

Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: November 6, 2018

Federal Offices	1, 3
State Offices	1, 3, 4
State Propositions	1, 16, 17
State Judges	4
Peralta Colleges	5, 6
City of Alameda	6
City of Albany	7
City of Berkeley	1, 7, 8, 9
City of Emeryville.....	10
City of Hayward	10, 11
City of Oakland	1, 11, 12, 13
City of Union City	14
Special Districts.....	14, 15
Voter Card	19, Back page

U.S. Representative, District 13 Laura Wells

With no Republican in the race, Laura Wells and Barbara Lee are the only two candidates on the ballot for Congress District 13. We endorsed Laura Wells this past June as a write-in candidate and she received three times more votes than the other four official write-in candidates combined. Now we are endorsing Laura Wells for the November election. This race represents your one chance to vote for a no-corporate-money Green candidate in a partisan race at the state and federal level this November.

When it comes to Congress, polls show an odd fact: Congress as a whole has a very low approval rating, and yet people across the country approve of their own representative. This creates a huge incumbent advantage. How can we explain that odd fact of hating Congress but loving your congressperson? The problem is “the system.” It is a system in which even the “good ones” like Barbara Lee take money from the corporations and the billionaires who back them. Green Party candidates do not take that money. Significantly, unlike the majority of her constituents, Lee did not support Bernie Sanders’ no-corporate-money run for president in 2016.

In the seventeen years since Barbara Lee became a hero

continued on page 3

Berkeley City Council, District 7 #1: Aidan Hill, #2: Rigel Robinson, #3: No endorsement, leave blank

District 7 is an open seat with the retirement of long-time Council member Kriss Worthington. Redistricting several years ago created this super-majority student district. The Green Party endorses Aidan Hill, a former UCB Green and current member of the Alameda Green Party County Council. We recommend that Aidan be ranked first and that Rigel Robinson (also a progressive) be ranked second. Candidate questionnaires can be found at <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>.

Aidan Hill is “running to be the first openly and legally non-binary public office holder in US history.” Their top priorities are “Gender Equity, People’s Park, Homelessness, Food Insecurity and Police Reform” with specific tasks/policies of “will support labor union goals and efforts specifically with worker co-ops, raising the minimum wage, establishing a maximum wage, and ensuring that non-binary and trans persons are respected by law.” Hill has an AA degree in communications studies and is an activist in Black Lives Matter and #metoo. Their most important land use issues are “saving the Oxford Tract as well as People’s

continued on page 7

Oakland Mayor #1: Saied Karamooz, Sharing #2 & #3: Cat Brooks* and Pamela Price* (*ranked, but not endorsed)

The dynamics in this year’s Oakland mayoral race, which features ten candidates, are dramatically different from what they were in 2014. Admittedly, once more, we have an incumbent running for re-election who could again lose given the calculus of rank-choice voting. However, this time around, in view of the current local political climate and the long-standing and neglected problems plaguing the city, a progressive challenger with the qualifications to be an effective mayor will have an excellent chance to win. Specifically, if incumbent Mayor Libby Schaaf -- who has become insufferably out-of-touch by congratulating herself on her humanely impoverished steps taken to solve homelessness -- does not win in the initial tally, it is likely that she will not be on any other candidate’s second, or third, or even fourth or fifth choice, because there are no viable challengers who are running to the right of her. In 2014 Libby Schaaf captured only 272 votes (0.5 percent gain) during the first ten rounds of elimination. Her eventual victory was a function of elimination of two conservative candidates, namely, Bryan Parker and Joe Tuman, who both held similar agendas to those she held, namely, “public-security-first” and “get-businesses growing-jobs” proposals, without any comparable commitments to putting resources to equity and social justice.

Except for Cedric Anthony Troupe, all the other eight viable mayoral candidates filled out our questionnaire. One

continued on page 10

Boycott the Statewide Partisan Races to Protest the Top Two Primary

The June primary has come and gone, with predictable results desired by the establishment. Because of Prop. 14 (the Top-Two Primary), first used in 2012, no candidates of the small parties will be on the ballot for statewide office in the November general election, and only a handful will compete for local partisan offices anywhere in the state. So much for the lies of the “Top Two” proponents about increased choices. “Top Two” even took away the possibility of the write-in option, so the sham democracy that now exists should be obvious to anyone.

Given this shameful situation, we thought much about what our position should be regarding the statewide partisan races for the November election. We recommend that people BOYCOTT these contests. Specifically, the following eight statewide offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, and U.S. Senator. And also State Board of Equalization, of which there are only four districts in the

continued on page 3

Proposition 10 YES, YES, YES! Local Authority to Enact Rent Control - Affordable Housing Act

The 1995 Costa-Hawkins Act was the culmination of a decades-long battle between tenant advocates and the rental housing industry that took significant powers away from local governments by stopping them from fully regulating rents and preventing evictions. Proposition 10, the Affordable Housing Act, would repeal Costa-Hawkins and thus allow local governments to extend protection to millions of vulnerable tenants.

The Costa-Hawkins Act was a great bipartisan gift to the landlords of California. When the bill was enacted by the legislature, Jim Costa was a Democratic State Senator from the Fresno area; he is now a member of Congress. Phil Hawkins was a Republican Assemblyman from Bellflower in Southern California. The bill was stalled in committee for years, but ultimately was allowed out of committee to hit the floor of the legislature for a vote-- by East Bay Democratic Senator Nick Petris. He was retiring, so he no longer needed to worry about the political price he would surely pay. It was signed into law by Republican Governor Pete Wilson. The current Democratically-controlled legislature and governor had the ability to repeal this law without a vote of the people. The most recent effort, AB1506, was killed in the Housing Committee in January when Democratic Assemblymembers Jim Woods of Healdsburg and Ed Chau of Acadia abstained. Proposition 10 is a citizens’ initiative, the result of a massive grassroots signature gathering campaign.

