a young Oakland Green committed to working with his community to overcome poverty, drugs, and violence. A recent college graduate, Menjivar is the first in his family to receive a Bachelors degree. He is an advocate of affordable public education and an opponent of privatization. As a Peralta Trustee, he will emphasize responsible budget processes and make sure that cuts to classes and services are reversed. He pledges to be accessible to students, staff, and community members. Menjivar supports taxing the rich to increase state funding for education. Like other Green candidates, he will not accept corporate donations.

Menjivar is an energetic candidate. He has been working to build a grass-roots campaign, modeled after the Richmond Progressive Alliance, along with other Oakland Greens—Don Macleay (see writeup, p 8) and Theresa Anderson (see writeup, p. 1).

If this race used ranked choice voting, we would recommend a 2nd place vote to Jurena Storm (www.jurenastorm.org), a former Peralta student and student advocate, who was a Peralta Student Trustee and a Student Senator of California Community Colleges. Currently, she is an appointed member of the state Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. She is knowledgeable about community college issues, and is running in this race to “give back” to the district which was pivotal to her success. Storm's priorities are Measure B oversight (Parcel Tax passed by voters in June 2012), accreditation compliance, and sustainability. She recommends the use of private sector investments through expanding workforce development, community outreach, and grant opportunities.

Storm is supported by the more progressive members of the Peralta Board (Gonzalez Yuen, Guillen, Gulassa (dual

with Brown), and also by Student Trustee Brian Cervantes, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, and Oakland District 6 Councilmember Desley Brooks. Storm has the endorsement of the Peralta Federation of Teachers and the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

Meredith Brown (website not yet developed) is an attorney with over 25 years of experience representing public agencies and private clients in areas including construction, transportation, educational facilities and hospitals. She has extensive community and Democratic Party involvement, but little experience with community colleges. Her priorities are accessibility and affordability of education for students, and securing funding for education and training for jobs and careers in emerging industries. She is aware of the financial aid delay that Peralta students face and she is committed to find interim and permanent solutions.

Brown is President of the Alameda County Democratic Lawyers Club and is well-connected in some Democratic circles. She is endorsed by the John George Democratic Club and the National Women's Political Caucus. She is also endorsed by two long-standing Peralta Trustees whom we did not endorse in 2010: Linda Handy and Bill Riley. Supporters include Vice-Chair Kathy Neal of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee and Committee Member Mario Juarez (see writeup p. 9). Brown is also endorsed by Rob Bonta (see writeup, p. 7), and Oakland City Council President Larry Reid (see writeup, p. 9).

Tyriene Amey (website in development), is a management consultant, small business owner, football coach, and former substitute teacher. Amey is a West Point Graduate and was an commissioned officer in the Army for 5 years. Married to Marcie Hodge's sister, Amey recently moved to Oakland from LA. However, we question the depth of his knowledge about the community colleges and Oakland.

Alameda City Council Jane Sullwold

Tony Daysog, with reservations

After comparing their qualifications, including the returned questionnaires of the candidates, the two who stood out were Tony Daysog and Jane Sullwold. Daysog was a past city council member who served two terms. His positions today reflect a more developed sense of the realities our city is facing. He recognizes up front the disconnect between city hall and the citizens and proposes town hall meetings. He recognizes the city's huge unfunded liability and has offered reduction solutions while recognizing the negotiating process. His remarks also show the reality of our island's traffic mitigation issues that directly impact future housing with increased auto use. Keep in mind the planned Veteran's Administration clinic bringing in, according to their figures, an additional 1,000 cars a day. A Target store is to open next year as well. Serious candidates must address traffic as a key problem for this island.

Tony Daysog knows the extent of the problem of contamination on our old Navy Base, another key issue facing Alameda. He wrote about the need for greater transparency and abiding to the spirit of the recently adopted sunshine ordinance. However, there is a lasting impression from his previous days on the council that he equivocates on issues around land development, so therefore we have decided to endorse him with reservations.

Jane Sullwold's questionnaire reflects a detailed degree of understanding of key city issues: the budget and land development. She also suggests a greater degree of citizen participation tapping in on the human resources of local citizens. She was very involved in stopping a land swap that was planned behind closed doors; swapping a public junior golf course for a less than comparable piece of land. After months-long fighting the city council backed down. She is now supporting a measure going before the voters that will, if passed, prevent future misuse of public land. In her role as the president of the golf commission she saw the city misusing the recreation funds and underfunding the maintenance of the golf parkland.

Sullwold shows a commitment to use her research skills in monitoring the clean-up at the old Navy base. We endorse Jane Sullwold for City Council.

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft failed to grasp the failing budget of our city, saying that we are not in dire straits. This contradicts our own city public works department that says we have over a million dollars in deferred maintenance. Budgets can always be balanced if the city doesn't spend money to maintain its thoroughfares. It was unclear how alternative forms of transportation would lessen our traffic

burden if all roads lead to 4 bridges and a tunnel. She doesn't factor in the VA facilities coming to the Point as well as the new Target store.

The term “vibrant communities” (which she wrote in her questionnaire response) has a wonderful sparkle to it, but doesn't explain how businesses will actually settle on this island. Target is an example of such a business, but their minimum wages will not allow its workers to live here; and look at the small mall at the foot of Webster—now half empty.

Jeff Cambra's questionnaire does show a commitment to community involvement but his answer about promoting fundraising efforts to offset safety-net services is somewhat unrealistic and he fails to cite greater detail how this is to be accomplished. Another point is “supporting good schools,” but he fails to address how this can be accomplished since school budgets are not part of city budgets. He also writes about the city providing long-term lease options to businesses and describes a plan where these businesses themselves would remove the contamination. This ignores the sophistication and cost of the restoration process. The navy has spent a half million dollars on base clean-up and the job is far from complete. Referring to this process as “minimal financing” is unrealistic and fails to acknowledge the severity of the contamination. Such an action is both unhealthy and dangerous.

While traffic management programs are necessary he fails to acknowledge how more traffic can be accommodated without addressing the 4 bridges and a tunnel limitation. The answer he gives about refusing campaign contributions from “illegal” organizations is not a serious answer. Voters want to know what specific groups are giving money to candidates; it's an important open government issue that shows relationships. In addition, Cambra's answers fail to show an analysis of the city's budget. We do not recommend voting for Cambra.

The other candidates either gave very poor answers on their questionnaires or, despite several rounds of requests for them to do so, did not provide any reply to our questionnaire.

Alameda School Board Vote for 3 of these 4: Barbara Kahn, Jon Murphy, Kurt Peterson, and Trish Spencer

The issue driving this school board race is an action the board recently took: leasing private office space in a business park for the district superintendent and district personnel at a cost of nearly half a million dollars. This has not been received well by the Alameda community. Folks are not convinced this was the best solution during these

difficult financial times; a greater effort should have been made to utilize surplus space in existing school buildings or perhaps surplus city space. The school board failed to involve the community in the discussion and failed to make a convincing case for the move. Presently there are four candidates who are running on a commitment to solve the need for alternative district office space in a more prudent way: they are Jon Murphy, Kurt Peterson, Barbara Kahn, and the incumbent Trish Spencer. Please choose three of these four, as the candidates whom you will be voting for.

