

Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: June 5, 2018

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U.S. Senate Michael Ziesing (write-in)

Dianne Feinstein and the California Democratic Party Plutocracy (Don't vote for Feinstein).

It is impossible to imagine a more reactionary corporate Democrat than the current senior Senator from California. She exemplifies power as it is now wielded in the interest of a violent and ruthless plutocratic system hiding behind a democratic façade. Feinstein's politics are characterized by the gradual destruction of whatever democracy still exists in our country: full support of restrictions on civil liberties for example, as well as militarism, imperialism and criminal wars. She is against singlepayer health care, thinks Trump "can be a good president" and supports the systematic wiping out of life-giving ecologies by her husband's and other big capitalist corporations. Her long-time husband is the billionaire Richard Blum.

For Blum-Feinstein, we can see what being in the top 1 percent means. They currently own a private jet, a Gulfstream G650, "the gold standard in business aviation." Blum-Feinstein also own an entire 161-room San Francisco hotel (The Carlton) and at least 6 other homes, including a Pacific Heights (San Francisco) mansion purchased a few years ago for a reported \$16.5 million, another at a ski retreat on a 30-acre parcel of land in Aspen, Colorado, built in 1999 for \$7.4 million. Their house in Washington, DC is a French Renaissance-style dwelling located near American

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District Attorney Pamela Price

The office of Alameda County District Attorney has run unopposed for 50 years, and incumbent Nancy O'Malley is no exception. She is so sure of her re-election that she did not RSVP or answer our Endorsement Questionnaire.

It is clear that O'Malley has to go. She has created an atmosphere of a prosecution mill in Alameda County, with severe bail schedules, charging minors as adults, conflating charges on protestors, etc.

Attorney-for-the-accused Pamela Price feels so strongly about this untenable situation that she is willing to "switch sides" to become the County's chief prosecutor. Price is extremely competent, experienced, and powerful, but also compassionate -- exactly what the office of DA needs.

According to her Questionnaire, Price will bring fresh ideas to the DA's office. She will do away with money bail; will not ask for the death penalty; will never charge a youth as an adult; will not prosecute cases of non-violent political protest; will prosecute all unlawful conduct by law enforcement officers; etc.

Price is on the Democratic Party Central Committee. But in the ultra-conservative world of law enforcement, we can't really hold that against her in this non-partisan race.

We enthusiastically endorse Pamela Price for Alameda County District Attorney.

Governor Josh Jones

The Green Party of Alameda County endorses Green Party candidate Josh Jones for governor of California. Jones, according to his campaign "will take no money from corporations...coal, oil, or fracking money." Likewise, Jones reportedly "is the only California Gubernatorial candidate who was in Occupy/Decolonize and was a Berniecrat volunteer organizer." According to his campaign website, Jones "helped campaign for Dr. Jill Stein in...2016, and spearheaded initial efforts to found the Green Party of Yolo County." Jones is committed to strengthening the Green Party and has received endorsements from many county and city councils.

Jones' commitment to party building is unmatched in this race. He states, "We were able to get together quite a few people to help activate a Green Party County Council in Imperial County" which was "our second GPCC we've helped to activate" after "Siskiyou County at the far north of California." During his campaign, Jones highlighted the struggles of marginalized people. For example, the Jones campaign traveled to Calexico, creating a video of the border stating, "It's an imposing wall, which allows capital to move freely, but prevents people from being free." As such, Jones criticizes the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by arguing "NAFTA allows corporations to flee

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Proposition 70 - NO Vote Requirement to Use Cap-and-Trade Revenue

California Proposition 70 is on the June ballot as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment. If approved, this amendment will require a one-time two-thirds vote in each chamber of the state legislature in 2024 or thereafter to pass a spending plan for revenue from the state's cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gases.

We completely oppose this Proposition and urge a NO vote on it, because this was a bill designed to give the Republicans in the California Legislature more power on how to spend the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund proceeds that pour into the state coffers from the polluters. This measure was only agreed to be put onto the ballot by the Governor in order to gain a couple of Republican votes on the cap-and-trade bill last year, and it is a terrible idea, essentially putting the fox in charge of the henhouse. We see enough of that at the Federal level these days, and do not need any more at the State level.

Further, at a moment where we need nimble investments in climate change solutions, the two-thirds requirement this bill would impose would most definitely lead to more gridlock and bad deals, vs. cleaning up the state's energy, transport, food production, and other greenhouse gas related sectors.

To quote in this case the California Democratic party: "A two-thirds vote gives polluters more leverage in how cap-and-trade funding is spent after 2024. The fact is, ACA 1 itself was a part of a deal to get a two-thirds vote for the cap-and-trade extension. When a two-thirds vote was required to approve California's budget, legislative hostage-taking, gimmicks and pork barrel spending were part and parcel of the process."

A DEFINITE NO.

Sources:

- https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_70_Vote_Requirement_to_Use_Cap-and-Trade_Revenue_Amendment_percent28June_2018_percent29
- <https://lwvc.org/news/our-positions-june-5-2018-election-ballot-measures>

U.S. Representative, District 13

Laura Wells (write-in)

When it comes to Congress, polls show an odd fact: Congress as a whole has a very low approval rating, and yet people in congressional districts across the country approve of their own representative. This creates a huge incumbent advantage. In Congressperson Barbara Lee's district, no one else even tried to get ballot-qualified. Barbara Lee's name will be the only name on the June primary ballot. For the November general election, however, there will be two candidates, and one of them could be Green.

How can we explain that odd fact of hating Congress but loving your congressperson? The problem is "the system." It is a system where even the "good ones" like Barbara Lee take money from the corporations and the billionaires who back them. Congress is bought and paid for. See below for the list of money Lee has taken. Barbara Lee, who consistently gets vote counts of over 80 percent, doesn't need all that money for her campaign, and so she donates it down the line for her "team." Meanwhile, the system, and Barbara Lee, push the idea that in the United States all you need are two parties, and others "can't win." The Democratic and Republican players get elected and re-elected; and they trade back and forth. The result for the 99 percent is that after every election cycle, no matter

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Secretary of State Erik Rydberg

Erik Rydberg is a young energetic Native American Green who was a key activist in the #demexit movement after so many Bernie Sanders supporters saw how rotten the Democratic Party was. After leaving the Democrats, he became a California volunteer organizer for Jill Stein's Presidential campaign, and shortly after the November 2016 election, left for Standing Rock, North Dakota, where he assisted the International Indigenous Youth Council, and others. Last year, Rydberg was elected to the State Coordinating Committee of the Green Party of California, and as a candidate for Secretary of State, he's been traveling across California, discussing electoral reforms, and helping to build local Green Parties.

Rydberg's campaign slogan is "Defend Democracy, Protect the Vote," and he's been highlighting the need to ensure "accurate, transparent, and verifiable vote counts in all California elections." Rydberg also explains that it's the Secretary of State's responsibility to "make sure that county registrars are trained in all methods pertaining to which ballots voters might request and for what purposes." This is in contrast to what happened in the June 2016 election, where many "No Party Preference" voters who wanted to vote for Bernie Sanders in California's semi-open primary were encouraged to cast provisional ballots -- when in fact they needed to request cross-over Democratic ballots." Rydberg is one of the more active young Greens who previously were "Berniecrats," who are now invigorating the Green Party across California, and elsewhere in the country. We are very impressed with the work he has done thus far, and strongly support his candidacy for Secretary of State.

Among the candidates from the corporate-controlled parties, the incumbent, Alex Padilla, is the only one who has a relatively significant campaign. Prior to being elected to his current post, he served for 8 years in the State Senate, seven years on the Los Angeles City Council, and as a staff member for Dianne Feinstein. During the 2016 Presidential primary season, although Padilla's office was charged with overseeing that election in California, he instead spent his time campaigning for Hillary Clinton, in violation of the Democratic National Committee's charter for party leaders

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** GO PAPERLESS **

A PDF version of this Voter Guide is online at: <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides>. Would you like to save some trees and printing/postage costs? PLEASE LET US KNOW at:

paperless@greenpartyofalamedacounty.org that you prefer to receive email (with our Green Voter Card plus a link to the full Voter Guide online) instead of printed copies.

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

Thanks everyone!



The Green Party of Alameda County

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

Your Green Party

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

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

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

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

Ways to reach us:

County Council:

Phone: (510) 644-2293

Website: www.acgreens.wordpress.com

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

GreenPartyofAlamedaCounty-subscribe@yahoo.com

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

Locals:

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

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

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: We are actively running a local Green Party candidate in the November election. Please join us as soon as you possibly can. For additional info, please see our website, YahooGroup, or telephone us: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens>, (510) 436-3722

East and South County Greens: We are looking for east and south Alameda County Greens interested in helping re-activate an East County and a South County local. If interested, please contact our office at acgreens1992@gmail.com.

Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: Our voter guide team includes: Jan Arnold, Bill Balderston, Dale Baum, Eric Brooks, Paul Burton (page layout), Vicente Cruz, Mica Daniel, Mandeep Gill, Brian Good, Dave Heller, Aidan Hill, Greg Jan, Tina Kimmel, Don Macleay, Justin Richardson, Michael Rubin, Larry Shoup, Phoebe Sorgen, Pam Spevack, and Joan Strasser.

Voter Guide Contributions

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

Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

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

Some races aren't on the ballot

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

Our online Voter Guide

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

Our endorsement process

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

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

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

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

Taxes, Bonds, Fiscal Responsibility and the Green Party

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sales taxes have been relied upon for balancing budgets, and weigh heavily given that, as reported by the California Budget Project, when looking at family income, the poorest 20 percent pay more of their income in state and local taxes than the richest 1 percent. This continues to be the case even after Proposition 30's tax rate increases. Those who average \$13,900 pay 10.5 percent and those who average \$2 million pay 8.7 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: _____ 3-digit code on back of card: _____

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

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

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

State law requires that we report contributor's:

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Thanks for your contribution of:

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

Support Your Green Party!

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

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

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

Federal Offices

U.S. Representative, D-13

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which team gets in office, our schools, healthcare, justice, environment, and democracy just get worse. Generation after generation.

What can we do with our votes to affect this system? Stop playing along. Use every opportunity to both protest the system, and to support a growing alternative: candidates and political parties like the Green Party that take no corporate money. On your June ballot, write in Laura Wells. In the terrible Top Two primary, the top two vote-getters advance to the November general election. Barbara Lee will be one of them. Write-in candidate Laura Wells could be the other.

Laura Wells has been a Green Party activist since the party became ballot-qualified in 1992. She has participated at the local, state and national levels: acting as a media spokesperson, editing newspapers, and serving on committees with the goal of building the Green Party so that it can be the strong new political party that people in the United States want. Her employment has been in financial systems, Pesticide Action Network, Women's Economic Agenda Project, SEIU United Healthcare Workers staff, and in Alameda County healthcare departments.

Laura Wells ran as a statewide candidate for Governor and State Controller between the years of 2002 and 2014. In her campaigns, she helped introduce Public Banking to the state and nation. She has continually pointed out the detrimental effects of California's old Prop 13 and the need to tax the rich, both to increase funds needed for essential infrastructure and services, and to reduce the power of the billionaire class.

Why should we not vote for Barbara Lee? Because it perpetuates the system, where even "progressive" candidates like Barbara Lee do not align with their constituents. Here are five ways in which Barbara Lee is not aligned.

First, follow the money. At the same time that voters realize more and more how important it is to know where candidates' money comes from ("if you take their money, they are your boss"), the available FEC records make it harder and harder to find out. By poring over disordered records, researchers created the following partial list of Barbara Lee's funders: Jordan Wayne RE Developer from Oakland, \$5,400; American Dental Assoc., \$5,000; Covington & Burling LLP, \$4,250; Microsoft, \$3,000; Johnson & Johnson, \$3,000; Gridiron PAC, \$3,000; Google, \$3,000; American Healthcare Assoc., \$3,000; PG&E, \$3,000; Ravi Patel of Patel Enterprises, \$2,700; John P. Gooding (who fought the Hotel Workers' Union in Emeryville), \$5,400; J Street PAC, \$11,100; Willie Brown, \$2,700; T-Mobile, \$2,500; Intellectual Ventures (a cover organization that raised \$5.5 billion from corporations like Microsoft, Intel, Sony, Nokia, Google, Yahoo, American Express, Adobe, eBay amongst others plus some Investment Firms. Double dipping?), \$2,500; American Society of Anesthesiologists, \$2,500; Gilead Sciences, \$2,500; American Academy of Family Physicians, \$2,500; Pfizer, \$2,000; Motorola, \$2,000; General Motors, \$2,000; Clorox, \$2,000; Viacom,

\$1,500; BioMarin Pharmaceutical, \$1,500; GlaxoSmith-Kline, \$2,000; Lockheed Martin, \$2,000; Bayer, \$1,000; BNSF Railway, \$1,000; Safeway, \$1,000; StateFarm Insurance, \$500. Where does the money go? To things like catamaran fundraisers in Martha's Vineyard Massachusetts, and down the line to other "team players."