Costa-Hawkins preempts specific protections for tenants that cities like Berkeley and Santa Monica had enacted, and limits the extension of rent control by these and other local governments in the future. The most damaging provision of the law was to prohibit “vacancy control.” Under current law, when a tenant leaves, landlords are free to raise rents without limit. In cities with rent control this incentivizes landlords to try to evict their long term tenants or to “encourage” people to move. Costa-Hawkins also prohibits rent control on single-family homes and condominiums, and prohibits rent control on rental property constructed after

continued on page 16

Proposition 11 NO, NO, NO! Emergency Ambulance Employees

The formal title of this initiative is “Requires Private-Sector Emergency Ambulance Employees to Remain on Call During Work Breaks. Changes Other Conditions of Employment Initiative Statute”.

The name is both a direct description and an avoidance of underlying workplace/labor issues. The background to this matter is a 2016 California Supreme Court ruling (*Augustus v. ABM Security*) that upheld Federal labor law regarding rest breaks being uninterrupted. The California legislative analyst ruled that EMTs and paramedics were in a similar circumstance to security guards. There have already been several lawsuits relating to ambulance coverage.

While the essence of the proposition is to further undermine labor protections, it includes added language on training and paid mental health services for EMTs/paramedics. The front group backing this measure is totally funded by American Medical Response, the country’s largest medical transportation firm.

This measure not only weakens workers’ legal rights, but implies that any lacking of ambulance service is due to ‘greedy’ employees wanting real breaks. It is obvious that the mental stress for which the employer shows ‘concern’ would only be made much worse with this item (even if paid leave is provided for drivers).

What is needed is an increase in ambulance crews (the California analyst projected 25 percent additional ambulance crews).

While this initiative applies only to private sector ambulance workers, the dangerous implications for similar public sector workers is clear. Even with just the private sector involved, the sponsors are hailing millions in savings for local government. Thus neo-liberal austerity strikes once again on the backs of workers.

VOTE NO on Prop. 11.

** 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 GreenVoter Card plus a link to the full Voter Guideonline) 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: acgreens1992@gmail.com.

Locals:

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

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

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

East and South County Greens: We are looking for east and south Alameda County Greens interested in helping re-activate an East County and a South County local. If interested, please text or phone Mandeep Gill at: 650-204-1069.

Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: Peter Allen, David Arkin, Jan Arnold, Victoria Ashley, Bill Balderston, Dale Baum, Steve Breedlove, Paul Burton (page layout), Chris Finn, Mandeep Gill, Dave Heller, Mike Hutchinson, Greg Jan, Ralph Kanz, Michael Kaufman, Tina Kimmel, Don Macleay, Bob Marsh, James McFadden, Paul Rea, Justin Richardson, Michael Rubin, Bob Scofield, John Selawsky, Larry Shoup, Phoebe Sorgen, Kent Sparling, Pam Spevack, Lisa Stephens, 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.

U.S. Congress, Statewide Races, State Assembly

U.S. Rep District 13

continued from page 1

voting “No” to war after 9/11, Lee’s engaged progressive constituents have wished she would push faster and stronger on many vital issues. The problem is, she didn’t have to.

Lee’s dozens of significant donors include corporations like Pfizer, Bayer, Lockheed Martin, Google and Microsoft. If she took strong positions and made progressive endorsements, she might create a divide with her more conservative constituents and not achieve her recent Top-Two vote totals of 87, 89, and 91 per cent. Her campaigns do not need those corporate donations, so where does the money go? To things like catamaran fundraisers in Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, and down the line to other “team players.”

This year, with the increasing number of disappointments from the Democrats, three Green congressional candidates have advanced to the November ballot in partisan races for the first time since the implementation of the Top Two primary in California in 2012: Laura Wells in District 13 (Alameda County), Kenneth Mejia in District 34 (LA), and Rodolfo Cortes Barragan in District 40 (LA).

Laura Wells has been a Green Party activist since the party became ballot-qualified in 1992, with the goal of building the Green Party to be the strong new political party that people want. In statewide campaigns for Governor and State Controller (2002 to 2014), Laura, along with Ellen Brown, helped introduce Public Banking to the state and nation. She pushed for reform of California’s old Prop 13 and for taxing the rich, both to increase funds for essential infrastructure and services, and to reduce the power of the billionaire class. Laura’s career has centered on financial systems work for non-profits, including organizations like the Pesticide Action Network, Women’s Economic Agenda Project, SEIU United Healthcare Workers, and Alameda County healthcare departments.

Even if you want and expect Barbara Lee to be reelected in November, support her by providing pressure. When filling out your ballot, say, “I love you Barbara Lee, and I’m voting for Laura Wells to show that you’ve got pressure from your progressive district.” Use your vote to pressure Congress toward ensuring that we have the basics we want and need — healthcare, housing, education, and justice — by voting for Laura Wells for Congress, District 13.

Explain it to your friends, and invite them to do the same.

For more ways that Barbara Lee is not aligned with her constituents, take a look at the “What’s Wrong in Washington” blog at: <https://laurawells.org/whats-wrong-in-washington/>

For more information on Laura Wells, her story and her platform, see: <https://laurawells.org/>

U.S. Senate Boycott this race

Dianne Feinstein and the California Democratic Party Plutocracy — is there a more reactionary corporate Democrat than the senior Senator from California? She is the epitome of power wielded for a ruthlessly violent plutocracy hiding behind a democratic façade. Feinstein’s politics are characterized by the destruction of whatever democracy still exists: full support of restrictions on civil liberties, militarism, imperialism, and criminal wars. She opposes single-payer healthcare, thinks Trump “can be a good president,” and supports corporations (like the one owned by her billionaire husband Richard Blum) that systematically wipe out life-giving ecologies. Ever wonder how the 1 percent live? Blum-Feinstein own a Gulfstream G650 jet, “the gold standard.” They also own a 161-room San Francisco hotel (The Carlton,) a Pacific Heights mansion purchased for \$16.5 million, and a ski retreat on a 30 acre Aspen parcel built in 1999 for \$7.4 million. Their \$6+ million Washington, DC house is French Renaissance-style. They own a Stinson Beach house in a 95 percent white, gated community, as well as condos at Lake Tahoe and Kauai, Hawaii. They are part of a small class of super rich whose extravagant materialism jeopardizes life on planet earth.