Healthcare District Tracy Jensen and Leland Traiman

It's time for some new blood on the local hospital board. Controversy swirls around the economic stability of the hospital and details of the issues are very closely guarded. A past city council member wrote a newspaper op ed recently describing the economic instability of the hospital and its future projections. Citizens are taxed an annual \$300 for the maintenance of this hospital. Hopefully new members on this board will open the issues before the public and give voice to the concerns so the public can have confidence in the way tax dollars are spent.

Leland Traiman, who is a nurse, has taken a serious interest in the operation of the hospital and Tracy Jensen, a past school board member with a solid record, should both be given a chance to serve.

Auditor Kevin Kearney, with reservations Treasurer Kevin Kennedy, with reservations

Alameda City auditor Kevin Kearney and Alameda City Treasurer Kevin Kennedy are running unopposed so there is no contest in either of these races. While both of these candidates have been outspoken in the past concerning the city's unfunded liabilities and deferred maintenance budget they were unfortunately caught up in a misguided campaign in June supporting a proposed city sales tax increase of 1/2 percent for 30 years, which fortunately failed to muster the 2/3 vote required for passage.

They have been notably absent from recent city council meetings. However, because they are unopposed, this election will undoubtedly go their way. Nevertheless, we hope they will enter into the public discussion of our city's finances once more.

Berkeley City Council, School Board

Alameda

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Measure D - Yes Disposal of Parkland

Measure D will close a loophole in a charter amendment that permitted an exception whereby parkland can be disposed of without voter approval—specifically, the city council may decide to exchange a park for another piece of land. Passage of Measure D will eliminate this exception.

This Measure came about because it came to light the city was preparing to swap a par-3 golf course primarily used by kids and seniors for a strip of land in a business park. A developer was planning to build 130 homes on this parkland designated for recreational purposes.

Citizens organized to protest this action at city council meetings and eventually the council voted against the swap. A citizens group then organized a petition drive to put this before voters in November to clearly close the loophole. In 6 weeks 147 percent of the required signatures were gathered.

This is a popular measure—protecting our parks and guaranteeing a voice for citizens in the use of their parks. There is no “Con” argument in the voter’s handbook. Vote “Yes” on Measure D.

Berkeley offices

continued from page 1

tain, with a mission to reclaim the ideals of Berkeley by supporting ecological sustainability, improving the living conditions of all citizens, increasing economic prosperity, thereby bringing the city together as a community.

Kriss is Berkeley’s most dedicated and competent City Council member. He is environmentalists’, progressives’, students’, and minorities’ strongest ally on the Council. Because he is constantly listening and responding intelligently to Berkeleyans’ concerns, he is re-elected time and again despite being hugely outspent by conservatives. For many years, he has been at our side, or out in front, on virtually every issue Greens stand for (from local to global). Kriss is a turquoise Democrat, Green in everything but registration.

Both deserve and get our first-place ranking. They are 100 percent for the 99%. However, we ask you to consider ranking Kahlil #1 and Kriss #2 as a statement of support for both the Green Party and a new generation of leadership in Berkeley. Because of the way ranked choice voting works, consider this even if you would prefer Kriss. This will not hurt Kriss’s chances of election (except in the highly unlikely case where they tie in the elimination round) and will be a big help to building the Green Party in Berkeley.

We also endorse Jacquelyn McCormick with reservations. Some of Jacquelyn’s positions are too conservative for a Green Party unqualified endorsement. Because we believe that replacing Bates with Jacquelyn would be a big improvement for Berkeley, we urge you to rank her #3.

With Ranked Choice Voting there is a real chance to defeat Tom Bates this year. If enough voters don’t vote for him at all (hopefully using our rankings) we can replace Bates, who supports many things the Green Party opposes, such as anti-homeless legislation and irresponsible development (the Bates/Hancock machine is a big recipient of developer and other special interest contributions). Bates refused to fill out our questionnaire saying, “I will not be seeking your endorsement.” The only way to get a truly progressive City Council is with new leadership, which Bates can’t provide. Don’t vote for Bates!

www.kahlil4mayor.org, www.facebook.com/Kahlil4Mayor, www.krissworthington.com, www.mccormick4mayor.com

City Council, District 2 Sharing # 1 & # 2: Denisha DeLane and Adolfo Cabral (i.e. “No Moore!”)

No Moore! Darryl Moore has been a severe disappointment, voting for putting the anti-sit law, the West Berkeley Project and anything else Tom Bates wants on the ballot. It’s almost as if he wants the support of the Bates/Hancock machine for a future race, such as the State Assembly. We therefore urge you not to rank him on your ballot. We like Denisha DeLane and Adolfo Cabral. We believe it’s more important to rank both of them in the one and two spots, then the order they are ranked. Denisha’s history and experience as Margaret Breland’s aide show us she would be better than Moore. While Adolfo doesn’t have the record that Denisha does, his fighting attitude for many of the things Greens

stand for indicates to us he would be a welcome relief from Moore. Of particular note is their both siding with most of the district residents and the Green Party against the developers, Mayor Bates and Moore.

www.facebook.com/DenishaDeLane, www.electdenisha.com, www.adolfocabral4citycouncil.com

City Council, District 3 Max Anderson

Max Anderson has done a good enough job to deserve reelection. We want to commend him for his passionate opposition to both the anti-sit ordinance and the West Berkeley development plan, Measures S and T on the ballot. Let’s reelect him. His opponent seems like a decent person that would make a nice friend, neighbor or even landlord, but with the exception of bringing representation of the disability community to the Council shows no indication that he would make a better or even as good a council member as Max. Belser is on the wrong side or too weak on too many issues that matter to Greens.

City Council, District 5 Sophie Hahn

Sophie Hahn submitted the best answers to any questionnaire we received this election cycle. She will be a great replacement for Capitelli on the Council. A Move-on Democrat, she would be far better on things like responsible development and sit/lie so she gets our wholehearted endorsement. She is the Zoning Commissioner who initiated the Berkeley Edible Garden Initiative.

Realtor Laurie Capitelli is a liberal Democrat. We agree with him on some issues. However, more importantly, his votes on the Council, Planning Commission and the Zoning Adjustments Board have often been at odds with Green values, so please don’t rank him. www.sophiehahn.com

City Council, District 6 # 1: Write in Phoebe Sorgen, # 2: Write in anyone else (Don’t vote for Wengraff)

Write in Phoebe Sorgen, who serves on Berkeley’s Disaster and Fire Safety Commission. For her work as Dona Spring’s appointee to Berkeley’s Peace and Justice Commission, Phoebe received the Outstanding Woman of Berkeley Award recognizing that her “dedication and leadership enriched all of our community.” An educator, she prioritizes an environmentally and commercially sustainable city that works with neighborhoods to meet all residents’ needs. She has been weighing in at City Council meetings for years and wrote many fine resolutions that the City adopted. Don’t vote for Susan Wengraff who is even worse than we expected, in developers’ pockets, and out of touch with Berkeley values.