Second, she does not endorse the best candidates for local and state office; she endorses the team players. In some cases that has meant Republicans who recently switched to Democrat. In other cases that means she withholds support from Green candidates even though they are by far the best candidates (Dona Spring for Berkeley City Council). The second-rate candidates that she does endorse receive the benefit of her ability to raise funds, from dubious sources, beyond what her campaign needs.

Third, speaking of endorsements, although Lee had spoken in favor of Instant Runoff Voting, she held back her endorsement until a couple weeks before IRV was up for voter approval in Oakland. The League of Women Voters and other activists could have used her powerful endorsement months earlier when other endorsers were being approached. Later, there was a celebration of IRV's victory and who was the keynote? Barbara Lee.

Fourth, whose side is she on? Barbara Lee sat on the sidelines in the 2016 Presidential Primary between Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton -- Lee refused to endorse either Sanders or Clinton during the primary season. True, the vast majority of Democratic Party Congressmembers did endorse Clinton, but Sanders received endorsements from nine Congressmembers, including Keith Ellison (MN), Tulsi Gabbard (HI), Alan Grayson (FL), and Raul Grijalva (AZ). This was despite the fact that there was very strong support for Sanders in Lee's Congressional District, and Sanders did end up winning more primary votes in the district than Clinton! So in other words, unlike the 9 Congressmembers who did endorse Sanders, Lee declined to be a progressive leader in the primary contest. (For more information, search for "Bernie Sanders presidential endorsers 2016.")

Fifth is her failure to take a strong stand on trade, and on Palestine -- Lee voted against including strong language in the Democratic Party national platform regarding opposing the TPP and regarding supporting the Palestinians -- for more info, please see: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2016/07/12/failure-of-nerve-why-barbara-lee-doesnt-speak-for-me-on-tpp-and-palestine/> Seventeen years ago, after 9/11, Barbara Lee did represent her district in voting against giving George Bush extraordinary war powers against Afghanistan. Yes, that took courage, and it was also politically savvy. She represented the most progressive congressional district in the country, a district that might have voted her out if she voted with the crowd in Congress. A button at the time was "Barbara Lee speaks for me." We need our representatives to act for us when it's not so visible as well.

Sixth, Barbara Lee gives occasional support for unnecessary military spending. The pattern is that when the Republicans control the House, Lee votes against their proposed Defense budgets. But when the Democrats put forward an excessively large military budget, she has supported it. For example in 2009, Lee was part of a 281 to 146 majority in support of the Department of Defense Authorization. Lee did NOT join in with the 15 Democrats who opposed that bill, including Dennis Kucinich and next-door (Hayward) Congressman Pete Stark.

There are solutions. The billionaires will not fund those solutions, and their paid-for representatives will not do what it takes to implement those solutions. There are alternatives. The Green Party of Alameda County endorses a write-in vote for Laura Wells to strengthen the alternatives and advance the solutions. Imagine a ballot in November 2018 with a Green Party candidate listed on the ballot. Write-in Laura Wells, and we have a chance.



U.S. Senate

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University bought a few years ago for nearly \$6 million. They also own a beachside house in an exclusive gated community (94.9 percent white) at Stinson Beach north of San Francisco. Their other two properties are condos at Lake Tahoe in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains, and Kauai, Hawaii. They are part of a small class of super rich who seriously impact the planet's life giving by consuming at an extremely high (one might say greedy) level.

Feinstein-Blum's personal real estate and private jet holdings are just the beginning of their wealth. Blum's empire began with his ownership of Blum Capital Partners, an investment firm he founded in 1975. Besides managing other plutocrats' wealth, he is a major owner of the real estate firm of CB Richard Ellis (now CBRE), and has had stakes in Career Educational Corporation, ITT Educational Services, Lenovo, Fair Isaac, Northwest Airlines, URS, Perini and DHL Airways. Blum has been the chair of the Board of CBRE since 2001. He reportedly owns a 15 percent controlling interest of this giant firm, widely considered to be the largest real estate firm in the world with about 28,000 employees working in over 300 offices in 50 nations and annual revenues in the billions.

Blum and Feinstein are both members of the ruling class dominated Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Wall Street's Think Tank, a behind the scenes organization that has long dominated strategic policy-making in the U.S. Feinstein has also served on the Trilateral Commission, an organization founded by David Rockefeller and the transnational capitalist class equivalent of the CFR.

Having nearly unlimited wealth means that if Feinstein needs money for a political campaign, tens of millions are instantly available. The mainstream media typically write fawning articles about her. Over the years she has collected millions in political donations from the dominant corporations of our nation. She has a broad network of political allies and friends, who include Governor Jerry Brown, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, and Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, who can be brought on board for whatever journey Feinstein-Blum are planning. Feinstein even officiated at Jerry Brown's wedding, and, of course, Brown put Blum on the University of California Board of Regents, in spite of Blum's conflict of interest investments in ITT Educational Services.

Despite her vast power, Feinstein's profound anti-people negatives and her age (84) has attracted some opposition in the upcoming top two primary. The most prominent candidate is state senate Democratic leader Kevin de Leon. The other Democrats and Republicans in the race have minimum name recognition and are unlikely to get much media support. They also lack the funding necessary to change this reality, so none of them will go far in 2018. In de Leon's case, he is only slightly more progressive than Feinstein, his status quo stance is illustrated by the fact that he supported Hillary Clinton (not Bernie Sanders) for president in the 2016 California primary, and his list of corporate donors is very long, concretely showing how much they like what he is doing in the state senate. Mentioning just a few of his major corporate donors in the past gives one an idea of what de Leon is really about: Sempra Energy, Cox Communications, Coca Cola, Citigroup, Broad Foundation, DeSilva Gates Construction, Blue Shield, and the Worthe Real Estate Group.

The Green Alternative: Luckily for us, we do have a Green candidate to vote for in the June primary, Michael (Cal Songmaker) Ziesing. Unlike other candidates in the race, Michael proudly states that he is a "lifelong leftist", adding that he is of, by and for the working class: "...my working class background is a significant part of me" and the "Democrats are not your friend." Indicating his high level of ecological and political economic awareness, Ziesing quotes Michael Parenti as follows: "The essence of capitalism is to turn nature into commodities and commodities into capital. The live green earth is transformed into dead gold bricks, with luxury items for the few and toxic slag heaps for the many."

Unfortunately, due to the undemocratic and unfair "top two" primary system currently used in California, a large amount of money is needed to get on the ballot for U.S. Senate (over \$3,400). Michael didn't have the connections and personal wealth to raise and spend that amount, so his name won't be on the ballot this June. But writing his name in will send a statement to the powers that be that many of us are totally against the unjust "top two" system and the candidates offered by the two corrupt mainstream political parties. Write-in "Michael Ziesing" for U.S. Senate.

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

**FOR OUR
FALL VOTER GUIDE**

Writing **Election Analysis**
 Phone Calls **Distribution**

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

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

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

**If you can help with any of the above tasks,
please contact us at: (510) 644-2293 or
acgreens1992@gmail.com**

 **Vote Green Party**

State Offices

Governor

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U.S. environmental and labor laws to pollute our neighbor country and abuse our neighboring worker” which he pledges to change.

Committed to investing in renewable energies and ending our dependence on fossil fuels, Jones argues “Water is crucial to life in California. The environment we live in should not be polluted or destroyed” and calls for a ban on fracking. Likewise, reducing animal agriculture through a ban of feedlots, according to Jones, is important to reduce carbon-emissions and enhances the safety and welfare of animals in the state. Jones supports a ban on fracking in order to conserve groundwater. A move towards sustainable energies including solar, wind, and hydroelectric power will reduce carbon emissions and oil spills, preventing the growth of summer wildfires, and contaminated drinking water and reducing the number of climate refugees.

The campaign emphasizes affordable housing in city and town centers as well as low-cost University housing where applicable. “Build up. Limit sprawl in cities...mitigate spiking housing prices for rent and purchase,” and “Require developers to build a larger percentage of affordable housing.” As an alternative to private developers, Jones argues the government of California can “build publicly owned affordable housing with garden allotments if developers will not do so.” Firmly against the mass incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline, Jones aims to enforce de-escalation training for police officers, the minimum wage in prisons, as well as reparations for prisoners who were detained on currently illegal charges. It is noted that Jones calls for the decriminalization of drugs and to treat addiction as a mental health concern.

As Governor, Jones demands an end to privatizing public schools as well as amending Prop 13 “to reflect taxes prior to 1970 for commercial buildings, while retaining the same status for single homes,” as an alternative to increase funding for public schools. Jones is also committed to ending Corporate Personhood, establishing a universal basic income, as well as making public universities, community colleges, and trade schools tuition-free.

Veronika Fimbres, the first transgender public servant in San Francisco, is registered with the Green Party, and is the first black woman to run for Governor of California as a write-in candidate. Fimbres notes, “I am running in a bid to end the stranglehold that the current “two-party” system has over our politics, and which slows or stops good things, good public policies, getting things done for ‘We the people’”

A former Navy veteran in the Vietnam War—currently serving as a registered nurse, Fimbres has built a platform around ending private prisons, banning fracking, and divestment of companies who use harmful substances in favor of sustainable practices. As Vietnam Veteran, Fimbres will work to improve the benefits and the circumstances of veterans, especially those who are houseless, without healthcare and living with Combat PTSD.

Fimbres is a survivor of AIDS and volunteered with The Shanti Project, where she received their AIDS Hero of the Year Award. “I worked with the AIDS Office on City Contract Compliance”...to ensure that “All city applications in the future would have other boxes on them for Male To Female, Female To Male, [and] Other.” One of her goals is to ensure that condoms are mandated in prisons, for the containment of HIV/AIDS, Hep C, and other communicable diseases. A strong support of prison reform, Fimbres calls for the rehabilitation of prisoners and their matriculation back into society as a top priority.

In recognition of police misconduct, Fimbres vows to ensure mandatory body cameras statewide with videos of any police enacted homicide released to the public, so long as it does not interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution. No crimes will be prosecuted against suspects in cases where an officer has removed, or otherwise interfered with their body camera at anytime during their work shift.

On the left, former Presidential candidate Gloria La Riva, a labor, community and anti-war activist, is run-

ning for Governor as the Peace and Freedom Party (PFP) candidate. La Riva states, “the three main focuses of my campaign will be to oppose the racist attacks on immigrants; increased social spending as an alternative to anti-crime hysteria and new prisons; and to give strong support for Single Payer Healthcare.” Highly committed to enforcing California’s Sanctuary State policy, La Riva calls for an immediate pathway towards citizenship. “It is a crisis for undocumented immigrants across this state, and their millions of family members...are still victims of this very racist, brutal war being waged against the immigrants, notes La Riva. “Today...there are people being arrested, at work, at home, at school, ripped apart from their families, jailed and deported, leaving behind children.”

Committed to racial and social justice, La Riva notes all of “California’s toxic waste dumps are located in Spanish-speaking Mexican/Latino communities,” while these “decisions are made by white government officials who refuse to translate key documents or public hearings into Spanish.” As toxic waste and private water companies target indigenous lands, it is important for Californians to respect the treaties and end environmental destruction. La Riva proposes taxing large companies such as “PG&E, PacBell, Southern California Edison, McDonnell-Douglas, Dow, Bank of America, McDonald’s, and many others” that “have made hundreds of billions in profits while destroying much of this state and exploiting millions of workers.”