And there’s more to their greed! Blum’s empire began with ownership of Blum Capital Partners, an investment firm. Besides managing other plutocrats’ wealth, he had stakes in Career Educational Corporation, ITT Educational Services, Lenovo, Fair Isaac, NW Airlines, URS, Perini, and DHL Airways. He has chaired the Board of CBRE since 2001 with a 15 percent controlling interest in what may be the world’s largest real estate firm, boasting annual revenues in the billions and 28,000 employees in over 50 nations.

Blum and Feinstein belong to the Council on Foreign Relations, Wall Street’s behind the scenes, ruling class think tank that has long dominated US policy-making. Feinstein also served on the Trilateral Commission, the CFR’s transnational capitalist class equivalent, founded by David

Rockefeller.

Feinstein has tens of millions in funds at her fingertips. Over the years she has collected millions in political donations from corporations. Her network of allies includes Jerry Brown, Nancy Pelosi, and Gavin Newsom. Feinstein officiated at Brown’s wedding, and Brown put Blum on the University of California Board of Regents despite his conflict of interest investments.

Feinstein’s anti-people record and age (84) have attracted opposition. Her opponent, state senate Democratic leader Kevin de Leon, is slightly more progressive. Raised immigrant working class, he organized against Prop 187, authored the Sanctuary State law as well as clean energy and air measures, and favors single-payer. But he helped kill a whistleblower bill, has MeToo vulnerabilities, has been involved in corruption, and answers to many corporate donors..

We wish Michael Ziesing, Green candidate in the June primary, better luck next time and thank him for running. A lifelong leftist, of, by, and for the working class, he quoted Michael Parenti: “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.”

We oppose the unjust “top two” electoral system and the candidates offered by the corrupt mainstream political parties, so we recommend boycotting this race. In the words of Eugene Debs, co-founder of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW, aka the Wobblies) and five time Presidential candidate of the Socialist Party of America, “I’d rather vote for something I want and not get it, than something I don’t want and get it.”

Boycott

continued from page 1

entire state. Please also note that specific information about the candidates running in these races was provided in our June primary Voter Guide, which is available on the Internet, at: <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides/>

Boycotting the statewide partisan races is not much of a sacrifice, since only candidates of the two major wings of the money party will be on the ballot. (Excepting perhaps only the Insurance Commissioner contest where a former Republican recently decided to register “no party preference”). We hope that a visible drop in the vote totals in these races will make a statement against “Top Two”. In addition, the state of California, as the Green Party has done for many years, also needs to start looking at proven alternatives to the failing electoral system we currently have. For example, most of western Europe uses the “proportional representation” election system with great success, and with high voter turnout that often exceeds 80 percent.

We do want to be absolutely clear that we are NOT asking people not to vote at all. There are important ballot measures and worthwhile local candidates who are worth supporting. So please DO VOTE -- but with the exception of the above-listed statewide partisan races!

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Don’t vote for Tuck

The battle for the election of State Superintendent of Public Instruction is a replay of the 2014 struggle when Marshall Tuck, a former charter school executive and CEO of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, lost to the outgoing Superintendent, Tom Torlakson, by four 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 early 2018, Thurmond had raised \$1.3 million and Tuck \$1.7 million in contributions. This spending has increased 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. There have been some

negative features of his Assembly career on non- education issues.

Despite Thurmond’s background in Democratic Party politics, the choice in this non-partisan race is clear. Thurmond plays the same role as former Superintendent 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!”

State Assembly, District 15 Jovanka Beckles*

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

Because of the top-two primary system that deliberately excludes the Green Party from most general election contests, there are two Democrats competing for Assembly District 15. The district covers Western Contra Costa County, Berkeley and part of Oakland, with 300,000 registered voters.

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 was elected in spite of Chevron. She gave excellent, concrete answers to our Green Party Questionnaire.

As a member of the Richmond Progressive Alliance, Jovanka refuses money from corporations, developers and their PACs. Gayle McLaughlin (former Richmond Mayor), Bernie Sanders’ group Our Revolution, and several environmental groups are among her endorsements. In addition, all the primary candidates that did not make the top two have endorsed her. Jovanka says “I am a radical progressive activist and an elected official who is not a conventional party first person.” We give her a strong Green Party recommendation.

Buffy Wicks is a cog in the Hilary Clinton/Democratic Party big money corporate machine. She has never held elected office and only moved to our District 15 in the last two years, so how could she understand our local issues? She worked as an organizer for Obama’s campaigns and later as a White House aide, then worked for Hilary’s 2016 campaign. In addition, she refused to answer our candidate questionnaire.

In the primary Buffy benefited from \$1.2 million in spending on her behalf, a record amount, with only 14 percent coming from within the district. Her biggest donors appear to be venture capitalists and investors. Her largest supporter is Govern for California, a group founded in 2012 by David Crane, a wealthy Bay Area investor and advisor to former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; tech investor Ron Conway; and Walmart board member Gregory Penner, pals of the infamously moronic Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Their group wants more charter schools, and their primary target appears to be teacher’s unions. See former Bay Guardian staff’s expose of the Govern for California PAC’s independent expenditures for Buffy — <https://48hills.org/2018/06/big-right-wing-money-east-bay/>

Wicks is pro-developer, favoring more market-rate development that tends to drive up affordable housing costs, and does not support repeal of Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act to protect tenants from soaring rents. Her deep ties to the Goldman Sachs democrats like Obama and Clinton, and her acceptance of PAC money and big donations from the investor class, will leave her beholden to corporate interests.