The Green Party is happy to endorse Phoebe Sorgen as a write-in candidate for the District 6 Council seat. www.phoebesorgen.net

Rent Board Asa Dodsworth, Judy Shelton, Alejandro Soto-Vigil, and Igor Tregub

We support Judy, Alejandro, Igor, and Asa, the Slate endorsed by the “Tenant/Affordable Housing Convention,” which had over 200 Berkeley residents participating. For the first time in many years, the Affordable Housing Slate is running facing well funded opposition from a slate favored by the Berkeley Property Owners Association. Their claim to be a tenant slate is false. If the other slate is elected, they will work to weaken the strongest tenant protections allowed under state law, and may even eventually result in the end of an elected rent board in Berkeley. Electing even one member of their slate would give anti-rent control forces a wedge to undermine the best rent control program in the state from within the board, under the guise of “fiscal responsibility” or some other “Tea Partiesque” double speak. Our Slate is running to continue Berkeley’s strong tenant protections. Their Slate is running on “ending government waste, accountability, oversight” and the Grand Jury report that blasts Berkeley’s Rent Board. The Grand Jury report is nothing more than a political attack on rent control, full of incorrect information, assumptions and conclusions.

School Board Judy Appel and Beatriz Leyva- Cutler

Three good candidates, all women, Judy Appel, Tracy Hollander, and Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, are running for two seats.

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, the incumbent, is running for a second four-year term. She has been competent, has shown passion for education and for improving children’s lives, and will most likely be re-elected. The knock on her is she has shown a tendency to be too close to certain people, organizations, and programs, and at times has not been able to stay entirely objective because of this. Beatriz has wide support from the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, community organizations, and elected officials.

Judy Appel is running for the first time. She has ample experience at the site levels and helped introduce and usher in the Welcoming Schools curriculum and training to the Berkeley schools. Welcoming Schools has as a main component of its training a more open environment for our gay, lesbian, and transgender families and students, but encompasses many other types of family and home (even homeless) circumstances as well. Judy is the executive director of Our Family Coalition, a gay/lesbian family and child advocacy group based in San Francisco. She has impressive support in the community.

Tracy Hollander, though experienced and active at her own site, has limited District-wide experience and very little actual budget or policy experience. She has been a dedicated parent and child advocate, and certainly seems to be capable of serving on the board in the future. We’re just not sure she is ready yet.

You have two votes. There wouldn’t be a bad pick among the three candidates, but we believe Judy Appel is the “cream” of this batch



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Berkeley Measures

Berkeley measures

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list of things the poor can't do in our city.

This time, Mayor Bates and the Council Majority have openly stated that the law will be selectively enforced, in a way that many of the eloquent speakers at public meetings referred to as "economic profiling." Getting the scruffy kids and their dogs, the embarrassingly deranged, and the simply annoying spare-changer out of sight might make timid shoppers more comfortable, but it won't address the real economic issues our small businesses face. Ironically, the areas with the most visible homeless/street youth populations are doing the best in these bad economic times. Telegraph and Downtown had lowest rate of decline in retail sales and are also the largest sales tax generators other than West Berkeley Plan Area.

It's time to end the war. Vote No on S, throw incumbents Bates (mayor), Moore (District 2) and Capitelli (District 5) out of office and elect a council majority that reflects our values of real compassion and tolerance.

Measure T - No, No, No! West Berkeley Project

Faced with massive community opposition and the certainty of a successful referendum, the Mayor and Council majority placed this developer's dream that up-zones and builds-out large chunks of West Berkeley directly on the ballot. The proposal benefits a few big property owners with no up-front community benefits. It creates significant environmental impacts that can't be mitigated, including on traffic, air quality, and views to the hills. The measure does not include protections for Aquatic Park, despite the efforts of the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Citizens for an East Shore State Park (CESP) and Aquatic Park EGRET.

West Berkeley is a thriving community of residents, artisans, light industry and small business. It was protected as such when the West Berkeley Plan was passed through a genuinely participatory community process. Recent changes to the West Berkeley zoning laws provide additional flexibility, and there is ample room to build and develop within the existing laws. Large parcels can be developed under the existing Development Agreement process by which Bayer was developed. That process includes significant community input and participation.

Claims that development under this measure will be limited are false. While only ten parcels qualify at this time, and only six can be developed in the first ten years, the City Council is empowered to change the terms of this measure once it is passed, and nothing prevents a future Council from altering the terms of parcel eligibility to allow an unlimited number of parcels to be developed in a new and intensive manner.

There are great many things West Berkeley does need, and this measure won't provide any of them. Protect what we do have. Vote No on Measure T!

Measure M - No Streets Bond

General Obligation Bond for Streets and Related Watershed Improvements: This measure would raise \$30 million in bond money for street improvements and integrated green infrastructure. The discussion about this bond began with the city's watershed management plan and how to fund a fraction of what would be needed to control flooding in West Berkeley and improve water quality in our creeks, Aquatic Park and the Bay. Berkeley's environmental community became alarmed when the measure was flipped from watersheds and related streets improvements with defined projects to street improvements and integrated green infrastructure with cool sounding stuff like rain gardens, swales, bio-retention cells and permeable paving. All of the cool stuff is actually great. It's also an open flood gate for the city spending without addressing the essentials. The Sierra Club, Citizens for an East Shore State Park (CESP) and Aquatic Park EGRET repeatedly asked the City Council to specify funding for Option 1 of the Watershed Management Plan, which includes rebuilding the Potter Creek Storm Drain, starting from the Bay to Adeline, to secure their support. The Council declined.

Berkeley is an aging city and there is no doubt that we have millions in unfunded capital improvements. Berkeley taxpayers deserve to know what they are paying for, and the other bond measure on the ballot, for the Willard and Warm Water pools, tells them. Vote No now on Measure M, and ask the city to come back in 2014 with a more specific, Watershed-centric measure that will address flood control and water quality directly.

Measure N - Yes, with bond reservations Berkeley Pools Bond

Measure O - Yes Berkeley Pools Parcel Tax

Measure N (General Obligation Bond for Pools and Associated Facilities) would raise \$19.4 million in bond money to replace the Willard pool and create a new indoor Warm Water Pool at West Campus that will replace the pool demolished at Berkeley High, as well general upgrading the associate facilities at all three pool sites. Measure O (Special Tax to Fund Operation and Maintenance of the Replacement Warm Water and Willard Pools) would create a new special parcel tax (\$.00779 per sq.ft.) to fund the maintenance and operation of the two new pools at about \$604,000 annually. Both measures must pass by a 2/3rds vote for either to be imposed.

These two measures are essentially the same proposal as the June 2010 Measure C which we endorsed but did not pass. Willard Pool has since closed and there is currently no Warm Water pool to serve seniors, the disabled and others needing aquatic therapy for healing. Green Party member Dona Spring, who served on the Berkeley City Council from 1992 until her death in 2008 from pneumonia and rheumatoid arthritis, was a champion for the Warm Water Pool. We believe that the health of our community is worth this investment. Vote Yes on both, even if you may never directly benefit from these facilities.