As far as corporate-sponsored candidates are concerned, Gavin Newsom (D) promotes single-payer healthcare and states, “the only way we are going to have high-quality, universal health care that’s affordable, or at least approximates affordability, is Medicare for all.” Newsom is well known for authorizing same-sex marriages as Mayor of San Francisco and in 2012, stated, “I do not believe it’s appropriate for me, as mayor of San Francisco, to discriminate against people. And if that means my political career ends, so be it.” Newsom has received substantial funding from capitalists including \$116,800 from Stewart and Lynda Resnick, a “Billionaire couple behind Fiji Water and POM Wonderful juice,” \$108,800 from Marissa Mayer and Zachary Bogue a “Former CEO of Yahoo and her husband, a Silicon Valley investor,” and \$56,400 from Peter Thiel, a “Venture capitalist and PayPal cofounder who supported Republican Donald Trump in 2016 presidential election.”

In addition to Newsom, former Los Angeles mayor and Speaker of the state Assembly Antonio Villaraigosa (D) states he is focused on “education, poverty and Californians left behind in the “new economy.” Villaraigosa’s plan is to relieve poverty by creating jobs in low-income communities. While efforts to relieve poverty are noted, the Green Party is skeptical Villaraigosa’s job program will be ethical as capitalist firms like Amazon take control of economies in low-income neighborhood, forcing communities to suffer from labor violations and poor work conditions. Villaraigosa is also funded by the Resnicks (\$112,800), and has received \$61,400 from Chairman of private venture capital firm Mapleton Investments, Marc Nathanson as well as \$56,400 from Netflix CEO and supporter of charter schools in Los Angeles, Reed Hastings.

John Chiang (D) who is seeking to become California’s first Asian American governor. Chiang has a history of civil disobedience including preserving the minimum wage for state workers during the financial crisis of 2008. Likewise, Chiang’s funding sources raises concerns considering he has received at least \$104,100 from C.C. and Regina Yin, Owners of several dozen McDonald’s restaurants, and \$56,400 from Wai-Yan Sandy Chau who is a CEO of venture capitalist firm Acorn Campus Ventures.

Lastly, John Cox (R) is a venture capitalist pushing for a ballot initiative to establish a “‘neighborhood legislature,’ which would add 12,000 ‘citizen legislators’ elected in neighborhoods to the 80 Assembly members and 40 senators who currently make up the California Legislature.” The Green Party supports decentralization, however Cox, like many other candidates, continues to take corporate donations.

Lieutenant Governor Gayle McLaughlin

In the Lieutenant Governor race the clear choice is Gayle McLaughlin. Our former Richmond City Council Member and Mayor is running on a platform of people’s needs before profits, social justice and environmental sanity and she has a track record where she has walked the walk for over a decade in local government. We Greens are more than pleased to see her running a progressive agenda, grassroots, clean-money campaign for statewide office.

Her campaign platform planks are single payer medical care, free College tuition, Prop 13 tax reform, stopping fracking, an oil tax, a millionaires’ tax, sustainable development aid to cities, immigrant rights, affordable housing, keeping public education in public hands, labor rights, campaign finance reform, shutting down for-profit prisons, a public bank, and election integrity.

In Richmond city government she has been at the front lines of every one of these issues and her long experience as a political activist and as an elected official makes her more than qualified to be Lieutenant Governor or Governor.

Gayle is the only candidate running who agreed to accept California’s campaign spending limits of \$5.8 million who is not a Democrat, Republican, or Libertarian, and is the only one clearly in the no-corporate-money camp and the only one standing up on the all the issues listed here.

In fact, the rest of the candidates running do not offer us much and of course for the mainstream Democrats with money, Lieutenant Governor is more of a career move than a campaign that they are running based on strongly-held beliefs. It is mainstream Democrat business as usual. There are a couple Republicans running and of course there are some for whom nothing is ever fanatically pro-market and right-wing enough.

If elected, the position of Lieutenant Governor will allow her to have a voice and vote on many important state governing boards where progressive politics would make a difference in our day to day lives. For example, one of those positions is on the State Lands Commission, and another is on the University of California Board of Regents.

Mayor McLaughlin has the support of the Green Party of California and local Green Party chapters across the state, and is the preferred candidate of the various chapters of the Our Revolution movement that is generally speaking a continuation of the Bernie Sanders Campaign. She also has the support of Democratic Socialists, the Peace and Freedom Party and others of the declared, independent left.

While she was an elected official in Richmond, McLaughlin was a registered Green. In 2016 she changed her voter registration to “No Party Preference” in order to vote for Bernie Sanders in the primary, and at the beginning of her bid for the Lieutenant Governor’s seat she stepped down as a member of the Richmond City Council and has been open with the Greens that she is not running as a Green. Maybe this was necessary to garner support from the Our Revolution movement which is still very tied to the Democratic Party in sections. She has also been able to garner the endorsements of elected Democrats, labor and civil society groups where such endorsements are nearly impossible for declared Greens.

In correspondence with the Green Party of Alameda County, Gayle has stated that she has never registered as a Democrat and has no intention of doing so. She continues to hold forth the 10 key values of the Green Party and voted for Jill Stein in 2016. That said, she also feels that the Sanders Campaign moved progressive politics forward 30 years while the Greens have not made such a breakthrough. She has much respect for the Greens, seeks our endorsement, and is willing to endorse Greens albeit from a position that is part of this new, larger progressive movement in US politics.

Electing Gayle to a statewide office, independent of corporate money and the mainstream Democrats, would be a huge step forward for progressive politics in California and send a shock wave across our national politics. There is an independent “Vermont Progressive Party” member who is Lieutenant Governor of Vermont, but with due respect, the fallout from an independent holding statewide office in California will be far greater and harder for the national corporate press to ignore and downplay.

The best thing that could happen for our state is that the consensus around this campaign wins, holds, and that the progressive community stays united, keeps its practical head about it, and we get to run an incumbent Lieutenant Governor McLaughlin for Governor in four years time.

Read the CANDIDATES’ QUESTIONNAIRES Online

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

State Offices

Controller Mary Lou Finley

As California State Controller, Mary Lou Finley will work to reduce state taxes for the working poor and place the burden on the wealthy who benefit disproportionately from the current economic system. Recently retired from the San Diego Unified School District, Ms. Finley has been a long-time activist for indigenous rights and against war and police brutality.

The Controller is the chief fiscal officer of the state, who oversees and investigates (and sometimes audits) all expenditures, including payrolls. The Controller also serves as the tie-breaking vote on the state Board of Equalization which is responsible to collect sales taxes, property taxes, special taxes, and use taxes.

The Controller sits on 76 state boards and commissions, including the California State Lands Commission, and is thus in a position to influence public policy on tax structure, retirement security of an aging workforce, global warming, and affordable housing.

Ms. Finley, who is a member of the Peace and Freedom Party, pledges in her campaign that as Controller she will “use taxes wisely providing for people’s needs instead of subsidizing wealthy corporations.”

You could instead vote for more of the same, such as Betty Yee, the Democratic Party incumbent who raised \$900,000 in campaign funds in 2017. Among the corporations she took donations from are: Bechtel, Visa, Baker Commodities, and Pfizer. And among the Political Action Committees (PACs) she accepted funds from are: California Chamber of Commerce, PG&E, California Correction Police Officers Association, Peace Officers Research Association, Wine Institute CA, and the California Real Estate PAC.

Or you could vote for a Republican who wrote recently that raising the California corporate tax rate would be “Marxism in action.” Or you can cast your vote for Mary Lou Finley, as we strongly recommend, and vote for more voices and more choices on your ballot and in Sacramento.

Treasurer Kevin Akin

Kevin Akin pledges that as California State Treasurer, he will NOT represent “all Californians,” but only 99 percent of them. “The One Percent has plenty of representation in Sacramento already,” says Akin, who does not accept campaign contributions from corporations, bankers, or their PACs.

A veteran of the desegregation struggles and the anti-war movement, Akin participated in the formation of the Peace and Freedom Party and has been a unionist through most of his adult life. He views political issues from the standpoint of “what is good for the working class?”

Central to his campaign is his belief that a non-profit California state bank modeled on the state-owned Bank of North Dakota (BND) would be good for working people, and “keep the tax money out of the hands of profiteers” and thus “save enormous sums for the people.” Akin cites a LA Times op-ed by David Dayen, “A public bank for all, not just pot entrepreneurs,” that explains the benefits. Revenues of California state and local governments in the Pooled Money Investment Account last year totaled nearly \$75 billion. Placed in low-risk investments, these funds earn 1 percent interest per year. A public bank could loan money to public projects at lower cost than the private sector will offer, and the profits will go back to the public.

Another LA Times op-ed by Jonathan Tasini, “How a California Public Bank could fix the freeways, send kids to college and ambush Wall Street,” points out that the \$6.3 billion Bay Bridge replacement project actually costs \$13 billion when all the interest going to privately capitalized bonds is factored in. Had the project been funded by a Public Bank, the \$7 billion financing cost might have been much reduced, and would have benefited the public, not Wall Street.

Candidate Akin points out that in 2011 the state legislature passed a bill authorizing a feasibility study of the possibility of a state bank. Governor Brown vetoed the bill, objecting to the creation of a “blue ribbon” task force, and referred the issue back to legislative Banking Committees.

Akin is running against two Republicans and two Democrats. One candidate who enjoys considerable name recognition raised \$1.6 million in 2017 for her campaign. A vote for Akin is a vote for ballot diversity and for fresh, clear thinking in the campaign.

Attorney General No Endorsement

Unfortunately, all of the candidates in this race are from corporate-backed political parties. We therefore recommend that you skip this race. The two corporate candidates whom you will likely hear the most about are both Democrats: the appointed incumbent, Xavier Becerra, and the current state insurance commissioner, Dave Jones.

Becerra was appointed to this office after the previous incumbent, Kamala Harris, won the November, 2016 election for U.S. Senate. Prior to being appointed Attorney General, Becerra had been a U.S. Congressman, representing downtown Los Angeles since 1993. As a member of Congress, Becerra voted to fund the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, for a \$15 billion bailout for GM and Chrysler, and for maintaining the Cuba travel ban, and he opposed the ban on soft money donations to national political parties, as well as the bill for the U.S. to withdraw from the WTO.

In the short time that Becerra has been in office, he’s already frustrated progressives on issues such as maintaining his support for the death penalty and not suing Exxon regarding whether they deceived shareholders about climate change (even though both New York and Massachusetts already did so last year). His many corporate donations include: Anthem Blue Cross, Chevron, AT&T, T-Mobile, Anheuser-Busch, Coca-Cola, Philip Morris, Facebook, Genentech, Blackstone Gaming, Oaks Card Club, PT Gaming, and Celebrity Casinos, along with PAC money from the California Correctional Peace Officers, Microsoft, the California Apartment Association, the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Hospital Association, Pfizer, and the California Real Estate PAC.

Current insurance commissioner Dave Jones is now in his eighth year in that office, having previously served for six years in the state assembly. He’s been trying to position himself to the left of Becerra, but in last year’s contest for state Democratic Party chair, he supported establishment candidate Eric Bauman over progressive Kimberly Ellis, and Jones has also taken plenty of corporate money, especially from auto body shops. Now just think about that for a moment! The Insurance Commissioner oversees the California Department of Insurance, which regulates various types of insurance in the state, including auto insurance companies. And the auto insurance companies pay for most of the work auto body shops perform. So do you think those auto body shops would like to see auto insurance regulated in such a way that they’ll continue to get plenty of money from those insurance companies? And -- what better way to do that than to bribe (oops! -- we meant “donate to”) the Insurance Commissioner! In addition, Jones has also taken PAC money from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, and the Hospital Association PAC.

So as we mentioned in the first paragraph, because all of this year’s Attorney General candidates are corporate candidates, we recommend that you skip this race.

Insurance Commissioner Nathalie Hrizi

Although the winner of the contest for Insurance Commissioner will be decided in November, the June primary election will feature all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, appearing on the same ballot. Only the top two finishers, even if one manages to garner a majority of the votes cast in the primary election, will advance to the November general election in which the winner will replace outgoing Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, a Democrat who is running for the California Attorney General seat. The field of candidates in the primary election includes: Nathalie Hrizi, a San Francisco public school teacher running under the banner of the Peace and Freedom Party; Asif Mahmood, a San Marino medical doctor who is running as a Democrat; Ricardo Lara, a Democratic state Senator from Bell Gardens, and Steve Poizner, a wealthy technology entrepreneur and former Republican-elected California Insurance Commissioner who served from 2007 to 2011, but who is running this time around as an independent or no-party-preference candidate (NPP).