Buffy sure looks like a carpetbagger to us, and we should send her packing. The conservative Democrats have made an effort in Northern California to promote faux progressives—choose a real progressive instead. Vote for Jovanka Beckles.

State Assembly, District 18 No Endorsement

The Democratic Party incumbent, Rob Bonta, has held office since 2012 and is campaigning for reelection. Bonta submitted Senate Bill 10 (SB10), the bill which addresses pretrial services, pretrial release or detention. The California Public Defenders Association (CPDA) was one of the co-sponsors. The ACLU and the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights have withdrawn as co-sponsors and are now neutral. The CPDA was troubled by the amendments negotiated by Judicial Council, Chief Probation Officers and the Governor. The problematic amendments put risk assessment and supervision under control of the probation departments, allow local superior courts to decide which risk assessment instrument will be used leading to possible problems of racial bias and allow the expansion of preventative detention. However, SB10 will totally do away with money bail, with the CPDA not opposing. The Governor has signed this Bill despite its several shortcomings.

The *Alameda Magazine's* article "Recall as a Cudgel" notes that Bonta, a former Alameda Councilmember, had been the target of unsuccessful recall efforts for his ties to the Alameda firefighters' union. His opponent in this State Assembly reelection, Republican Stephen Slauson, now has begun a recall effort against a current Alameda councilmember, a person of color, which just may be intended to damage the councilmember's reputation among the voters. Slauson is against rent control and states "I'm not aware of any minority in my district that doesn't have full rights." He has never held public office, is self-financing his candidacy, and as we go to press in late September, has no endorsements listed on his website.

Bonta has accepted corporate money, which helped him raise a total of \$750,029 in 2017, of which he contributed some to other Democratic office holders, including Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf (\$800) and State Assembly member Tony Thurmond, who is running for Superintendent of Public Instruction: who received two donations of \$4,400 each. Bonta has also endorsed a controversial figure, Oakland City Councilmember Desley Brooks, for reelection. He is a typical entrenched, institutional Democrat. For State Assembly, District 18: No Endorsement!

State Supreme Court Justices Carol Corrigan and Leondra Kruger: Yes, with reservations

Two California Supreme Court justices, Carol Corrigan and Leondra Kruger, will be on the ballot for confirmation. We recommend either voting to confirm both of them, or if you cannot bring yourself to do that, do not vote. While generally more conservative than we prefer (she was described as a "moderate Republican" when appointed to the Supreme Court by Arnold Schwarzenegger), Corrigan is not an extremist. Kruger, appointed by Jerry Brown, appears to be a cautious justice, who generally prefers narrowly-tailored decisions to broadly sweeping judicial policy changes. Both are generally capable and respected, but are not quite as progressive as we'd like, hence our reservations. However, since this is a confirmation election and not an election to the court, we believe it is most appropriate not to attack qualified, competent and non-extreme justices. Rather than engage in the hyper-politicization of the judiciary that is occurring at the national level, we think California should retain its civility, and retain both Corrigan and Kruger on the Supreme Court.

State Appellate Court No Endorsements

In contrast to federal court judges, who are appointed for life by the executive branch and confirmed by the legislative branch, California state judicial officers are appointed by the governor and then confirmed and retained by popular vote.

To review every opinion that the district appellate judges have either authored or joined over the past term is currently beyond the capacity of our Voter Guide volunteer staff. We are therefore not endorsing either a "Yes" or a "No" vote on the retention/confirmation of the state appellate court judges on the ballot. Press accounts of state appellate court judicial holdings are relatively rare, and reviewing the opinions authored or joined by each during their twelve-year terms would require several months, if not years, of advance preparation.

Since 1998 the Green Party has criticized the Governor's judicial appointment system in which special interests predominate. The three-member commission that must ratify an appointment is often a mere rubber stamp. Prosecutors, supported by police and prison guards, have exercised an undue influence on this outdated judicial selection process. Judges are drawn primarily from a narrow band of the political spectrum, heavily weighted toward law-and-order/war-on-drugs cheerleaders, large corporate law firm

partners, and those with tenure in a lower court. Racism and sexism are rampant. The present system of judicial selection does nothing to elevate the standards of judicial qualifications. Californians deserve to have confidence in their courts, but a 2014 study by Court Reform LLC found that of all states California had the highest level of perceived illegal corruption in its judicial branch.

The Green Party has supported renewed scrutiny of the selection of candidates and public financing of judicial campaigns. It has previously suggested that judicial term limits be considered, although they are arguably more applicable to the executive, rather than to the judicial or legislative, branches of government. Some Greens and other progressives believe that judges should be protected from the popular political whims of the electorate. They cite the 1986 removal of Supreme Court Justice Rose Bird over her opinions challenging the constitutionality of California's death penalty. Although law enforcement advocates provided the public face of the campaign to remove Bird, instigating and financing the campaign against her were corporate employers and insurance companies that basically disliked her decisions on wrongful termination and tort liability. Bird was the first, and remains the only, Chief Justice to be removed from that office by a majority of the state's voters.

The reality remains that the state's voters have never denied retaining an appellant court judge. Nor does impeachment and conviction of judicial officers occur. Recall elections and the current confirmation/retention by popular vote have proven to be impractical ways to remove incompetent judicial officers. For this reason, the focus should be placed upon the state Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP) as the only practical deterrent to judicial misconduct and bad behavior. Both liberals and conservatives ought to be easily able to agree that a strong judicial oversight agency is of vital public importance because bad judges cause innocent people to be found guilty and vice versa. Bad judges also issue unfair and erratic sentences, unnecessarily hurt the lives of children and families, and destroy the public trust.

Unfortunately, the CJP currently under investigates and under disciplines judicial wrongdoing. As a consequence, there are possibly hundreds of incompetent judges currently sitting on the various districts and divisions of California's Courts of Appeal whose removal would have been initiated by equivalent commissions in other states.