Measure P - Yes Gann Limit Override

Ballot Measure Re-Authorizing Expenditures of Voter-Approved Taxes for Parks Maintenance, Library Relief, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Services for Severely Physically Disabled Persons and Fire Protection and Emergency Response and Preparedness, Under Article XIII B of the California Constitution (Gann Limit)—The State of California requires that all cities periodically ask voters for permission to spend tax revenue that was previously approved. Years ago, funding for the City's libraries, parks, and emergency medical services were approved by more than two-thirds of Berkeley voters. However, to continue collecting and spending these funds, Berkeley voters must vote Yes on Measure P. It does not create a new tax or increase taxes by one penny. It only authorizes the City to continue using existing tax dollars to fund Berkeley's libraries, parks, and emergency medical services. If Measure P does not pass, the City will lose millions of dollars in already approved tax revenue—forcing dramatic reductions in city services.

Measure Q - Yes Utility Users Tax

Utility Users Tax (UUT) Amendment: This measure simply updates the language defining "telephone communication services" to keep up with changing technology and allows the telephone users tax to be fairly applied and collected. Also included are a new exemption for very low-income people and a new public reporting requirement that verifies the collection and expenditure of the tax monies. This measure has no apparent opposition.

Measure R - No Redistricting Amendment

Charter Amendment to Allow City Council to Adopt Decennial Redistricting Plan: In 1986, Berkeley voters amended the city charter to eliminate citywide at-large council seats and establish district elections. The charter amendment created eight districts with very specific street-by-street boundaries, with roughly equal populations. Currently, the boundaries change only after every census, to account for shifts in population, and must stay close to the boundaries in the charter.

This amendment would eliminate the detailed boundaries and replaces them with guidelines, and shifts the total power to establish new boundaries to the City Council. If we had any faith that this City Council majority would be "fair and inclusive," the notion of simplifying the charter might be appealing. While the amendment specifies that the redistricting can't put two sitting councilmembers into the same district, it would be quite possible to redraw the boundaries to make our most progressive council people (the council minority) less electable.

District elections were not brought in as a "progressive

reform" in Berkeley. (See <http://berkeleyinthe70s.homestead.com>). Students have repeatedly made the case that as a population they are disenfranchised by the current system, with the campus community split across four districts, and that a "student district" should be created. Agree or not with this, we would like to suggest that the current district system disenfranchises lots of folks. Rather than tinker with this one, let's replace it with proportional representation. Vote No on Measure R.

Measure U - No, with Reservations Sunshine Ordinance

The Sunshine Ordinance is a citizens' initiative that would supersede Berkeley's existing Open Government law. In addition to creating a new "Sunshine Commission" with more autonomy and enforcement authority than the Fair Political Practices Commission, this measure creates rigid standards for setting agendas, publishing agenda packets, notice to the public, structure and content of meetings, and public testimony for all legislative bodies in the city. The measure would also significantly reduce the city staff's flexibility in responding to public records requests.

Open and transparent government is a fundamental Green objective. The citizens who put this measure together were responding to a real need for more "sunshine" on the decision-making process of the Berkeley City Council and to "a deficit of trust in government (that) has occurred and is growing." If enacted, the measure would lead to a fundamental restructuring of how the city does business, and much of that would be good, particularly by broadening the ability of citizens to weigh in on controversial and complicated matters. However, we have a few major concerns that prevent us from supporting it.

We are unclear why the authors chose to extend the current convoluted agenda-setting process the City Council uses to all other legislative bodies. The intention to provide more public notice than the 72 hours under the Brown Act and to ensure that the public and their representatives have written materials with enough time before a meeting to review and comment on them is a good one. The staff will adapt to this particular solution, but it will limit the ability of volunteer commissioners in particular to respond to community concerns in a timely manner. The measure also appears to require all reports from staff to be in writing, and prohibits oral reports. Again, for the City Council this might possibly make sense, but for other bodies it will restrict the information the public receives rather than increase it.

The public records act compliance requirements are more troubling. Currently, under the California Public Records Act the city staff has 10 days to acknowledge receipt of a public information request and must provide an estimated time for fulfilling that request. This measure would shorten the immediate response time from 10 days to 3, and sets a firm 10 days for fulfilling the request. For most ordinary requests this is not unreasonable; in many cases a staff person can provide the information immediately. Unfortunately, for requests that are less clear, seek a large volume of documents, old documents or information from many sources, a firm ten days could prove unworkable without diverting lots of staff from their regular activities. This would be fine if the request is a legitimate effort to shed light on government activities, but not all public information requests are. Misused, this provision could prove incredibly costly and destructive to good government functions.

Additionally, the measure limits the ability of the city to withhold public information. The city could no longer withhold information "based on a finding or showing that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure or on a claim of 'deliberative process' privilege." While both of these can and have been abused, an absolute prohibition may not serve the best interests of good government.

Measure V - Yes, with Reservations FACTS Initiative

The Berkeley Fiscal Accountability, Clarity, Transparency and Sustainability Ordinance of 2012 is a citizens' initiative that would require the City to prepare and publish a certified report every two years detailing the City's long-term financial obligations over the next twenty years.

While there appears to be nothing to support the proponents' claim that the city faces insolvency or cannot meet its obligations, there is also no reason why the City shouldn't provide a report on its long-term financial obligations to

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Albany

Albany offices

continued from page 1

that service, with a focus on increasing affordable housing and modifying parking requirements to allow for dense infill development. Maass favors ensuring that the outcome of the community visioning process for the Albany Waterfront—Voices to Vision—will be carried out by making it part of the city General Plan. Although he recognizes that Whole Foods, the likely anchor tenant at the recently approved UC Village development, is an “overpriced, non-union, corporate chain,” he nonetheless thinks that “on balance” the development’s “pluses outweigh the minuses.” Maass supports a farm and agro-ecology center at the Gill Tract though he offers no specific strategies for achieving this goal. Although he supports the “concept” of a referendum on the UC Village project, he expresses concern that the referendum is proceeding. He favors a BART station in Albany.

Nick Pilch’s interests focus heavily on transit and related issues. In general, he offers fewer specific solutions and strategies than the other two Green-endorsed candidates; for example, where Maass actively favors a BART station in Albany, Pilch wants to “explore” the idea. Pilch asserts support for “maximum open space and minimal development” on the waterfront. He supports the UC Village development so long as adequate bike and pedestrian access and alternative energy requirements are restored to the development agreement. He does not support the referendum on the project. In general, his answers suggest that while he may be supportive of many Green values, he is most likely to focus his advocacy on pedestrian and bicycle transit-related issues.

The remaining candidates did not submit Green party questionnaires. Three of the four have public records that do not align strongly with Green Party values:

Peggy Thomsen supports the UC Village development and opposes the referendum. She initiated the Thomsen-Wile committee on the Gill Tract, which required local citizens to fill out a questionnaire and receive advance approval to attend meetings. She has supported major development on the Albany waterfront, blocked pursuit of a bike path easement through the future Pierce St. Park, and voted against funding the city’s integrated pest management program.