Admittedly, the two biggest names in this race are Ricardo Lara and Steve Poizner whose net worth has been estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars and whose decision to run as a no-party-preference candidate is viewed as a smart move to give him a better chance of getting elected. Although Poizner has the money, Ricardo Lara is a Democrat running in a solid Blue state. Moreover, he is backed by virtually all the groups that traditionally endorse

Democrats and he has the support of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and a horde of other powerful state Democrats.

To his credit, Lara proposed a single-payer healthcare system for the entire state that was subsequently sabotaged by his corporate Democratic colleagues. But to win his down-ballot race against Poizner, Lara will have to raise millions of dollars from corporate donors and political PACs. He has already taken money from the following corporations: AT&T, T-Mobile USA, Verizon Communications Inc., Chevron Corporation, PG&E Corporation, Pfizer, and Waste Management. The money, which comes as a sufficient bribe for recompense in return, is needed to remind voters of Poizner’s past conservative positions on issues.

Poizner, who made his fortune in Silicon Valley, can likely fund his own campaign for another term as Insurance Commissioner, if he so desires. He expended over \$40 million, including millions of dollars of his own money, on politics between 2000 and his unsuccessful run for the California governorship in the 2010 primary election – a contest in which he, while running to the right of Meg Whitman, championed an Arizona statute that would have made it a state crime to be an undocumented immigrant by turning local law enforcement into immigration authorities. Both Poizner and Lara in their current contest will most likely agree on many hardly captivating issues, such as Californians being under-insured for fire, flood and earthquakes, health insurance costs needing to be contained, and better insurance products being available in the event of cyber-crime.

Not surprisingly, neither Lara nor Poizner poses any concern whatsoever to the insurance lobbyists. Only Nathalie Hrizi presents a problem to them because she is the only candidate in this race who will work to establish a people’s insurance department that prioritizes the needs, health and well-being of the people of California over the profits of the insurance companies. Hrizi previously ran for Congress in the 8th Congressional District of California in 2008, and received more than 5,000 votes, and she then ran for Insurance Commissioner four years ago. She is running on a platform primarily demanding health care for all regardless of income, gender or immigration status, and the abolition of the parasitic insurance companies. She supports the creation of “Medicare for All,” a single-payer health care system, with the state or federal government as the payer for health care services. Healthcare alone today makes up around one-fifth of the U.S. economy. Overall, each year in California \$289 billion in insurer premiums are collected by private insurance companies. These billions of dollars are left in the control of the owners of the insurance companies that exist first and foremost to make profits and self-serving investments and thus they spend enormous amounts of time, energy and money to deliver the smallest amount of insurance payments as possible. The Healthcare-Industrial Complex, including Big Pharma, the insurance companies, medical equipment makers, private hospital and nursing home corporations, are reaping ever-greater profits while millions of working people are pushed into debt peonage or bankruptcy. According to Hrizi, the only real long-term solution is the nationalization of the entire healthcare industry under the democratic control of elected committees of health workers and consumers. What exists today is not a system in any sense, and the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”), while it will provide health insurance at a (sometimes exorbitant) cost for millions who today have no coverage, will not create a viable health system.

We recommend and endorse Nathalie Hrizi, the only progressive and non-corporate candidate in this race, for Insurance Commissioner. Support her at: <https://www.hrizi2018.com>



Secretary of State

continued from page 1

to remain “impartial and evenhanded” while overseeing a primary. California’s primary election was filled with a multitude of problems, including voters finding their registration had been changed, voters being given the wrong ballots, and voters not getting proper instructions on how to vote. After the primary, Padilla did not investigate these issues or make a plan for fixing them. In addition, as you might have guessed, Padilla has taken money from plenty of corporations, including PG&E, Anheuser-Busch, E&J Gallo, AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon, Sempra Energy, Warner Brothers, Fox Entertainment Group, and Genetech. And he’s also taken PAC money, from Citigroup, California Statewide Law Enforcement Association, Peace Officers Research Association of California, California Cable & Telecommunications Association, and the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers Association.

You may have noticed that there are also two other candidates on the ballot from non-corporate parties, Green Party candidate Mike Feinstein, and Peace and Freedom Party candidate C.T. Weber. Although Feinstein was actually previously elected to the Santa Monica City Council, his work within the Green Party clearly shows he’s far more interested in retaining his personal control of internal organization, rather than expanding the party toward growth. He’s turned vast numbers of people away from volunteering with the Green Party over the years, and last year was censured by the Green Party of California’s State Coordinating Committee for handicapping its work.

C.T. Weber has been active with the Peace and Freedom Party for decades, serving as their State Chair in the 1970’s, 1990’s and most recently from 2010 to 2012. He currently serves as its Legislative Committee Chair, and was a long time union organizer. Weber’s positions on electoral reform issues are very similar to Green Party positions, and if there were no Greens in this race, we’d seriously consider his candidacy. But fortunately we have an excellent Green Party candidate on the ballot who’s been doing great work for us. We enthusiastically endorse Erik Rydberg for Secretary of State.

Board of Equalization, District 2 No Endorsement

Two Democrats are the major contenders vying for this position, neither of whom are declining corporate donations.

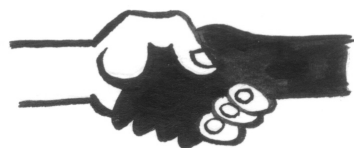
Cathleen Galgiani is a State Senator who serves on key committees that oversee California’s businesses including Banking and Financial Institutions, and Government Organization. She is chair of the Select Committee on Policy Alignment and State Government Efficiency and has served on the Joint Legislative Audit committee which performs oversight of the use of taxpayer money.

Malia Cohen is a San Francisco Supervisor and serves as the Chair of the Board’s Budget and Finance Committee that oversees appropriation ordinances and measures. She also serves as President of the S.F. Employees Retirement System in managing their large pension fund.

Both women in their Secretary of State Candidate Statements write of fairness, transparency, and efficiency with a progressive slant. The difference comes in from where they get their donations and endorsements.

Then it becomes clear that Malia Cohen receives her monetary support mostly from the party machine, following in the footsteps of current incumbent Fiona Ma, plus donations from larger corporations and unions that give greater amounts. While Cathleen Galgiani has received many smaller donations across a broader spectrum of contributors, and less in the status quo category, she nevertheless still received large donations from the Peace Officers Research Association and the California Association of Realtors. So take your pick.

The two other candidates who do not have significant campaigns are Democrat Barry Chang, who was fined \$3,500 for failing to report over \$24,000 in campaign donations to his 2014 run for Mayor of Cupertino, and Republican Mark Burns, a real estate agent and regular donor to the Republican Party.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Don’t vote for Tuck

The field for the election of State Superintendent of Public Instruction appears to be a crowded competition, with five candidates in the race. This raises a distinct possibility that neither of the two front runners, Tony Thurmond and Marshall Tuck, will receive a majority in the June primary. That said, the election appears in many respects to be a replay of the 2014 battle when Tuck, a former charter school executive and CEO of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, lost to the outgoing Superintendent, Tom Torlakson, by 4 percentage points of the vote.

Like Torlakson, Thurmond is a Bay Area politician, who served as a two term Assemblyman (15th District), and has largely opposed the pro-corporate school reform agenda; he is seen as a champion by the two state teacher unions and much of the Democratic establishment, including U.S. Senator Kamala Harris. Tuck is supported by wealthy charter school backers, as well as the Association of California School Administrators. As of January 2018, Thurmond had raised \$1.3 million and Tuck \$1.7 million in contributions. This spending will likely increase markedly; in 2014, an unprecedented \$30 million was spent for this office, with much of it coming from pro-charter forces including Wall Street hedge funds backing a privatizing agenda.

While in the State Assembly, Thurmond initiated a good amount of progressive legislation on education including a bill providing schools with mental health and other support services and another bill to fund early education programs by taxing private prisons. He is a former social worker, who served on the Richmond City Council and School Board.

Other candidates include Adam Anderson, who is chief of staff of Education Superhighway, a foundation-funded non-profit in S.F., focused on increasing internet capacity in schools. Preceding this position, he served in the Chicago Public Schools administration as a deputy chief of staff, where he helped direct the closing of many local schools. He maintained that this allowed for redirecting funds for the arts and STEM programs, but was strongly opposed by the Chicago Teachers Union and many neighborhood groupings.

The fourth candidate is Lily Ploski, who immigrated from Mexico and served as an instructor of an Upward Bound program based at Mills College and a workforce director for Goodwill Industries. Her focus is around school safety and college pathways, beginning at the middle school level, to the workplace or college. She attended UC Berkeley and did graduate work at Columbia and Cal State Fullerton, where she received her doctorate.

A last candidate is Karen Blake, who may play a spoiler role as did Lydia Gutierrez did in 2014. Both focused their fire on the Common Core curriculum. Her “Right Choice” agenda also calls for merit pay for teachers, and more school choice pathway programs, linked to the science-based STEM curriculum as well as charters and home schooling. She and Ploski could attract a sufficient number of female voters to throw the competition into a runoff.

Despite Thurmond’s background in Democratic Party politics, the choice in this non-partisan race is clear. Thurmond plays the same role as Torlakson, being a spokesperson against the massive pro-corporate program which is undermining the structure of public education nationally, through the expansion of charters and other reform measures. He is not exclusively anti-charter but has clearly opposed the agenda of the California Charter School Association, which heavily backs Tuck. So as we wrote four years ago, “Don’t vote for Tuck!”

** GO PAPERLESS **

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

Printed copies (for your use, and to distribute) will always be available at our Green Party headquarters at 222 Blake Street, Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 644-2293. Donations of any amount are encouraged (but not required).

Thanks everyone!

State Assembly, District 15 Jovanka Beckles*

**This candidate is recommended, but not endorsed (because she is a member of the Democratic Party)*

Twelve candidates are running for the soon-to-be vacant 15th California Assembly District seat: one Republican and eleven Democrats. Because of 2010’s Proposition 14 (and the fact that we do not have Instant Runoff Voting in Statewide elections), the two candidates with the most votes will run off against each other in November, regardless of political party.

Unfortunately, no Greens are running for this seat. So we will throw our support behind the most progressive and environment-friendly candidate out of those running.

Let’s do some eliminations first. Democrat Buffy Wicks specifically declined to answer our questionnaire, saying she does not want a Green endorsement. Democrats Judy Appel and Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, and Republican Pranav Jandhyala, all RSVP’ed that they would complete the questionnaire, but despite ample opportunity and multiple email and phone reminders, they did not. We thus assume that they do not want a Green recommendation, so we will oblige them.

Of the remaining eight Democratic candidates, programmer Sergey Vikram Singh Piterman, journalist Owen Poindexter, compliance officer Cheryl Sudduth, and attorney Raquella Thaman do not list any endorsements, thus we assume they do not expect to win this race. However, their thoughtful, out-of-the-box questionnaire responses, and their uplifting youtube/ website messages are refreshing and progressive, and worth reading. See them at: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

That leaves four progressive Democrats for us to consider representing us in the California Assembly. Of them, we feel that Jovanka Beckles may have the chops to stand up to the status quo in Sacramento. Here is our take:

Jovanka Beckles is a two-term Richmond City Councilmember and Vice-Mayor, and a Mental Health Counselor. She has been a powerful member of the City Council through many terrific advances, such as raising the minimum wage, instituting rent control, and creating a Municipal ID program. Chevron spent \$3 million to defeat her reelection, but she organized the community and they elected her anyway. She gave excellent, concrete answers to her Green Party Questionnaire. She refuses money from corporations, developers and their PACs. She is a member of the Richmond Progressive Alliance. Gayle McLaughlin (former Richmond Mayor), Bernie Sanders’ group Our Revolution, and several environmental groups are among her endorsements. Jovanka says “I am a radical progressive activist and an elected official who is not a conventional party first person.” We will take her at her word and give her a strong Green Party recommendation.