Scrutinizing the Commission on Judicial Performance and passing legislation to increase its transparency and accountability to the citizens of California are practical first steps to take, but we believe that this issue needs far more considerable discussion and we would like to hear from Greens and other progressives in the legal community who have insight regarding the wisdom of what more needs to be done in the way of reform.

Vote for a GREEN FUTURE

- Affordable Housing
- Healthcare
- Living Wages
- Education
- True Justice
- Ecological Health

THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES



"There is no Republican in this race. NOW is the time to raise the bar and demand more. Vote Green to PRESSURE CONGRESS to move away from the billionaires and their corporations, and toward us — and the Green New Deal!"
-Laura

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Peralta Community Colleges Board

Two races mostly in Oakland (also Piedmont)

The Peralta Community Colleges—Laney, Merritt, College of Alameda, and Berkeley City College—play a critical role in educating local students, most of whom are working people, children of working people, and people of color. The Peralta Board of Trustees is elected to have ultimate responsibility for setting policy and overseeing finances for the Peralta District Office and its four colleges.

Many voters are aware of Peralta's four colleges, but few know about the workings of the Peralta District and its Board of Trustees. In fall 2017, the successful community/ student/ labor campaign to stop the Oakland A's from building a new stadium on Peralta/Laney cast a spotlight how the Board operates, but too often the "community" is left out of critical decisions that affect the District's 37,000 students.

Three seats on the Peralta Board of Trustees are up for election, but only two Peralta races will be on the November ballot. One incumbent, Julina Bonilla, is running unopposed, and the Peralta Board opts not to pay the Alameda County Registrar of Voters election fee (tens of thousands of dollars) for single-candidate races. Bonilla was first elected in 2014 to represent Peralta Area 7 (Emeryville, and parts of Oakland, including West Oakland, Temescal, North Oakland, Adams Point, Lake Merritt.)

The Peralta District is facing budget shortfalls, class cuts, declining enrollment, decrepit 50 year-old facilities with water damage and mold, broken sidewalks, bathrooms in disrepair, and outdated classrooms. Further, concerns abound about lack of accountability, poor budgeting decisions, misspending, and corruption on the part of the Chancellor and his Board supporters. These conditions do not provide students an adequate learning environment nor essential education programs and support services, including basic skills, vocational preparation, transfer for higher degrees, and life-long learning and growth.

Two long-time incumbents are being challenged by candidates supported by faculty, staff, students, community members, and labor – all calling for change. These are down-ballot races that many voters may never get to. You can help bring new perspectives to the Peralta Board by checking your ballot to see whether it includes a Peralta Board race, voting for the challengers, and talking with your neighbors.

Peralta Board, Area 3

San Antonio, Fruitvale, Allendale, Brookdale, Maxwell Park, Seminary, Highland Terrace

Corean Todd

Challenger Corean Todd is running to "advocate for my community as a community, labor, and family activist." For over a decade, Todd served as the Oakland Chapter president of Parent Voices, a statewide advocacy group fighting for affordable child care, early childhood education and other support services for working families. She wrote: "Whether knocking on doors in Oakland or lobbying in the halls of Sacramento or Washington, DC, I have been a consistent and powerful voice for our communities." Professionally, Todd has worked in the fields of subsidized child care placements and affordable housing.

Todd acknowledges that while Peralta's faculty and staff work hard to support their students, a first priority, those efforts are often undermined by District administrators and a majority on the Board of Trustees. She argues that "shared governance" must be the bedrock of how Peralta operates, and budgets should be developed with the full inclusion of shared governance participants: faculty, staff and students. The broader community must also be included.

Todd points out that the community college system, as a whole, has been able to operate by exploiting large numbers of part-time faculty who receive less pay per class and also do not have access to full medical and other benefits. She adds, "This is not fair."

Todd believes that public institutions and public land must benefit the public. Todd laments that some of Peralta's land has been given away or sold at rock-bottom prices. Todd was against the construction of a new A's stadium near Laney College. One reason, she explains, is the land is part of an ecosystem that includes delicate bird habitat

and other fragile ecosystems.

Incumbent Linda Handy was first elected with support from faculty, staff, labor and community. In the 3 elections since, she has been opposed once. Her responses to the Green questionnaire show that she has helped to accomplish some things as a Peralta Trustee, but some comments were vague, incomplete, and contradictory. She wrote in her questionnaire, "I'm not in favor of selling or leasing college land for commercial development. Our land is a sacred trust for the future of education protected from eminent domain." Nevertheless, Handy would not meet with community folks opposed to the A's development. Further, many at Peralta and in the community have found Handy mercurial and unsupportive, even hostile.

Peralta Board, Area 5

Piedmont, and parts of Oakland: Upper Rockridge, Grand Lake, Eastlake, Park Blvd, Glenview, Trestle Glen, Crocker Highlands, Lincoln Highlands, Dimond, Laurel, Redwood Heights

Cindi Napoli-Abella Reiss

Challenger Cindi Reiss (<https://www.cindireiss2018.com/>) has been a full-time community college faculty member at West Valley College for 15 years; for five years before that she taught at other community colleges and Cal State campuses. She has been active in governance matters at West Valley and statewide. She says, "We need board members who will provide the effective oversight to ensure that public monies are being spent for students transparently and with accountability. According to Reiss, Peralta resources are mismanaged: too much is being spent on administrators and highly paid consultants. Citing the district's budget cuts and enrollment declines, Reiss believes there has been a loss in the public's trust. She explains that currently the process of budget presentation, feedback, and approval is haphazard and does not respect a shared governance model. There is a need to cultivate a campus ethos by enacting participatory governance, collegial consultation, and a culture of respect and evidence.