Tod Abbott has at times used his status as Albany Chamber of Commerce co-chair to further his personal agenda. As a co-chair of the Chamber he has—as one would expect—advocated for Albany businesses. He criticized Occupy the Farm, a group dedicated to preserving farming on the UC property in Albany, as attempting to “hold the people of Albany hostage to the demands of a minority.” He has also dismissed the concerns of neighbors who object to wireless facilities near their homes.

Michael Barnes has a history of divisive statements and vitriolic personal attacks in meetings and public forums, injecting a negative tone into Albany politics. A major focus of his candidacy is to undo a hard-fought community-supported ordinance to keep wireless communications facilities away from homes and schools; as a Board of Education member, he supported installing an AT&T cell tower on the roof of Albany High School.

Ulan McKnight’s past stands suggest views consistent with Green Party values; for example, he actively supported Occupy the Farm and a marijuana dispensary in Albany. Had he replied to our questionnaire, this might have clarified his positions.

Berkeley measures

continued from page 12

the public. It also shouldn’t take a citizen’s initiative to compel the City Manager to do something that the City Council asked for by resolution over two years ago. The fault ultimately rests with the Mayor and the City Council majority; clearly this was not a priority until they were faced with a citizens’ initiative.

Our reservations lie in the obvious anti-tax agenda of some of the proponents, and the implication for continuing to fund the government, continue or pass new taxes and fees, or place other revenue measure including bonds on the ballot if the report isn’t prepared. (Examples on this year’s ballot are the pools funding measures and the Gann override.) The opponents are also concerned that lawsuits over the certification of the report will have the same effect, further damaging the city’s financial health. These are serious considerations, but transparency in government is equally important.

School Board Byron Barrett and Pat Low

Three candidates, two of whom are incumbents, and a third who is a Green Party candidate, are running for two open seats. All three were sent Green Party endorsement questionnaires. Two returned them, one declined.

Byron Barrett has been a registered Green since the party became official in California, and is to our knowledge the first Green candidate to run for the Albany Board of Education. Barrett’s proposals for greening Albany schools are specific and include strict energy conservation; installing LED and motion sensor lights, drip irrigation, energy-efficient computers and appliances; and having the schools go dark at night. He also advocates locally sourced cafeteria food, urban farming, replacing some school blacktop with trees, and making the schools more bike and pedestrian friendly. Though he seems most comfortable with technology-based teaching, Barrett’s respect for diverse learning styles comes from an interesting perspective: he struggled with learning challenges himself as a student. He believes that “AP and honors classes are essential and of course should be supported, but we should not do this at the expense of shop and vocational classes. We need to appropriately serve all of our students.”

Pat Low earns Green endorsement for her focus on educating students to work with others collaboratively and for encouraging community involvement and service in education. Her commitment to the mental health and well-being of all students is evidenced by the school district’s anti-bullying summit to parent education about sleep, homework, and other issues. This attention to the well-being of the whole child is especially important in a district focused on high academic performance. As an educational researcher, Dr. Low recognizes the importance of academic innovation, healthy and energy-efficient school facilities, and sustainability. Her solutions to school overcrowding are “residency verification and a slow lowering of the total student population.” She praises inter-district transfers for bringing “diversity to the student population that enriches all students’ experiences.” Low believes “Albany students would certainly benefit from an agro-ecological educational facility,” but she prefers not to challenge UC directly.

Ron Rosenbaum was endorsed with reservations in 2008, when he expressed the hope that he would move in the direction of more direct school/community sustainability and involvement. This year, he did not return a questionnaire which might have clarified his record and views on these issues. In 2008, he expressed support for giving priority to enrolling in Albany schools the children of Albany teachers who live outside of Albany, showing admirable commitment to social and economic justice. With his years of experience as a teacher, counselor, and principal, Mr. Rosenbaum has a wealth of background for serving on the board.

Treasurer No Endorsement

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

Measure F - Yes, with sales tax reservations Albany Sales Tax

Measure F proposes a Transactions and Use (a.k.a. Sales) Tax requiring approval by a simple majority. Measure F will establish a 0.5 percent tax on retail sales of tangible personal property (goods other than food) for eight years. It is estimated to generate \$800K to \$1 million per year for city operations. The tax, if approved, would be imposed on the sale of tangible personal property and the storage, use, or other consumption of such property. The tax revenue would be collected by the State Board of Equalization and remitted to the City. It is a general tax that can be used for any legitimate governmental purpose; it is not committed to any particular purposes. The City notes that revenues since 2009 have flattened and declined, in particular the property transfer tax, by \$1M from its peak several years ago. City staff has been restructured, some positions have been held vacant, and many have taken a four- percent or more reduction in take-home pay. In spite of these cuts, the City of Albany maintains a relatively high level of service, with staff working diligently to secure grants and other creative income sources. While national politics generally (the Republican Party in particular) would have us believe that taxes are a negative, we are reminded that they are our contribution toward—and a statement of our belief in—the common good, and that tax proceeds go toward supporting the things we enjoy on a daily basis. This modest sales tax is less regressive than most, as it is directly related to the amount of spending one does. While unlikely to have an impact on sales volume, it follows the price and quantity of purchased goods, meaning that those who have more to spend and spend it on higher-priced items are paying a larger portion of the tax. We also note that it has a sunset and/or re-vote after eight years. And finally we note that several neighboring communities have similar taxes already in place, so we are not placing our local retailers at a significant disadvantage by enacting Measure F.

Referendum on UC Development

An important issue in this election is the city’s recent approval of a sizable commercial and housing development on University of California (UC) property in Albany. The Green Party of Alameda County supports preservation of farming and establishment of an agro-ecology center on the current agricultural portion of the UC land, which is informally known as the Gill Tract. The party also supported the grassroots petition to rescind the project development agreement or put it to a public vote, which gathered several hundred more than the required number of signatures but not in time for inclusion on the November ballot. The issue will likely come to a public vote at a later date, which has not been announced as we go to press. Concerns regarding the UC project include: increases in traffic, air, and noise pollution; the complex’s proximity to an elementary school, tot lot, playing fields, and residential housing; zoning changes favoring two Texas corporations over partnerships with local businesses; a 4-story assisted living complex that lacks affordable senior housing; and an oversized 57,000-sq.-ft. retail store. Many advocate a smaller development and/or including an agreement for preservation of agriculture on the adjacent Gill Tract. For more info, please see: www.KeepAlbanyLocal.com

**Would you like the option of
writing-in
a partisan candidate?**

**We believe it’s undemocratic
to remove our choice
of writing-in a candidate
in the partisan races!**

If you agree, please register your protest at this website:

www.CAVoterChoice.org

(You can also indicate your write-in vote(s) on the website)

Thank you!