Ben Bartlett is a newly-elected Berkeley City Councilmember, an Environmental Attorney, and son of a Black Panther. He has creative, feasible ideas for solving the housing crisis, and supports a State Bank. He feels that Big Pharma profits need to be checked. His questionnaire responses are impressive. Bartlett refuses to accept any contributions from the oil, gas, and coal industry. He is endorsed by Mayor of Berkeley Jesse Arreguin and former long-time Congressman Ron Dellums.

Dan Kalb is a two-term Oakland City Councilmember. Prior to that he was a lobbyist for environmental non-profits in Sacramento, where he helped to craft legislation, so he does have that experience. He refuses to accept contributions from fossil fuel companies and “many other large corporations”. His questionnaire responses, and his campaign materials, sound excellent, if a little evasive. In Oakland he has pushed some good measures such as No Coal in Oakland, but in general he is just a little left of center, avoiding thorny issues such as regulation. He is endorsed by the League of Conservation voters, and many elected officials including the relatively conservative Oakland Mayor Libby Schaff.

Andy Katz is a three-term member of the EBMUD Board of Directors, and a Workers’ Rights and Environmental Attorney. At EBMUD he has made progressive changes such as doubling their recycled water projects, and protecting tenants in foreclosed buildings from having their water shut off. He gave thoughtful, knowledgeable answers on a wide range of topics on his questionnaire. He says “I am not accepting contributions from fossil fuel corporations or corporate PACs and am running a people-powered campaign”. He is endorsed by Emeryville City Councilmember Scott Donahue and AC Transit Director Greg Harper, and homeless action activist Boona Cheema.

We recommend you vote for Jovanka Beckles. We cannot give her a full endorsement though because she is still a member of the corporate-controlled Democratic Party.

Alameda County Offices

State Assembly, District 18 No Endorsement

The Democratic Party incumbent, Rob Bonta, represents all of Oakland except for the northern portion, plus the cities of Alameda and most of San Leandro. He has been in office since 2012. In 2016, Bonta returned the Green Party Questionnaire in which he detailed his answers and had lots of good things to say. So we are disappointed that he declined to answer or update the 2018 Questionnaire so we could inform our voters about what he has accomplished or fought for.

As Bonta claimed in 2016, he has not taken any donations from Big Oil, tobacco, or WalMart. However, contributions to his candidacy are revealing. Here is a short list of some of them: CA State Council of Laborers, Sacramento, \$8,800; Service Employers International Union, United Health Care Workers, PAC, \$8,800; Purple Heart Mortuary, Oakland, \$4,400; Agua Cliente Band of Cabrilla Indians, \$4,400; San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, L.A., \$4,400; Asian American Small Business PAC, L.A., \$4,400; Anthem Blue Cross, Ohio, \$4,200. The total contributions for the period from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017 was \$750,029.20. This leaves Ending Cash as a cool \$1,677,353.20. Following the money that Bonta listed as "Contributions Made", the three top are: California Democratic Party, \$36,500; Unity PAC, a Sponsored Committee of the Alameda Labor Council AFL-CIO, \$10,000; Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, \$5,200. Then there is a long list of office holders he contributed to, including Schaaf for (Oakland) Mayor \$800 and Tony Thurmond for Superintendent of Public Instruction: two at \$4,400 each.

Bonta is a part of a coalition of state legislators who have announced a package of bills to address toxic lead paint in California homes. The goal is to hold companies responsible for health consequences of toxic lead paint and to pay to abate the damage caused. He did a misstep in putting forth a bill that would allow workers in California government to be Communist. The Bill was pulled when it caused stress and hurt by veterans and Vietnamese. Bonta stands for many social justice issues, and speaks out that we must act to reduce gun violence. He gets strong backing from the California Labor Federation for his voting record. He is one of 22 Assembly members who received a perfect score on environmental justice and equity. While this sounds good, only slight progress has been made via his 11 bills signed by the governor. Much more needs to be enacted to protect the public and the environment.

The answers that candidate Stephen Slauson provided to the Green Party Questionnaire go from conservative to progressive thinking. Slauson earned a degree in electrical engineering from UC Berkeley and is a licensed electrical contractor/engineer with over 40 years experience in completing contracts for large public agencies. He has never held public office. He is self financing his candidacy at this time. No endorsements are listed.

On the one hand, he is for stopping fracking, and controlling profit-driven prescription drug and vaccine manufacturers. On the other side, he advocates abolishing the Water Department and eliminating subsidies for health-care premiums and abolishing Sanctuary City laws to solve California's budget deficits. As for minority rights he states, "I'm not aware of any minority in my district that doesn't have full rights". Slauson is for reducing the number of prisoners by clearing their record of non-violent offenses. He is against rent control. In addition, he states that tuition-free higher education is economic suicide as well as single-payer healthcare. He presents a mixed bag with little for social justice, and his party preference is for the "Republican Party."



County Superintendent of Schools Unopposed Incumbent (No Endorsement)

County Board of Education, Area 1 Joaquin Rivera, with reservations

There are three seats on the Alameda County School Board up for contention in the June election, plus the County Superintendent of Schools. School Board incumbents Aisha Knowles (Area 4) and Yvonne Cerrato (Area 7) will not even appear on the ballot as both are uncontested. Knowles nonetheless is seeking labor support.

Karen Monroe, County Superintendent, is likewise running unopposed. She too may seek labor backing. The Superintendent's role is especially critical in school districts' fiscal status, linked to the Local Control Financial Formula; this could include whether the Oakland District returns to state receivership. Though an adequate administrator, Monroe has not provided strong leadership in education policy in the county. Moreover, she had nearly nothing to say on the vicious budget cuts and mis-priorities in the Oakland District. Thus we cannot endorse her.

This leaves Area 1 as the only contested race. The choice seems quite clear. The incumbent Joaquin Rivera has extensive experience in school policy, generally opposing school "deform." He served three terms on the Berkeley School Board and this would be Joaquin's third term on the County Board. He is a community college chemistry professor and a significant leader in the labor movement, having held the presidency (and other roles) in AFT 1493 and a Vice-President of the California Federation of Teachers. He is also president of the Academic Senate. As a county board member, Rivera has advocated for court and community schools, special education services and placement programs for expelled students. More important is his grounding in fiscal policy, especially to the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), both for districts in the county and the County Board's own programs. As regards the situation of the Oakland District, Rivera clearly opposes another state takeover and has worked to limit the expansion of charters (though not definitively calling for a moratorium). He helped lead the fight at the county board in February, 2018 to reject the Latitude Charter School in Oakland.

His opponent Abdur Sikder has little experience in and few insights on public education, based on his responses.

While well traveled, having lived in New Zealand, Australia, and Bangladesh, as well as the US, these varied life experiences have little connection to education. His training is largely in the corporate world, especially regarding hi-tech/computer science (in which he holds a PhD). Sikder has little awareness of the Board's responsibilities, including financial oversight. Moreover, Sikder shows little interest in working with labor.

While Rivera typically has strong ties to the liberal wing of the local Democratic Party (he is treasurer of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club), this is a nonpartisan race. Rivera's rich experience in education policy, his labor roots and his generally negative view of charter schools strongly recommends him (albeit with reservations due to his connections with the political establishment).

Superior Court Judge, Seat 11 No Endorsement

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Tara Flanagan is being challenged by Karen Katz, a former public defender. Both candidates are members of the LGBTQ community. Both have the background and qualifications for the job. Katz spent thirty years as a public defender in Alameda County where she gained a broad perspective on the justice system and the functioning of a courtroom. Flanagan, who got her JD degree in 1998, started as an associate in a private law firm, then worked as a prosecutor in L.A. before returning to the Bay Area to become a staff attorney with Bay Area Legal Aid. She then became Managing Attorney with the Butte County Superior Court Self-Help Center, and then a solo practitioner in Oakland.

Katz's Green Party Questionnaire stated, "We are all safer when justice is administered fairly... I want to bring fairness, empathy and respect to the bench. Access to justice for poor and moderate income Californians is a priority for me." She specialized in criminal defense for indigents in felony cases. She has spoken out and advocated for African-American colleagues to management when they were passed over for promotion. Katz is active in the greater community and several legal associations. However, as of early April, Katz does not list any endorsers on her website.

Flanagan has served the board of governors of the California Women Lawyers Association. She was a former officer of Women Lawyers of Alameda County where she presently serves as judicial liaison to the Board, and she currently sits as co-chair of the East Bay Diversity Bar Association. She spent three years on the bench in family court before she was transferred to criminal court. The Stonewall Democratic Club endorsed her early on as well as most of the Democratic Party establishment. However, after acknowledging receipt of our Questionnaire, Flanagan's campaign failed to return it, despite several requests for her to do so.

"No Endorsement," the Corporate Duopoly, and the Green Party

Why does the Green Party VOTER GUIDE have so many 'No Endorsement, see write-up' lines rather than specific recommendations to vote for a particular candidate?"

This question is often asked to members of the Green Party of Alameda County who are involved in publishing and distributing its voter guides. The answer is simple: We Greens attempt to not endorse candidates from the corporate-funded Democratic and Republican Parties, although we have recommended in nonpartisan elections candidates who are most aligned with Green values. Let us be blunt: The defining characteristic of modern politics in the United States is a corrupt campaign finance system that enables corporate and wealthy elites to purchase political outcomes, coupled with a host of anti-democratic electoral, ballot access and debate rules designed to minimize participation and choice.

Greens and Progressives together can form a true opposition as a counterweight to stop corporate-purchased officials in Washington, state capitols, and local town halls from doing what the vast majority of people don't want done and ignoring what they do want accomplished -- to help reverse the two major corporate parties from continuing to seek to better serve their one percent masters and perpetuating their oligarchy of selfishness over the American ideal of government of, by, and for the people.

Much more is at stake than just resisting Trump: His egomaniacal freak show of government-by-bedlam is a by-product of the long corporate-fueled march toward rule by a coterie of narrow-minded economic royalists. All progressives must fight back against the immensity of this assault on what we Americans thought we were building ever since 1776, namely, a republican form of government and a representative democracy that meets the needs of its people.

Allow us to make a plea for your help: Register with the Green Party. Consider running for political office. Not only would the recruitment of more candidates pledged to social justice values eliminate the "No Endorsement, see write-up" lines, but it would allow those of us who hand you this VOTER GUIDE, who put it on your doorstep, in your barbershop, laundromat, or corner store, to assist you in your takeover of what will then be your party and your government.

County Supervisor, District 2 Unopposed Incumbent (No Endorsement) County Supervisor, District 3 Unopposed Incumbent (No Endorsement)

Richard Valle (District 2) was appointed to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in 2012 to fill a vacancy following the resignation of then Supervisor Nadia Lockyer, and was subsequently reelected to the office in 2014.

Wilma Chan (District 3) occupied this seat from 1994-2000 (before being elected to the state legislature) and again from 2010 to the present. She seems aligned with Green values far more closely than Richard Valle.

The Alameda County BOS has many important responsibilities such as welfare and health care services, and nominal oversight over the Sheriff, District Attorney, and other departments. Yet it consistently flies below the radar, receiving much less scrutiny than the Oakland or Berkeley City Councils. Most of the time the County BOS meeting room is empty, except for businesspeople who want money from the County. When progressive issues come before the Board, they rarely attract protestors with demands. As a result, the County BOS is even more impervious to being influenced than the City Councils.

That said, Greens appreciate that after years of protest by the Stop Urban Shield coalition and more than six hours of public outcry on March 27, 2018, Supervisors Keith Carson and Wilma Chan led the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in voting to kick out of our county (by 2019) the largest militarized SWAT training and weapons expo in the world.

A consequence of flying under the radar is the recurrent lack of competition for County offices. Just like four years ago, Alameda County Supervisors Richard Valle and Wilma Chan are running unopposed. And just like four years ago, neither incumbent democrat returned our questionnaire.

We are not endorsing either candidate. Voter non-participation in these races may at least send a message of recognition that the current BOS elections are practically meaningless.

Assessor Don't vote for James Johnson or Kevin Lopez

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

Given long-standing structural budget problems at the State and local levels, some people are advocating California's adoption of split-roll taxes on real property (maintaining Proposition 13 rules for owner-occupied residences while taxing commercial property at market value). While the Assessor's office is neither a partisan race nor a law-making entity, a candidate's opinions on this subject can be helpful to gauge their political views and alliances.