Addressing the needs of three major populations of students—African American, Latinx, and Asian American—Reiss proposes to engage the "community" in community colleges by partaking in public/public partnerships that allow the community to feel like the Peralta Colleges are their gems. Regarding Peralta's situation with the A's, Reiss said it was an incredible expense of time, energy, and morale; leasing and selling college land is not part of the mission statement of the Colleges

Incumbent William "Bill" Riley (<http://billriley4trustee.com>) is the senior member of the Peralta Board, first elected in 1988. Many faculty, staff, students, and community members would like to see him retire. His five terms (20 years!) have been undistinguished, and Peralta's problems persist. In his questionnaire, Riley stated. "I am against selling Peralta public land for commercial development, PCCD is in the education business. As vice-president, I led the PCCD Board in opposing the Oakland Athletics proposal to build a stadium on Peralta Community College District's property." However, Riley did not make his position apparent to the public—or to community members opposed to the A's proposed new stadium, who asked several times to meet with Riley to discuss the matter, but never received a response.

Peralta Colleges Measure E and Measure G

Two Peralta tax measures are on the ballots of voters in Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, and Piedmont. The Peralta Community College District consists of the College of Alameda, Berkeley City College, Laney College and Merritt College. Peralta has a history of successful bond and parcel tax measures, reflecting both the need the need for funding beyond state allocations, as well as community support for the colleges.

However, for years the Peralta administration's budgeting and spending habits have been a concern for Peralta faculty, staff, community members, and some Board members. Greens are pleased that two candidates are challenging two long-time Peralta Board incumbents. The challengers pledge to uphold the transparency, accountability, and oversight that is currently lacking. See the Peralta Board article above. Also, see the Green philosophy about taxes on page 2.

Measure E - YES, with reservations

Parcel Tax for Instruction and Educational services

Measure E would extend Peralta Measure B, passed by voters in June 2012 for eight years. Starting in 2020, owners of 167,916 parcels would pay \$48 per parcel annually for eight years, providing \$8,000,000 annually. Measure E is not a tax increase but a continuation of an existing funding source. A parcel tax measure requires a 2/3 majority.

Measure E would continue providing the colleges of Alameda, Berkeley, Laney, and Merritt, funds that cannot be taken by the state to support affordable college education, including core academic programs to prepare students for university transfer and successful careers, by providing tutoring and teacher support shall Peralta Community College District continue to with internal and citizens' oversight, no funds for administrator salaries, and all funds benefitting local colleges.

Given the economics of California's funding, or lack thereof, of higher education, supporters of the community college mission to provide accessible and affordable education would want to vote for Measure E. California's Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that in 2017-2018, California Community Colleges received \$12,866 per full-time equivalent student (FTES) from state, local, and federal sources. Peralta's budget does not reflect this level of funding.

In 2017-2018 Peralta's revenue, including the parcel tax and all other forms of non-financial aid revenue (to provide the most generous total possible) was \$203 million – under \$11,000 for each FTES. This means that that even with the parcel tax Peralta has about 16 percent less funding than the above Legislative Analyst Office's "average." If the parcel tax's \$8 million in local revenue is removed, Peralta falls to \$10,388, or 19 percent less than the Legislative Analyst Office's "average." To be clear, with or without the parcel tax, Peralta's reality is that it is an underfunded community college district in relation to the established "average."

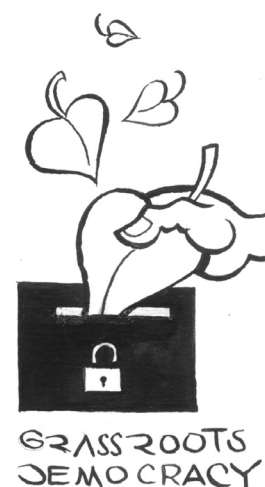
Thus Measure E is a not-so-supplemental local funding source on which the Peralta Colleges are dependent for part of their funding to operate; when factored in, the parcel tax money represents about 7.5 percent of each College's current operational budget. Losing this money means losing classes, faculty, instructional aides and tutors – ultimately harming students.

A downside: A parcel tax—taxing every owner of a parcel of land the same set amount—is an inherently regressive form of taxation.

Further, the District's administration's budgeting and spending have long been a concern for Peralta faculty and staff. Recently, many questions and much criticism have been directed at Measure B misspending. From 2012, when Measure B passed, spending went well for a while. But in 2014, misspending occurred, and it accelerated under a newly-arrived chancellor. Measure B spending became questionable and contentious -- criticized by many for not using the parcel tax revenue on classroom instruction -- as had been promised during the campaign for the tax's passage in 2012. Instead much of the spending has been on full-time counselors, librarians, and staff that would otherwise have been paid out of Peralta's so-called "General Fund" or regular revenue. Now, it looks like this matter is being addressed.

An opponent of Measure E, a retired Peralta faculty member who recently resigned from the Measure B oversight committee, is the only signer of the opposition statement which appears in the County's voter guide.

continued on next page



Measure G - YES, with reservations Bonds, Property Tax for Renovation and New Construction

Measure G will allow the Peralta District to sell \$800 million in bonds to wealthy investors to borrow funds “To upgrade aging classrooms, technology, science labs; expand job training classrooms; and acquire, construct, repair sites/facilities/equipment... with no funds for administrator salaries, audits and citizen oversight, and all funds used locally.”

For the District to pay off the bonds—plus interest—property taxpayers would pay a projected yearly tax rate of \$24.50 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, for 40 years. A home-owner with an assessed valuation of \$600,000 will pay about \$150 each year. This bond measure will raise \$44.2 million annually.

The state provides almost no funding, relatively speaking, for anything related to infrastructure, building maintenance or renovation, and new capital projects. Most school districts need to resort to bond-funding to do any of the preceding.

There is no ballot argument against Measure G. But there is a problem: The bond rating firm Moody’s recently downgraded the financial status of the Peralta District from “stable” to “negative.” Moody’s took this action referring, among other reasons, to accounting errors and sizable amounts of debt with variable interest rates.

Our priority is for people in our community to have access to good educational experiences at the Peralta Colleges. This outweighs the problems described above. Our hope for returning the District to a sound fiscal footing lies in increased public scrutiny, as well as the election of two new Peralta Board members (please see the Peralta Board article above).