Special Districts

AC Transit, At Large No Endorsement

Chris Peeples has served on the AC Transit Board for 14 years. He has served as both president and vice president of the board, chaired a number of committees and currently chairs the planning committee. He also participates in local, state and national transit and transportation organizations. Peeples submitted a long and detailed response to our questionnaire, indicating profound knowledge of issues facing the board, success in having dealt with difficult problems, and dedication both to addressing needs of riders (“Almost all of our riders are low income riders,” he says), and of the environment. Peeples is particularly interested in advocating for the zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell project, and considers himself the “board’s foremost advocate.” He also sees himself as the foremost advocate for free or reduced price transportation for youth, the elderly and disabled. He has not had a car the past twelve years, and as he exclusively uses public transportation, takes advantage of time riding to discuss transportation issues with both drivers and passengers. He regularly visits maintenance garages and meets with union leadership. Peeples’ advocacy has included obtaining grants to support all night service for people who work at night, and an eco-pass program for full-time students. In addition to his attention to workers and ridership, Peeples indicates an understanding of the complexities of inter-agency relationships, and has fought for increased funding of AC Transit. However, as an incumbent, Peeples is part of the status quo.

Dolleen Jones is a retired bus operator of 21 years and owner of a private shuttle service. Her responses to our questionnaire indicate that she is in agreement with Peeples on the issues insofar as she is familiar with them. However, she is not experienced in government service. Clearly her ideals are those of the Green Party. If you think now is the time to elect a challenger and bring a fresh perspective to the Board, vote for Jones.

AC Transit, Ward 1 Yelda Bartlett

Yelda Bartlett practices Family Law and Civil Litigation and has served as both a commissioner for the Community Environmental Advisory Commission and as chairwoman on the Commission on the Status of Women for the City of Berkeley. Having come to Berkeley as a student, she has had many years experience riding the buses. Her questionnaire answers show a good understanding of the issues. More important, she clearly states “AC Transit is in crisis. Service has declined while fares are up, labor is on the verge of a strike, and we are only making meager progress toward addressing the negative environmental effects of our aging fleet. As a lifelong bus rider, I know we need a bus system that is safe, reliable, and clean-powered. We need progressive leadership on the Board and I believe I am the best candidate to provide a new vision for the future of AC transit, so that we can not only preserve—but improve—public transportation for future generations.” Those who feel the same way should vote for this challenger.

Joe Wallace is presently Director of Ward 1 and vice president of the Board. He has served on the board for eleven years. His short answers to our questions, lacking in elaboration on any issue, seemed to indicate that he takes his position for granted, and perhaps no longer has the energy to engage at the level demanded by the questionnaire. On the other hand, nothing in his answers indicated values in conflict with the Green Party, and whether this lack of energy to engage also affects his functioning on the board is unclear. It’s just not possible to endorse him based on either his questionnaire or minimal other listed endorsements.

BART, Ward 3 Rebecca Saltzman

Anthony Pegram has been a BART employee for over 20 years. He states that he has been responsible for implementing multi-million dollar construction projects including the Oakland Airport Connector and East Contra Costa Extension. He has also served on the Oakland Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, and Base Reuse Authority. He is currently on the Alameda County Fair Board of which he was a past president. Pegram is of course very knowledgeable with regard to the expansion of BART, and favors expansion projects. He states, however, that he does not “favor expanding the system over increasing capacity within the core...” He also states his belief that “great improvement can be achieved in the coordination between BART and other transportation providers” and that a policy should be established to include “assessment of impacts of BART decisions on other transit agencies that may be affected by

the decision.” These are welcome perspectives.

However, we question Pegram’s belief that a sales tax will be adequate to pay for the San Jose extension’s operating cost, or that federal funds can be counted on as matching funds to raise the money needed to keep facilities in good repair. Pegram’s position on both Owl service and bikes on BART appear to be less than entirely enthusiastic.

Rebecca Saltzman is Government Affairs Manager for the California League of Voters. She coordinates Green California, a network of 80 environmental, public health and social justice organizations. She is also Vice-Chair of the Oakland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. As she has advised BART Board campaigns in the past, she has spent many hours both at and watching BART Board meetings. Saltzman’s responses to our questionnaire indicated creative approaches to many problems she recognizes with BART, as well as unusual sensitivities to the needs of riders, of whom she herself is one. For example, in addressing the issue of coordination with other agencies, Saltzman talks about development of a shared fare system between BART and AC Transit and increasing the discount on BART to AC Transit trips. Regarding extensions, she supports “including ongoing maintenance and multi-cycle capital replacement costs in the calculation of any new system to BART.” Saltzman supported alternative rapid bus connection instead of the Oakland Airport Connector. She comments on the overestimation of the number of jobs the connector project will generate, and says she will support Oakland Airport worker discounted fares on the connector. It is this combination of attention to finances and to the needs of workers and riders that is particularly attractive in Saltzman’s campaign. Her strong emphasis on prioritizing monies to maintain the core, including when applying for general funds, is also impressive. Saltzman favors extension of the Owl service on Friday and Saturday nights, and advocates additional bike access and secure bike parking. She supports additional community service officers to improve safety on BART. Saltzman has a long list of endorsers including many progressive politicians and organizations in the Bay Area. We join them in strongly recommending Saltzman for BART District 3.

Fred Lopez, despite several rounds of contacts urging him to do so, did not respond to our questionnaire.

BART, Ward 5 No Endorsement

John Maher has worked for BART for 36 years as a mechanic, has been president of the union, chief steward, vice-president and trustee. He has represented the union in Sacramento to secure retirements. He has gone to Washington to secure funding for expansion projects. From his perspective, all expansion is good, and money will always come from somewhere. He appears to overestimate the portion of funding contributed by rider fees. Perhaps as a result of his intimate understanding of BART at the worker level, he has not seen need to learn more about the complexities of its funding or the complexities of interagency relationships. It is this naiveté with regard to the larger picture that causes us to hesitate supporting Maher. It looks like his would be a long learning curve despite his many years dedicated to service to BART and its workers. Should he be elected, he will surely expand his awareness of issues and continue his dedication to the issues of concern to workers, but we cannot endorse him at this time.

John McPartland has a long record of dedicated service to his community and country. He served in the military for 36 years, retired as a decorated Army Colonel, and retired from the Oakland Fire Department after 25 years as a Chief Officer. He served as Emergency Medical Services Manager and was a member of the Federal Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. He has taught emergency command and operations courses and has taught at community colleges and served on their advisory boards. He has served one term on the BART Board of Directors. McPartland has a masters degree in Public Administration. He states that during his term on the board he spearheaded the earthquake preparedness program, and has contributed many innovations in that program including an early warning system, earthquake retrofit program, training search and rescue dogs. His responses on our questionnaire indicate that he is satisfied with the funding priorities of the MTC due to the “way BART has been treated.” Without exception our AC Transit candidates have complained of MTC’s prioritization of BART over their needs. He sees the competing need for money for expansion or core as a falsely stated competition, as capital investments come from separate sources, but seems not to take account of money needed for subsequent operating expenses. Thus he unequivocally supports the Livermore extension, San Jose extension and airport connector. He is hoping that passage of Measure B

encourages contribution of federal funds. Though McPartland is very knowledgeable with regard to the issues, his BART centered and expansion centered perspectives do not reflect our values, and we cannot endorse him.