There are four candidates running for Assessor: James Johnson, Phong La, Kevin Lopez and John Weed. They are all long-time democrats who recognize that the job of Assessor requires a full-time commitment. If no candidate receives a majority of votes in this June primary election, the top two vote-getters will advance to the general election in November.

James Johnson presently serves as Chief of the Assessment Services Division in the Alameda County Assessor's Office. Having worked for the past 26 years in the Assessor's office, Johnson knows the inner workings of County government and is the candidate most likely to maintain the status quo. His questionnaire responses express a sense of pride in current Assessor Ron Thomsen's "exceptional public service" and suggest no changes are necessary to make the Assessor's office more helpful to the people of Alameda County.

On the topic of split-roll taxes, Johnson makes clear that he is neutral insofar as the Assessor is not expected to express a political position on the changing of Proposition

13. However, in previous correspondence with the Green Party, Johnson stated that he opposed such changes because almost two-thirds of voters in 1978 voted for Proposition 13 and he believes the system has worked successfully for 40 years.

Phong La is a Real Estate Attorney specializing in State and Local Taxation who works directly with the Assessor's Office on a regular basis. During the "Great Recession" he volunteered at legal clinics to help homeowners avoid foreclosure, identifying flaws in Alameda County assessments that overcharged some homeowners. La suggested several ways to make the Assessor's office more helpful to the people of Alameda County, such as modernizing and improving online processes; opening small satellite offices in the eastern and southern parts of the county to better serve local residents; and provide community workshops on real estate, financial and estate planning.

If a split-roll amendment to Proposition 13 were to come about, La hopes to see protections for residential renters and small businesses. He recognizes that an unintended consequence of Proposition 13 was to protect large corporations that own property that never gets re-assessed.

The Green Party prefers that candidates do not accept campaign contributions from corporations. La has not explicitly refused such contributions, but stated he will not take money from oil companies, fracking companies or discriminatory organizations.

Kevin Lopez is a licensed Commercial/Industrial Appraiser with the Alameda County Assessor's Office. Having worked in the Assessor's office for 23 years Lopez expressed admiration and respect for current Assessor, Ron Thomsen. To make the Assessor's office more helpful to the people of Alameda County, Lopez stated he would work with the Board of Supervisors to request cities provide new construction project plans in a timely manner; advocate for tax relief to residential homeowners; create a stipend for continuing education classes for management employees; and develop a youth internship program for appraising.

Lopez opposes a split-roll tax system, as he believes the increased cost of corporate property taxes would be passed along to consumers, resulting in a higher cost of living for average citizens. Further, he argues split-roll taxes would increase volatility in property tax revenue since it would be impacted by annual fluctuations in property value.

John Weed has been a member of the Alameda County Assessment Appeals Board for the past eight years (dealing with property owners' challenges to appraisals) and is currently an elected Director of the Alameda County Water District. Weed holds the current Assessor in high regard and will strive to continue his legacy of dedicated service. Ways that Weed suggests making the Assessor's office more helpful are to create additional protections for low-income property owners regarding tax liens; sponsor community education programs about property titles; and develop additional property tax incentives for environmental mitigation and retention of agricultural lands, open space and view corridors.

Weed strongly supports ballot initiatives for a split-roll tax system, with an awareness of some of the challenges surrounding mixed-use properties and phrases such as "owner-occupied" that require further attention in order to best protect residential rental properties and maintain stable and affordable rents.

Don't vote for James Johnson or Kevin Lopez. In the midst of the present housing crisis and mass exodus in parts of Alameda County, the Assessor is in a position to have a real impact on individuals' lives. If a split-roll property tax ballot initiative is presented to voters in November, the Assessor will have influence over the outcome by the way he frames the potential impact to the County. Further, the Assessor will be in charge of implementing the new law if it passes. We prefer to have a leader in office that expresses interest in protecting residential renters and small businesses from the outset, rather than a candidate entrenched in the Assessor's office that seems more interested in maintaining a troubled status quo until forced to change.



Auditor-Controller/ Clerk-Recorder Melissa Wilk*

**This candidate is recommended, but not endorsed*

Alameda County has a budget of \$3 billion and employs over 9,000 people. The Auditor-Controller Agency is the final approver for all payments of the budget each year. This Agency develops, implements and enforces the County's Manual of Accounting Policies and Procedures (MAPP) and reviews every transaction. If a transaction is not in compliance with MAPP it is rejected; departments are then required to provide additional support or go to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The Agency's staff conducts departmental trainings to explain the MAPP, promotes open dialogue with financial liaisons, and ensures that every taxpayer dollar is spent, audited, and reported in compliance with public expectation and law.

Alameda County is in compliance with all generally accepted accounting practices and legal requirements and won the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This was awarded for publishing an easily readable and efficiently organized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that exceeds the minimum requirements of transparency.

Running for office of County Auditor-Controller, Melissa Wilk (D) is currently the Chief Deputy Auditor Controller and former Assistant Controller of Alameda County. She has worked within the executive financial management team of Alameda County for over 15 years and graduated with Master's degrees in Public Administration and Social Work. Wilk helped achieve a AAA credit rating for Alameda County. A credit rating of AAA allows Alameda County to borrow money at lower interest rates, saving the County money that can be utilized to provide much needed safety net services to its most at-risk population. As such, Alameda County is only one of two counties in California to receive a AAA rating from all three credit rating agencies. According to Wilk, all three rating agencies cited Alameda's strong management and adherence to sound financial management policies and commitments.

Contender Irella Blackwood (D) states however that, despite investing over \$3 billion in the government budget, Alameda County residents currently have no accessible audits on the performance of Alameda County. After receiving an economics degree from UC Berkeley and an MBA in Finance from Holy Names University, Blackwood specialized in accounting and auditing for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), a United Kingdom based personal services corporation that helped her excel in San Francisco to executive management. As a candidate for County Auditor-Controller, Blackwood cites her experience as the PWC Chief Auditor conducting business compliance within SF tax codes. Blackwood was responsible for accounting a multi-billion dollar capital projects plan for her agency and later served the San Francisco Controller's Office, conducting audits which identified and eliminated \$5 million of fraud, waste and abuse in government.

Blackwood's endorsements include Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor of Berkeley, and Courtney Ruby, former elected Auditor for Oakland, as well as the East Bay Women's Political Alliance and Black Women Organized for Political Action. Blackwood vows to serve this office to the best of her ability and maintain environmental as well as socially conscious responsibility towards public spending allocations. Blackwood is committed to holding offices accountable through continuous collaboration, guidance, auditing and best practices. The Green Party recognizes Blackwood's willingness to disclose major financial donors to campaign, and support of public campaign finance reform.

Likewise, Wilk is endorsed by Auditor-Controllers Steve Manning, Robert Campbell, Michael Miller, Juan Raigoza, and Tracy Schulze of Alameda, Contra-Costa, Monterey, San Mateo, and Napa Counties respectively. Wilk has notable endorsements from Wilma Chan (President), and Scott Haggerty of the Board of Supervisors in Alameda County. In response, Wilk notes the County's most significant financial audits are available on-line and all audits are available to the public. However, if elected, Wilk states she will move towards publishing future audits on-line so that they are directly accessible to all. Wilk is currently researching best practices for reporting fraud, waste and abuse and plans to implement a process within Alameda County to ensure accountability. The Green Party recognizes Wilk's vow to disclose any and all financial donors to her campaign and her supports of public campaign finance reform.

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Alameda County Offices

Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder

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Through its budget development and approval process, Alameda County holds numerous public meetings to engage the community in discussions regarding challenges and priorities. Wilk notes that she attends these meetings and will continue to promote them to the community. She also emphasizes her willingness to personally speak with any group or organization that wants to learn more about Alameda County's finances; she recently visited the Unity Council in Fruitvale to speak about the County's agency and internship opportunities. Wilk also made it a point to speak with a veterans association in describing her agency's responsibilities within Alameda.

According to Blackwood, she "is running to increase the transparency in government services" and "utilize her skills to provide increased oversight into the quality of services Alameda County receives." Blackwood argues that it is important that Alameda County has someone outside of its bureaucracy to increase transparency and produce audits immediately. Blackwood promises to release audits directly on the government website, make recommendations to all government departments, and ensure there are complete and accurate financial records of expenditures as a matter of accountability. As we purchase government goods and services, Blackwood argues, there is an opportunity to ensure the advancement of high green standards. These standards, according to Blackwood, are present in businesses and government agencies operating in Alameda County.

As such, Wilk's staff authored the Agency's Clipper Card program, which encourages mass transit to reduce carbon-emissions in the bay, and provides ongoing support County-wide. It's also worth noting Wilk was a part of the staff which opened a Clerk Recorder's Office in Dublin; this office has assisted over 25,000 customers since 2015. Before, constituents had to travel to Oakland to receive assistance. Wilk believes all people's rights are equal and that those who serve through public office derive their rights from the people who elect them. She argues it is of critical importance to hire employees that represent the various communities of Alameda County. Wilk argues she wants the community to see themselves reflected in the office staff when seeking services and to freely express their opinions and suggestions. She places a high value on diversity and inclusivity when it comes to her staffers.

As the County Auditor-Controller, Blackwood will work with the various oversight committees in Alameda County for pensions, investments, bonds, local measures and other groups. Blackwood also vows to make herself available through these channels and by having a strong communications system to answer public concerns. Blackwood will improve bookkeeping methods for county offices by ensuring guidelines that follow accepted accounting standards consistent with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and will distribute those guidelines to all county offices. Blackwood says that auditing is a gateway for residents to know how their government is performing; these audits assist in checking the consistency of county bookkeeping offices as well.

Blackwood vows to facilitate the functioning and development of Alameda County for its residents in partnership with the community. Community development is a priority for Blackwood who calls for responsible growth, while preserving and enhancing Alameda County through strong revenue, a balanced budget, and increasing services for long term success.

Both Blackwood and Wilk have self-financed the majority of their campaigns. Wilk states her current staff as Deputy consists of 75 percent women and 85 percent (racial) minorities. Wilk has a notable commitment to not take funding from organizations that deny climate change, support tobacco, deny women's right to choose, or any organization that does not support the rights of all citizens regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race or national origin. An advocate of Measure A1 that provided Alameda County with \$580 million for affordable housing, Wilk served on the team that developed the ballot initiative, tax rates, bond documents and oversight in partnership with the Community Development Agency. Wilk expresses her dedication to maximizing resources for at risk populations especially the houseless communities within the county.

Wilk supports and collaborates with the Alameda County Sustainability Program. Her main objective within the Agency is to ensure efficient practices through technological and sustainable advancements. Wilk argues the Agency has pioneered a reduction of paper waste through modernization of automated workflow and reducing travel-time. Likewise, Wilk gave the Green Party examples of policies she has

implemented including the reduction of paper waste and manual labor with DocuSign in accordance with the Property Tax Modernization system to increase responsiveness of the Agency to the needs of its constituents. Wilk is also currently working with County Sustainability staff, reviewing best practices on how to reinvest savings into community projects including online communication through a Clerk Recorder System upgrade so customers would not have to travel in person to complete paperwork.

Wilk admits she does not think it is easy to generate useful reports from the current system and plans to improve access to financial information by utilizing a more user-friendly front-end report writer. If elected, Wilk plans to conduct a survey to determine the information most requested by constituents and continue to develop easy to read reports so all staff receive accurate and consistent information when making critical decisions.

While the Green Party notes that Wilk has participated in wonderful reforms around the Bay Area, the problems remain the same: Key investments are still leading to gentrification and unaffordability in our county. Houseless persons are not being protected with the same vigor of wealthy people in our cities. And mostly, the working class citizens of our county are not directly benefitting from the AAA savings in our daily lives. In addition, we are wary of Wilk's ties to the political establishment, so we have decided not to endorse her. However, with a commitment to protect marginalized groups through grassroots organizing and a strong future focus geared towards sustainability and social justice, the Green Party of Alameda County is recommending Melissa Wilk for County Auditor-Controller for the 2018 Election Cycle.