Alameda County Assessor Don’t vote for Jim Johnson

The Assessor locates all taxable property in the county, identifies ownership, and appraises all property subject to property taxation. This is a powerful position that is prone to corruption by powerful business interests seeking to save millions of dollars by getting low assessments. The race is between Assessment Services Chief Jim Johnson, and property tax attorney Phong La.

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 his political views and alliances.

Jim 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.

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 global corporations that own property in Alameda County that

never gets re-assessed.

Don’t vote for Jim Johnson. 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 individual’s lives. If a “split-roll” property tax ballot initiative is presented to voters in 2020, 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.

City of Alameda Mayor Frank Matarrese, with reservations

Three well-known candidates are running for mayor: incumbent Mayor Trish Spencer and incumbent Council members Frank Matarrese and Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft. All three voice support for Green values and act on those principles in various ways.

Matarrese has the edge over his competitors based upon his 12 years of performance on the dais and answers to our questionnaire. He also does not elicit polarization of constituencies, as do Spencer and Ezzy Ashcraft. However, he’s not been as strong of a progressive as we’d liked for him to be, hence our reservations.

No frills, no bluster, Matarrese has a proven track record of getting down to business and building consensus in order to make progress. His pragmatic and even-handed approach shows that he has the needed leadership style and demeanor required to best represent and restore balance to the City of Alameda. His environmental record on preserving and enhancing open space and wildlife habitat while supporting sustainable local economic development, better transportation choices, and social justice issues make him the well-rounded advocate best suited for the job of mayor. Matarrese has earned a Green Party endorsement.

City Council John Knox White

Five candidates are vying for two seats. Incumbent Jim Oddie, former Planning Board member John Knox White, and newcomer Robert Matz returned our questionnaire. All three have good qualities, but Knox White receives our endorsement.

Knox White exhibits the knowledge and experience to serve the city well, after having served eight years on the Planning Board vetting major development projects at Alameda Point and former industrial sites along the city’s northern waterfront. He brings a passion for creating more public transit and is a voice for social justice in Alameda. He has the know-how and perseverance in public policy formulation needed to make informed decisions.

We offer no suggestion on your second vote. Oddie shares positions we hold dear, but needs to be more careful on following city laws. He violated the Sunshine Ordinance when he read text messages during a council meeting and when he inappropriately tried to influence the selection of a new fire chief. While showing much promise, Matz lacks the track record and experience gained by serving on a board or commission before running for city council. The other two candidates did not even bother to seek a Green Party endorsement, and they carry downsides.

School Board Gary Lym

This contest is generating far less energy and controversy in Alameda than the city council or mayoral races. There are four candidates for two openings with two incumbents and two newcomers. Two candidates sent responses and two did not. The strongest is Gary Lym, an incumbent, and the only candidate to respond in a timely way.

Gary Lym has been a parent activist serving on the School Site Council. He has been trained in fiscal policy at UC Berkeley and has a concern with the impact of district property, including relating to housing. While accepting common core curriculum, Gary advocates for more teacher

input in professional development.

Anne McKereghan, also an incumbent, returned her She has a reputation for being obsequious to the superintendent and is not well received by educators.

The other two candidates are newcomers. The more prominent is Mia Bonta, spouse of state assemblyman Rob Bonta. While not previously involved in the Alameda District, she has been active with education issues while working in Sacramento. The last candidate is Kevin Jordan, a former Oakland high school teacher who also has taught in Alameda. He is progressive and advocates against tracking, however, he has no real campaign.

The Alameda Education Association has decided not to make an endorsement. That said, with his positive experience and support from community activists, it is reasonable to call for a vote for Gary Lym.

Healthcare District Board Dennis Popalardo

The major question confronting the Healthcare District is how to prepare for the 2030 deadline for seismic retrofitting of the hospital. There are two candidates running for a single seat: the appointed incumbent, attorney Dennis Popalardo, and a challenger, Mike McMahan, who is a retired manager. McMahan gave very brief answers to the questions in our questionnaire, and they didn’t give us the sense he’s prepared to really tackle the tough problems the Healthcare District faces. His website also doesn’t have very much info either. McMahan wants to be on the Board to educate the “community on how our tax dollars are being spent.” That’s fine as far as it goes, but information about past spending without ideas about how changes might be made in the future, and especially regarding how to deal with the seismic retrofit question, don’t give us much confidence in McMahan’s abilities to adequately serve on the Board.

Popalardo, on the other hand, did provide substantial answers in his questionnaire. In particular, he believes the District “should be putting aside a portion of the parcel tax proceeds to plan for 2030, as well as having a dialogue with community leaders about the importance of maintaining a hospital in Alameda and how we will pay for it.” Popalardo also voted against the proposed 2018 budget because it didn’t set aside any money for 2030 seismic compliance, and he also “pushed for \$1 million of parcel tax money to be held back in the most recent Health Care District budget,” to be earmarked for funding 2030 seismic compliance. Dennis Popalardo’s responses show that he’s far better qualified to hold the seat than is his opponent. Vote for Dennis Popalardo.

Measure F - No Services Sales Tax

Measure F is a half-cent sales tax increase. The city council and their successors would get close to \$5 million per year to spend however they please. All of the funds potentially could be used to meet public employee benefit shortfalls. As with any sales tax, people who earn less pay a larger percentage of their income on consumer goods as compared to those who earn more. This tax measure is inherently unfair. Vote No.

Measure K - No Weak Rent Control

Measure K is a well-funded effort by landlords to enshrine a weak rent control law in the city charter. It is meant to prevent the city council from updating the existing city rent ordinance. Measure K allows landlords to evict up to 25 percent of their tenants a year without having a “just cause,” such as nonpayment of rent or disturbance to neighbors. The measure also has no enforcement mechanism to keep rents from increasing more than 5 percent annually. If passed, any change would require an election. We strongly oppose it.