BART, Ward 7 Don’t vote for Lynette Sweet

We do not recommend reelecting Lynette Sweet. Sweet has served on the BART Board of Directors since 2003. Her responses to our questionnaire were cursory, and did not include an answer to many of our questions. She appears to take for granted her incumbency as adequate reason for her reelection. Sweet says she successfully “mandated a 40 percent affordable housing requirement at our Richmond Transit Oriented Development Project and a 50 percent affordable housing development at the planned MacArthur Transit Oriented Development.” She also got unanimous support for “a new policy that will allow unbundling of large contracts at BART that will allow small businesses to compete along with large corporations.” This is all she claims, however, in an incumbency of nine years. Sweet sees no problem in the coordination of BART with AC Transit aside from bus and train scheduling. She gives short shrift to the issue of expansion, though grants the importance of core funding. She supported the Airport Connector on the basis of projected job creation, though it appears as of yet most of these jobs have not been created. She believes BART has a “great relationship with MTC,” ignoring the issue of its funding priorities which include needed attention to AC Transit. She did not include in her responses any reference to the needs of riders.

There are three challengers for this seat, and each has strengths. Margaret Gordon is a grassroots organizer. Maria Alegria has experience serving in elected office. Zakhary Mallett has academic training relevant to transportation. Vote for whichever challenger you prefer.

Margaret Gordon is a charter member of the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame for her work to improve air quality and reduce toxins in West Oakland. She is co-founder of the nonprofit West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project. She served on the Board of Port Commissioners from 2007 until recently, when her position was filled by an appointee of Jean Quan. Gordon’s work on improving air quality in West Oakland is highly commendable. Her responses to our questionnaire, however, indicate that she has little knowledge of any issues confronting BART. Transportation has not been her area of expertise. Her strength is her long record of working around issues impacting low income people of color.

Zakhary Mallett has just obtained a degree, Master of City Planning with Transportation Planning Emphasis from UC Berkeley, after graduating Stanford with an AB in Urban Studies. Mallett has had neither work experience nor experience in government service, but through his studies has become very thoroughly knowledgeable regarding transportation issues and issues of BART in particular. Mallett’s analysis of the shortcomings of a Livermore extension are far more comprehensive than the approach taken by any other candidate running for any BART board seat, and his very considered analysis would be a great contribution to the thinking of the board. He considers not only financing, but competing demographic patterns and competing routes. He does, however, seem to look at capital investment rather than continued operating costs when describing sources of financing for expansion. Mallett does not support the Oakland Connector project, stating that “What the new connector could provide that existing services could not is/was minimal.” Mallett pays attention to issues of both riders and finances.

Maria Alegria was President of the League of California Cities from 2006-2007 and served on the Executive Board and Legislative and Governmental Organization Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) as the representative of the Conference of Mayors in Contra Costa County (CCC). She has also served as the CCC Conference of Mayors representative on the CCC Transportation Authority from 1999 through 2007. She was a member of WCCTAC (The West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee) representing the City of Pinole. She served on the Pinole City Council (1992-2008) including 4 terms as Mayor.

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Special Districts • Special Articles

Top Two (Proposition 14) Update

EBMUD, Ward 5
Doug Linney

Doug Linney has been serving on the East Bay MUD Board since 2000, representing the western areas of Oakland, the Cities of Alameda and San Leandro, and the unincorporated community of San Lorenzo. Continuing a tradition begun by his predecessor, Nancy Nadel, he has generally been a strong advocate for environmental, labor, and customer concerns.

Linney supports the District's current long-term water supply plan, which focuses expansion of the District's supply by increasing "conjunctive use" groundwater storage and participation in expansion of Contra Costa Water District's Los Vaqueros Reservoir into a regional storage facility. As he says, though, "The really important thing will be how the EBMUD Board of Directors will pursue various options over the next 20 years." He supports continued investigation of a regional desalinization plant as a supplemental supply, but says it's too early to say whether it will represent a cost-effective and environmentally responsible alternative.

Linney thinks the District is doing a lot to promote water conservation, but could be doing more. He supports using the District's water pricing structure as a conservation tool, favoring higher rates for those who use more, but does not favor having different rate structures for the warmer versus cooler parts of the District. He also favors using rates to promote extra conservation in a drought, including adding a more expensive fourth tier for the highest level of water use. He also thinks that the District got it wrong in the last drought by setting rates based on prior usage, rather than on an objective standard (e.g. 50 gal.per day per person) because a percentage reduction punishes those who already were conserving.

Linney's record on the EBMUD Board may not have been perfect, but it's pretty darned close, and certainly more than enough to merit a strong endorsement.

EBMUD, Ward 6
No Endorsement

Bill Patterson has been representing Ward 6 (the southeastern portions of Oakland) since his initial appointment in 1997. He has since been re-elected three times without serious opposition. This is unfortunate, because a challenger might force Patterson to pay more attention to the many challenges facing his ward, and the District as a whole. As it is, he is once again running unopposed in 2012 and therefore appears to be sliding forward into yet another four year term. Patterson did not return our questionnaire, so these comments are based solely on his past performance as a Board member.

Patterson has a long record of civic involvement including working on Oakland park and open space issues. With that background, you might think he would be a strong advocate for the environment on the EBMUD Board, but you would be wrong. Patterson supported the District's Water Supply Management Plan 2040, which included a proposal to replace the District's Pardee Dam with a new, higher dam that would have flooded upper reaches of the Mokolumne River, causing environmental damage and impairing roadway access in that part of the Foothills. The District was subsequently sued by two environmental groups and lost. This cost the District time and money. On its second try, the District opted for the more local, less damaging, and less costly option of expanding Contra Costa Water District's Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Patterson supported that change, but it's unclear how he will vote when crucial choices will have to be made in future years.

Also surprisingly, Patterson has not been a strong advocate for conservation or for rate structure reform. In fact, Patterson's position has generally been to accept the status quo, with both its good and bad points.

The District does a lot of things right, but it also could be doing a lot of things better. (See the above write-up for Doug Linney for some of those things.) Ward 6 residents would do well to pay closer attention to how they are represented on the EBMUD Board. If Patterson decides to run for re-election again in 2016, it might be a good idea if voters had another choice.

Given his mediocre record in his fifteen years on the EBMUD Board, we cannot in good conscience endorse Bill Patterson's re-election.

Why are two Democrats the only candidates for Assembly District 18? In June 2010, the voters passed Proposition 14. The main effect of Proposition 14 was the creation of an "open primary," in which voters may vote for any candidate, regardless of the candidate's or the voter's party registration. Only the top two vote-getters in the primary, regardless of party affiliation (if any), appear on the November General Election ballot. In AD 18, where three Democrats and one Republican ran in the Primary, the top two were two Democrats.

Proposition 14 has disastrous effects on the smaller parties and the choices available to voters. This November, there is no progressive alternative to Senator Diane Feinstein, for example. Write-in votes will not be counted. Please DON'T write in an alternative when you vote—you risk invalidating your entire ballot.