The responsibilities of this office have impacts on the safety net services provided to all members of our community. According to Wilk, "It is not work that you can learn as you go—it takes years to understand the intricacies of each County department's financial structure; the laws/regulations surrounding financial transactions and reporting; and the relationships needed to maximize and leverage every dollar available to meet the needs of our children, families, elderly, immigrants, women, veterans and the environment." Alameda County has an incredible reputation for being a leader in addressing social issues and meeting the challenges faced through climate change and we believe either candidate will make positive changes for the county at large.

Sheriff/Coroner Don't vote for Ahern

The duties that the Alameda County Sheriff's Office is charged with (but not limited too): operating a full-service crime laboratory, operating a county jail and detention center, performing civil processes, operating the county office of emergency services, operating a marine patrol unit in the San Francisco Bay waters, and providing patrol and investigative services to the unincorporated areas of Alameda County.

Gregory Ahern has served for over 33 years as a member of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and has developed programs including the Youth and Family Services Bureau, Drug Education and Enforcement programs, and Driving Under the Influence Enforcement Unit. Ahern, running unopposed, did not respond to the Green Party's request to respond to our 2018 questionnaire. As such, the Green Party has no endorsement for the office of County Sheriff-Coroner.

In 2013, Ahern was one of the first law enforcement officers in California to propose purchasing an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). Opponents petitioned against the purchase and formed the organization Alameda County Against Drones (ACAD), effectively preventing the purchase. In June 2014, "Elections for the People" expressed concern that for many decades the position of sheriff, had not been a contested election. Gregory Ahern was selected by the prior sheriff, Charles Plummer, and has continuously run unopposed. In 2016, an Urban Shield conference was held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, CA. Protesters were arrested for trespassing and obstruction, highlighting Urban Shield technologies promoting police surveillance targeting the poor and people of color.

According to Ahern, "I am very proud of my development of the Urban Shield tactical training program that... will better prepare law enforcement and first responder participants to respond to civil unrest, large-scale terrorist attack or natural disasters." However In 2013, the Urban Shield training program was held on the anniversary of the removal of Occupy Oakland from Oscar Grant (Frank Ogawa) Plaza. The Green Party, the Stop Urban Shield Coalition and many community activists note with concern that Urban Shield greatly increases police militarization and

escalation of police intervention on civilians. This program has not stopped or minimized casualties of police violence in the state or country at-large. For example, a 29 year old carjacking suspect named Stanislav Petrov was beaten with batons by two Alameda County Sheriff's deputies in an alley in San Francisco who were later charged with assault with a deadly weapon. The Green Party is firmly opposed to state violence and will not support a program that promotes military-grade technology being used on civilians.

In June 2017, community members expressed concern with how the sheriff's office shares information with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during a town hall organized by the ACLU's grassroots offshoot People Power. Ahern responded, "Like Berkeley, the sheriff's office does not honor immigration detention requests from ICE... however, respond[s] to ICE's "requests for notification" —requests for information about non-citizens in county custody, including the inmate's expected release date." According to the website BerkeleySide, "The Sheriff's policy says the county may provide ICE with information about the release of undocumented inmates even when the federal agency does not request it."

The Green Party of Alameda County remains concerned with the position of Sheriff remaining uncontested, especially with increased surveillance policies, Urban Shield, the loss of black life and deportation of undocumented persons throughout the United States.

Treasurer/Tax Collector Unopposed Incumbent (No Endorsement)

The office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector has three major components: To provide tax collection of property taxes, to collect business, utility and hotel taxes in the unincorporated areas of the county, and to sell property which has become delinquent. According to the incumbent, Henry Levy, there are over 470,000 secured property parcels in the County. This office also manages and protects the County's financial assets, by acting as the County's banker and directing the investments of the County's funds, which belong to school districts and other related agencies.

According to Pleasanton Weekly, current incumbent Berkeley resident and self-employed accountant Henry C. Levy was appointed as Alameda County's Treasurer-Tax Collector after the retirement of former Treasurer Donald White who held the position for 32 years before retiring. Levy stated, "I am committed to doing what I can to educate the public about all the various forms of tax revenues that government depends on."

In 2017, Alameda Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Josie Camacho called Levy "highly-qualified" and further stated that Alameda County needs a treasurer "who will be a great watchdog and monitor the expenditures of our county." According to PublicCEO, "[Levy] is a proactive Treasurer, finding ways to provide affordable housing, engaging in the City of Oakland public bank study, educating the community about their tax bills and county finances, and promoting financial security among our county employees."

Levy is active in the cannabis industry, and is a former Board Chair for KPFA radio during 1992-1997. He spoke at the Oakland Cannabis Business Summit in 2016 representing his CPA/Consulting firm the Henry Levy Group. According to Levy, "this firm obtained its first medical cannabis client in 1998, and now has over 150 clients in this industry in California, Arizona, and Michigan."

Among Levy's goals are affordable housing, public banking, increased revenue for schools, fair cannabis policies and taxpayer education. The Green Party applauds Levy's intent to work with cities in Alameda County and with non-profits to use provisions of tax code to allow for sales of delinquent property to be used for low-income housing and public space.

Levy promotes housing developments by making better known the Chapter 8 program to build low-income housing on tax-delinquent properties and also works with local banks to increase their loans to housing development. Furthermore, Levy vows to work with community and professional organizations to support financial literacy for residents especially low-income citizens, and students through financial wellness in collaboration with human resource departments. Because Levy did not return his questionnaire, we cannot endorse him, but, the Green Party of Alameda County otherwise supports candidates promoting community-based economics and social justice.

Proposition 68 YES, with bond reservations Water, Environment, and Parks Bond

This measure is a \$4.1-billion bond proposal, with the borrowed money going to “Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All” programs. The measure would require 15 - 20 percent of the funds (depending on the type of project) to be dedicated to projects in communities with median household incomes less than 60 percent of the statewide average. \$725 million would go to neighborhood parks in park-poor neighborhoods. In California, general obligation bond issues of \$300,000 or above must be approved by the voters.

Senate President Kevin de León (D-24), who is challenging incumbent Dianne Feinstein (D) for the U.S. Senate in 2018, was the lead author of the \$4-billion Parks, Environment, and Water Bond. As of March 18, 2018, there were six committees registered to support Proposition 68. Major donors include the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the Wildlands Conservancy, and the Save the Redwoods League. Other supporters are Sierra Club California, and in the interest of full disclosure, the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Chamber of Commerce. There were no committees registered to oppose it.

The San Jose Mercury News and East Bay Times Editorial Board (March 10, 2018) strongly supports a YES vote. They say “Prop 68 would authorize \$2.83 billion for parks projects that would fund everything from building Bay Area hiking trails to upgrading California’s 110 state parks. The ballot measure would also provide \$1.27 billion for water projects, including flood protection, levee upgrades in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, water recycling and groundwater pollution cleanups. No money in the bond would fund new dams or Gov. Jerry Brown’s proposed Delta tunnels.” Our review also confirmed that.

The many lists specifying how much money is allocated for specific projects is very appealing. For example, thirty million dollars “shall be available to the Salton Sea Authority for capital outlay projects that provide air quality and habitat benefits and that implement the natural Resources Agency’s Salton Sea Management program.” (etc) In another section, \$170,000,000 “shall be available to the Natural Resources Agency for restoration activities in the Salton Sea Management Program Phase I: 10 Year Plan, dated March 2017, the final management report, and any subsequent revisions to this plan.” Much of the bill reads like a list of necessary or desirable plans which have been waiting for funding.

Sempervirens Fund strongly supports the bond, because it includes more than \$200 million to restore and preserve California state parks and over \$700 million for local and regional parks, as well as critically-needed funding to protect our coast, wildlife and drinking water.

The Green Party of Alameda County’s “standard bond reservations” is because in addition to the cost of the projects Proposition 68 would fund, interest on the bonds would go into the pockets of mostly wealthy people. It could and should be the other way around. Some sources claim California has the highest population of billionaires in the United States; as of March of 2016, 124 live in the state and have a total net worth of \$532.4 billion. The state’s technology industry is a major source of many of those fortunes, including those that created the five richest people in California. If one percent of the wealth of billionaires were taxed, these projects would be covered without borrowing money which had to be repaid with interest. But despite our reservations, because of the way the money will be raised, we urge you to vote YES on Proposition 68.

Proposition 69 YES, with reservations Transportation Revenues for Transportation Purposes

California has a long history of diverting revenues meant to improve basic essential transportation and transit infrastructure, and spending those funds elsewhere in the state budget. Prop 69 prevents funds raised for transportation and transit projects from being diverted to other uses, and removes automatic state spending caps which currently prevent transportation and transit revenues from being fully utilized. The only exception is in the event of an emergency, when the General Fund is exhausted.

At a time when the very survival of the planetary ecosystem depends on rapid action to shift to low emission mass transit, it is vital that the state maximize its spending on transit. The US and California are also burdened by decades of dangerous neglect of basic repairs of roads, bridges, railways, and other transportation infrastructure.

Because of these realities we support Prop 69 as an important first step to improving transit and transportation safety.

However we also strongly believe that the state traditionally spends far too much on new and expanded roadways for automobiles (which only serves to increase driving and greenhouse emissions) and spends far too little on expanding mass transit, bike ability, and walk ability. This measure would have been far better if it had very specifically earmarked far more funds for transit, bikeways and walkability, and had barred these funds from being used to build new and expanded freeways and roadways.

Proposition 71 - YES Sets Effective Date for Ballot Measures

This measure amends the State Constitution so that state initiatives and referenda, as well as legislative bonds and ballot measures that change the State Constitution, take effect on the fifth day after the Secretary of State files the statement of the vote.

At present, most state ballot measures take effect the day after Election Day. During the past quarter century, voting habits in California have changed dramatically. In the November 1970 election, about 200,000 California voters (3 percent of the total) cast a ballot by mail. By contrast, in November 2016, more than 8 million voters (58 percent of the total) cast a mail ballot. In addition, state and federal laws allow for “provisional” ballots—for example, for people who believe they are registered even though their names are not on a polling place’s voter list. Thus, in recent elections, several million mail ballots and other ballots have not been counted at the end of Election Day, but are counted in the days or weeks afterward. The Secretary of State then files the statement of the vote no later than 38 days after Election Day—after receiving voting results from each county. These days, in a close election, having a law go into effect the day after Election Day could result in its having to be rescinded. Prop 71 makes sense, as it updates the law to align with the electorate’s present voting habits. Vote YES on Prop 71.

Proposition 72 - YES Rainwater Capture System Property Tax Exclusion

This measure simply adds the words “rainwater capture systems” to a short list of other helpful property improvements (such as solar panels, wheelchair ramps, and fire sprinkler systems) which are already EXCLUDED from the “new construction” provision in property tax reassessments. According to the author of the measure, state senator Steve Glazer of Orinda (Contra Costa county), this proposal is modeled after similar 1980s legislation that added a property tax exclusion for solar systems.

The measure was unanimously endorsed by both houses of the state legislature and no one is on record in the official state of California voter information guide as opposing this measure, either. It’s kind of odd that it’s on the ballot at all, but that will raise consciousness about this simple Green-value home improvement.

Regional Measure 3 Bridge Toll Increase You decide! (No Endorsement)

Regional Measure 3 (RM 3) is on the ballot across the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The measure is a plan to build major roadway and public transit improvements via an increase in bridge tolls on seven Bay Area toll bridges (the Golden Gate Bridge would not be affected as it is owned and operated by an independent district and not overseen by the Bay Area Toll Authority, BATA). RM 3 was authorized to appear on the ballot by the State Legislature via Senate Bill 595, which was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2017.

The measure needs a simple majority across all nine counties in order to pass. If approved, tolls which are currently \$5 will be increased to \$8 by 2025 (with \$1 increases in 2019 and 2022).

The stated goal of RM 3 is to reduce traffic congestion and improve transportation options throughout the San Francisco Bay Area’s state-owned toll bridge corridors. The measure would build transportation improvements, including for example new BART cars, the extension of BART to Silicon Valley, new high-occupancy vehicle lanes in Marin and Sonoma, improvements to State Route 37 serving Solano, Marin, Napa and Sonoma counties, more frequent and expanded ferry service, improvements to the Interstate 80/680/State Route 12 interchange, the extension of Caltrain to downtown San Francisco, and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure near transit stops. RM3 would also fund a feasibility study for adding a second transbay BART crossing. Clipper, the Bay Area’s transit fare payment system will be upgraded to a “next-generation system” described as “universal, consistent, and seamless.” There will be bridge toll discounts for FasTrak users.

In addition to physical infrastructural improvements, RM3 promises to provide funds to establish the following technical support and oversight:

- An independent oversight committee will be formed to ensure spending of all RM 3 revenue is consistent with the Expenditure Plan. County supervisors in each of the nine Bay Area counties would appoint two representatives to this committee.

- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will develop performance measures, such as ridership targets, to help ensure tolls are used cost-effectively and highlight the need for adjustments to be made if service falls short of the desired performance measures.

- Approval of RM 3 would establish an independent Office of the BART Inspector General to ensure BART uses bridge toll funds and other revenues efficiently and effectively.

The potential toll increase amount looks fair as compared to other major metropolitan areas. The current standard auto toll on BATA bridges is \$5 (\$6 on the Bay Bridge during peak hours). Toll on the Golden Gate Bridge is \$7.75 (\$6.75 with FasTrak), toll on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge-connecting Brooklyn and Staten Island is \$17 (\$11.52 with EZ-Pass), and tolls on bridges and tunnels operated by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey are \$10.50, \$12.50 (peak hours) and \$15 (paid with cash).

RM3 provides for some discounts. Carpools currently receive a 50 percent discount on tolls during carpool hours. This discount would stay in effect post-Regional Measure 3. Under RM 3, commuters (including carpoolers) who pay tolls on two bridges during commute hours will receive a 50 percent discount on the RM 3 portion of the toll paid on the second crossing within a one-day period. For example, after tolls are raised by \$1 (\$6 total) in 2019, a commuter would pay 50-cents (\$5.50 total) on the second trip rather than \$1. Toll payers must pay their tolls via FasTrak to be eligible for this discount and trips on the Golden Gate Bridge do not count towards this discount.

The argument for voting YES is straightforward. Accepting the measure’s goals and oversight at face value and with a sense of optimism, this plan is a welcome response to the region’s worst traffic crisis in its history. The funding allocation is not perfect, but the alternative leaves us waiting indefinitely for an ideal measure that may not come. Left unchecked, traffic congestion will only get worse as Bay Area population continues to grow. And an increase in bridge tolls will result in decreased use of those bridges, at least by low- and moderate-income drivers. (If RM3 passes, a discount we would like to see is income-based fare reductions, eg through the next-generation Clipper system.)

continued on next page



Local Ballot Measures

Regional Measure 3

continued from page 10

On the other hand...

Arguments for voting NO frame the measure's goals as generalities and promises, not solutions. It remains to be seen whether new traffic lanes, buses, BART cars, bike lanes, Clipper cards, and bureaucracy will reduce traffic congestion or shorten commute times. Minimum-wage increases in the next few years will be offset by higher tolls, placing greater burden on low-income earners. A better approach to traffic congestion would start by addressing the interoperability of the 20+ transportation systems.

RM3 provides additional toll money to a public agency, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which has knowingly violated the will of the voters with 2004's Regional Measure 2 (RM2), without consequence. In fact, the MTC Staff is proud of diverting hundreds of millions of dollars of toll funds to create a beautiful new headquarters facility that they control. There was a subsequent ruling that deemed the project barely legal, but it was NOT in the expenditure plan for RM2.

MTC diverted other money away from approved projects in RM2, such as diverting \$90 million earmarked for the Dumbarton Rail project, to the the BART Warm Springs extension. There are many other violations. Thus we don't trust MTC to adhere to the RM3 expenditure plan.

MTC Staff created the expenditure plan for RM3 with little input from its board, and no public input. The list of projects is the result of private conversations with stakeholders, and members of the legislature. There should be some requirement for a public process in RM3.

RM3 does not take into account the recent increase in transportation money provided by Senate Bill 1. For example, we are already building a new multi-billion dollar transbay terminal with expanded bus capacity. We should be creating an express bus lane on the Bay Bridge to coincide with opening the new terminal. Express bus service on the Bridge can reduce BART overcrowding. With a subsidized fare we could expect many new riders. Many members of the public could enjoy some financial relief from the high cost of transit. As it exists today, it's more expensive to take the bus than it is to use BART.

RM3 provides hundreds of millions of dollars for the hardware and software to convert existing HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes to HOT (High Occupancy Toll) Lanes. HOT Lanes (dubbed "Lexus Lanes") allow single-occupant cars to pay to use carpool lanes. A project that encourages affluent single-occupant drivers to use the road is ignoring decades of work to discourage single-occupant driving. Additionally, there is no mention of how the funds collected from HOT Lanes will be used, and no mechanism for public input. If this measure is approved, will we ever have any say about where money from HOT Lanes will be spent?

Many of the groups and organizations who have been outspoken in support of RM3 receive grant funds from MTC. It's time to shift gears and begin the process of using public transportation money to leverage private sector investment. As it exists, private property owners who own land adjacent to public transportation facilities are escaping financial responsibility for public transportation costs that benefit them. This failed policy means every new development that comes online is one more public subsidy.

A NO vote on this measure can create the opportunity to revisit the toll increases, and provide an equitable expenditure plan, one that includes necessary oversight controls. History shows that failed transportation measures have resulted in a much better measure the second time around.

There were opinions on both sides of this contentious measure, thus the Green Party of Alameda County was not able take a clear position.

County Measure A Child Care and Early Education Tax YES, with reservations

There is a child care and early education crisis in Alameda County that deserves our attention, however, we would prefer if this financial support did not come in the form of a regressive sales tax.

The crisis is twofold. Early educators' (including staff) pay has not kept up with the rising cost of living and affordable childcare is out of reach for working and middle-class families. A sales tax approach to this important issue would disproportionately tax people the measure intends to help and who need this assistance the most. Communities in need would be paying a larger percentage of their income than higher-income groups. It did not have to be this way.

City of San Francisco voters will see a similar measure on their ballot, except the initiative is designed such that the expansion of childcare subsidies would be financed with an increase in the City's commercial gross receipts tax. The gross receipts tax applies to businesses with more than \$1 million in gross receipts, exempting most small businesses.

To be fair, proponents of the Alameda County measure have been focused on the direct outcome and responsible administration of the funding should voters approve the tax increase, rather than appearing to give any attention to the underlying structure of the funding source. A sales tax increase is a common way that such measures have been funded in the past.

The Green Party of Alameda County reached out to County Supervisors to express our concerns about the regressive sales tax before the wording of theme a sure was finalized, but received no response.

While remaining mindful that an alternate funding mechanism could have provided a more effective and more equitable way to allow families to stay in Alameda County and children to have access to high quality services they desperately need in early stages of life, go ahead and vote yes.

Emeryville Measure C Housing Bond YES, with Bond Reservations

Measure C is a bond measure designed to address the multiple problems affecting housing affordability in Emeryville. Emeryville has a population experiencing homelessness and a population of workers in the city for whom rents in Emeryville are beyond reach. Homeownership is no longer possible for middle income families. Measure C provides for the sale of \$50,000,000 in general obligation bonds to provide affordable housing to Emeryville residents. The assessment is based on purchase price, not present market value. All funds must remain local and will not be taken by the state, nor can City Council repurpose the money. An independent committee will be established to provide annual oversight to ensure the funds are spent as required by law. The measure states a number of programs for which the funds can be used. These include: developing affordable housing on city owned or acquired sites, funding first time homeowner loans, rehabilitating existing multi-family developments, providing affordable local housing for low income local residents, using Title XXXIV authority to provide up to as many as 500 housing units, preventing displacement of vulnerable populations, and permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness and people suffering from mental health or substance abuse illnesses. Populations stated to be served include people from extremely low to moderate income; artists, veterans, seniors, the disabled, current or former foster youth, and victims of abuse. Vote Yes on Measure C.

Oakland Measure D - YES Parcel Tax for Libraries

The Green Party shares the public's justified enthusiasm for our public libraries that serve our cities' neighborhoods in too many ways to detail here. The library system is one of our most effective agencies, efficiently making life better for young and old, rich and poor in all communities, while only spending a tiny fraction of our overall budget.

The "Yes" vote will raise — while not allowing the city to reduce the current 13 million dollar library funding — another 10 million dollars for library services via a new parcel tax of \$75 per parcel, \$25 per rental, frontage calculations on commercial, with discounts for low income, seniors, etc.

However, the Green Party has no enthusiasm for the process, or for more regressive parcel taxes, no matter what the mitigating details. The big picture is that the Oakland City Council has not been willing to reform our tax system so that a fair share of revenue is collected from the fortunes being made in local real estate through such mechanisms as the Business Tax.

These piecemeal, hand-to-mouth measures are inherently unstable and short-sighted. The public's priorities are exploited by such gimmicks when what we really need is a commitment to public services and a discussion of other city spending. We already have a library parcel tax measure called Q, which requires that the city "add" to the library budget from general funds. Under Mayor Jean Quan's administration we had budgets proposed that would have lost us the Q funding and caused a cascade of library closures. The full available-open-hours promises of Measure Q continue not to be lived up to.

Our recommendation is to vote "Yes," despite our reservations. The reservations are the need for a tax system and a political leadership that does not constantly bring us these third-rate measures leaving us a library system that periodically needs to be "saved."

This November, elect a mayor who:

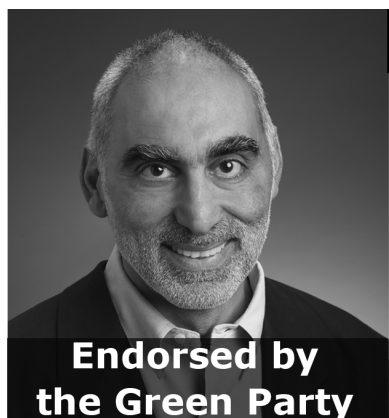
- Refuses dirty money donations
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- Believes in absolute *transparency*
- Is willing to be held *accountable* to achieve campaign promises

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Campaign contact information:

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510-290-1200
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Federal Offices

U.S. Senator - **Michael Ziesing** (write-in)
 U.S. Representative, District 13 - **Laura Wells** (write-in)

State Offices

Governor - **Josh Jones**
 Lieutenant Governor - **Gayle McLaughlin**
 Secretary of State - **Erik Rydberg**
 Controller - **Mary Lou Finley**
 Treasurer - **Kevin Akin**
 Attorney General - No Endorsement; please see write-up
 Insurance Commissioner - **Nathalie Hirzi**
 Superintendent of Public Instruction - *Don't vote for Tuck*
 Board of Equalization, District 2 - No Endorsement;
 please see write-up
 State Assembly, District 15 - **Jovanka Beckles***
 *This candidate is recommended, but not endorsed -
 please see write-up
 State Assembly, District 18 - No Endorsement;
 please see write-up

Judicial Office

Superior Court Judge, Seat 11 - No Endorsement;
 please see write-up

County Offices

Superintendent of Schools - Unopposed incumbent;
 please see write-up
 School Board, Area I - **Joaquin Rivera**, with reservations

Supervisor; District 2 - Unopposed incumbent; please see write-up
 Supervisor; District 3 - Unopposed incumbent; please see write-up
 Assessor - Don't vote for James Johnson or Kevin Lopez
 Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder - **Melissa Willk***
 *This candidate is recommended, but not endorsed -
 please see write-up

District Attorney - **Pamela Price**
 Sheriff/Coroner - Don't vote for Ahern
 Treasurer/Tax Collector - Unopposed incumbent;
 please see write-up

State Propositions

68 - Water; Environment; and Parks Bond - Yes,
 with bond reservations
 69 - Transportation Revenues for Transportation Purposes - Yes,
 with reservations
 70 - Vote Requirement for Cap-and-Trade Revenue - No
 71 - Sets Effective Date for Ballot Measures - Yes
 72 - Rainwater Capture System Property Tax Exclusion - Yes

Local Measures

RM3 - Regional Measure 3, Bridge Toll Increase - You decide;
 Please see write-up
 A - Alameda County Child Care and Early Education Tax - Yes,
 with reservations
 C - Emeryville Housing Bond - Yes, with bond reservations
 D - Oakland Parcel Tax for Libraries - Yes

Candidates in green ink are Green Party members.

Green Voter Guide

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

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Election Day:
June 5, 2018



for the thinking voter