Because the small parties are unlikely to make it to the General Election, we lose one of the two ways small parties keep ballot status. Any ballot-qualified party which gets 2 percent of the General Election vote for any statewide "state constitutional" office in a Gubernatorial election year retains ballot status for the next four years. It's very unlikely that any Green, Peace and Freedom, or Libertarian candidate will make it to the General Election in the future. (The second way is by maintaining a certain level of voters

registered in that party. Currently about 103,000 registrants are needed.)

Proposition 14 greatly increased the number of signatures needed to reduce or avoid filing fees. For small parties, the time spent in gathering signatures in lieu of filing fees, or the larger amount of money needed to pay a filing fee, has already been onerous. Fewer small-party candidates ran for office in this year's Primary.

As we told you in the June 2012 Voter Guide, we have hired the law firm of Siegel and Yee. They filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction challenging Proposition 14 in November 2011, with organizational plaintiffs (the Green Party of Alameda County, the Peace and Freedom Party, and the Libertarian Party) and individual plaintiffs. The basis of our legal action is that Proposition 14 violates the rights of our parties, our members, and the voters as a whole (who lose some "voices and choices"). As of this writing, our next court date is October 9. Please verify that with the website www.restorevoterchoice.org/ for further updates.

We still need money for the court case. Please make checks payable to "Siegel and Yee" and mail to Green Party of Alameda County, 2022 Blake St., Berkeley CA 94704. For more information, phone Michael Rubin (Lead Plaintiff) at (510) 436-3722.

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Our new artwork was designed by
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Please check out his
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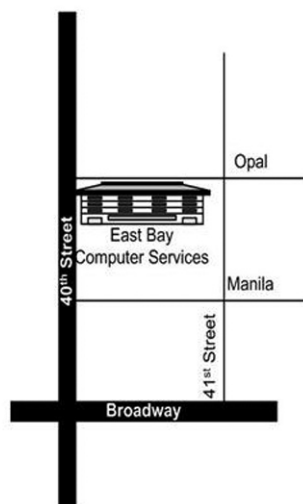
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Federal Offices

President/Vice President - **Jill Stein/Cheri Honkala**

U.S. Senator - No Endorsement, see write-up

U.S. Representative, District 13 - No Endorsement, see write-up

State Offices

State Senate, District 9 - **Mary McIlroy**

State Assembly, District 15 - **Eugene Ruyle**

State Assembly, District 18 - [Don't vote for Rob Bonai]

Special School Districts

Peralta Community College Area 2 - **Randy Reynaldo Menjivar**

City Offices

Alameda

City Council - **Jane Sullwold, Tony Dvorsog**, with reservations

School Board - Vote for 3 of these 4: **Barbara Kahn, Jon Murphy, Kurt Peterson, Trish Spencer**

Healthcare District - **Tracy Jensen and Leland Trainan**

Treasurer - **Kevin Kennedy**, with reservations

Auditor - **Kevin Kearney**, with reservations

Albany

City Council - **Sheri Spallwoman, Peter Maass, and Nick Pilch**

School Board - **Byron Barrett and Pat Low**

Treasurer - No Endorsement, see write-up

Berkeley

Mayor - **Sharing # 1 & # 2: Kahill Jacobs-Fantauzzi and Kriss Worthington**,

3 Jacquelyn McCormick, with reservations

City Council, District 2 - **Sharing # 1 & # 2: Denisha Delane and Adolfo Cabral** (ie: "No Moore!")

City Council, District 3 - **Max Anderson**

City Council, District 5 - **Sophie Hahn**

City Council, District 6 - **# 1: Write in Phoebe Sorgen, # 2: Write in anyone else**,

(Don't vote for Wengraf)

Rent Board - **Asa Dodsworth, Judy Shelton, Alejandro Soto-Vigil, and Igor Tregub**

School Board - **Judy Appel and Beatriz Leyva-Cutler**

Oakland

City Council, At-Large - **Theresa Anderson**

(Don't vote for Ignacio De La Fuente)

City Council, Dist. 1 - **# 1: Donald Macleay, # 2: Craig Brandt*, # 3: Dan Kalb***,

(Don't vote for Amy Lemley or Leonard Raphael)

City Council, Dist. 3 - **# 1: Derrick Muhammad*, # 2: Nyesha DeWitt*,**

3: Lynette Gibson-McElhaney*, (Don't vote for Sean Sullivan)

City Council, Dist. 5 - No Endorsements

(Don't vote for Noel Gallo or Shely Garza)

City Council, Dist. 7 - **# 1: Sheryl Walton*, # 2: Beverly Williams***,

(Don't vote for Larry Reid)

*These candidates have been ranked, but not endorsed.

(Only Anderson and Macleay have been endorsed for City Council).

City Attorney - [Don't vote for Jane Brunner]

School Board District 1 - **Thearse Pecot**

School Board District 3 - No Endorsements (Don't vote for Junoke Hinton-Hodge)

School Board District 5 - **Mike Hutchinson**, with reservations

School Board District 7 - [Don't vote for James Harris]

Special Districts

A.C. Transit, At Large - No Endorsement, see write-up

A.C. Transit, Ward 1 - **Yeda Bartlett**

BART Ward 3 - **Rebecca Saltzman**

BART Ward 5 - No Endorsement, see write-up

BART Ward 7 - [Don't vote for Lynette Sweet]

EBMUD, Ward 5 - **Doug Linney**

EBMUD, Ward 6 - No Endorsement, see write-up

State Propositions

30 - Temporary Taxes for Education, Public Safety - Yes, with reservations and a call to action

31 - State Budget, State and Local Government - No

32 - Special Interest Money, Prohibits Political Payroll Deductions - No

33 - Auto Insurance Prices Based on History of Insurance Coverage - No

34 - Death Penalty Repeal - Yes, with reservations

35 - Human Trafficking, Penalties, Sex Offender Registration - No

36 - Three Strikes Reform Act, Repeat Felony Offenders - Yes

37 - Genetically Engineered Foods, Mandatory Labeling - Yes

38 - Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs - No

39 - Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses, Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Funding - Yes

40 - Redistricting, State Senate Districts, Referendum - Yes, in opposition to the referendum

Local Measures

A1 - Countywide Oakland Zoo Parcel Tax - No

B1 - Alameda County Transit Sales Tax - No

D - City of Alameda Disposal of Parks - Yes

F - Albany Sales Tax - Yes, with sales tax reservations

J - Oakland School Bond - Yes, with bond reservations

M - Berkeley Streets Bond - No

N - Berkeley Pools Bond - Yes, with bond reservations

O - Berkeley Pools Parcel Tax - Yes

P - Berkeley Gann Limit Override - Yes

Q - Berkeley Utility Users Tax - Yes

R - Berkeley Redistricting Amendment - No

S - Berkeley No Sic Law - No, No, No!

T - Berkeley West Berkeley Project - No, No, No!

U - Berkeley Sunshine Ordinance - No, with Reservations

V - Berkeley FACTS Initiative - Yes with Reservations

Candidates in *green ink* are Green Party members

Green Voter Guide

A publication of the Green Party of Alameda County,
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Election Day:
 November 6, 2012



for the thinking voter