Albany City Offices and Measures

Albany City Council Preston Jordan

With this endorsement we note Preston's long participation with the Albany Green Party and this political committee. From the start of his moving to Albany he has provided progressive leadership on a number of issues, including rank choice voting, safe sidewalks and streets, tax exemptions for low income households, climate action, renewable energy, and on and on. His election could tilt the council toward a proactive bent on a large number of Green priorities.

Peggy McQuaid or Rochelle Nason: Both have long resumes of service to Albany and larger causes, and don't have any glaring negatives. Both entered office without being elected in 2014. Peggy McQuaid currently serves as mayor, and has been a strong voice in representing the City and authoring a number of declarations and letters of support and opposition on State and National legislation. Rochelle Nason was executive director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe for nearly 20 years, and brings strong environmental and social justice ethics to her work on the council.

Albany School Board Charles Blanchard and Ross Stapleton-Gray

Five candidates are running for three open seats on the Albany Unified School District Board of Education; these seats have a four-year term. Green Party questionnaires were sent to all candidates and three responded; the candidates' complete Green Party questionnaire responses can be viewed at: <http://acgreens.org>

Clementina Durón is a retired educator with 30 years experience, half of that time as a bilingual teacher and the other half as principal at various levels. While she did not return a questionnaire this year, her responses to our 2016 questionnaire indicated a strong alignment with Green Party values, including an emphasis on diversity and environmental sustainability and earned her our endorsement for that race.

Brian L. Doss is a Job Developer. He is currently the Site Council president at Marin School, an active member of the PTA and VP of the Black Parent Engagement Group. He was a founding member of the ACT (Albany Coming Together) diversity and inclusivity advisory group, is a graduate of Albany High and the son of a retired teacher. While his responses to our questions showed an interest in keeping class sizes small, supporting programs for the diversity of learners in the district and exploring 21st century instructional models, those responses were short on specific details or proposals as to how to achieve these goals. He does have the endorsement of the current Mayor.

Sara Hinkley - We are unable to advise about this candidate since we received no response to our questionnaire, although several people well established in Albany city government have endorsed her. We note that she has a PhD from UC Berkeley in City and Regional Planning, with a dissertation titled "Governing the Broke City: Fiscal

Crisis and the Remaking of Urban Governance," and would presumably bring valuable insight to the board regarding the serious fiscal challenges facing the district.

Ross Stapleton-Gray is an incumbent member of the AUSD board completing his first term. His responses to our questionnaire showed a strong alignment with Green Party Key Values. He noted the need to address problems introduced by technology, such as the distraction of mobile phones at Albany High; he supports exploring "blended" curriculums and a later start time for school, as well as a shift in the academic calendar to give students a "true break" over the Christmas/New Year time frame. He also noted a desire to see the school board work more regularly with other boards across the State, for teachers to have more access to the work being done in other districts, and to benefit from economies of scale gained by "reaching across organizational, jurisdictional and community borders." For these reasons he earns our endorsement.

Charles Blanchard is an incumbent member of the AUSD board completing his first term. His responses to our questionnaire demonstrated his extensive background in Albany schools over the past 20 years. He has a solid grasp of the difficulties of the looming budget cuts, and the need to maintain competitive wages and benefits for teachers, and his responses went into great detail about current and future projects to bring the district into the 21st century instructional model, including the new improved building facilities, a later start time for High School, and collaboration with Khan Academy resources to compliment the classroom experience. We urge interested voters to read his very detailed responses on the Green Party website. Finally his key role in drafting the Quaker Institute for the Future vision statement, shows a strong alignment with the Key Green Party Values. He is endorsed by the Mayor, members of the City Council, many members of the AUSD board past and present and many more members of the community. For these reasons we also endorse his candidacy.

Albany Measures L, M, and N

Albany has three measures on the ballot, and the Green Party supports them all, though with some reservations, discussed below. Measure N will amend the City Charter to make the City Treasurer an appointed rather than an elected position; it has no organized local opposition. The other measures extend current sales and parcel taxes; their benefits outweigh the regressive nature of these means of taxation.

Measure L - Yes, with Reservations Half-cent Sales Tax

Requiring a 50 percent plus one simple majority, approval of this measure will make an existing one-half cent transactions and use (sales) tax permanent, provid-

ing \$1.4million annually for unrestricted general revenue purposes.

In November 2012, the Albany voters approved this tax, authorized to remain in effect for eight years after it became operative, unless extended by the voters. Currently, the tax on retail sales in Albany is 9.75 percent of the purchase price. If the proposed Ordinance is approved, the total tax rate will continue with no automatic expiration date, unless terminated by the voters.

Our reservations stem from inequities created by Proposition 13 coupled with the state's squeeze on local governments, and the need to use devices such as sales and parcel taxes to fill the shortfall. However, in light of similar rates in neighboring municipalities, we reservedly recommend a vote of YES.

Measure M - Yes, with Reservations Special Parcel Tax

In 1996 Measure R established a Landscape and Lighting District to maintain and improve park and open space facilities, with funds that could not be taken by Sacramento, at a rate of \$69 per parcel per year, providing \$463,675 annually, leveraging bonds that will be fully repaid Sept. 2019. These funds have been maintaining many amenities: City parks, ball fields, play structures, picnic areas and restrooms; vegetation management to prevent wildfires; creek habitat; and Albany Hill open space.

Measure M would continue this special parcel tax, but with a more progressive rate structure that varies by property type (thanks in part to lobbying efforts of council candidate Preston Jordan). It requires a 2/3 majority to be enacted. Were property assessments based on market value and not limited by Prop. 13, special parcel taxes such as these would not be necessary, but in this case voters can know their dollars are dedicated to protecting procuress and open space.

Measure N - YES Appointed City Treasurer

This Charter Amendment would amend Section 3.01 of the Albany city Charter to change the City Treasurer from an elected to an appointed position, effective Dec. 10, 2020, or sooner if there is a vacancy.

Albany has already removed the elected offices of Police Chief, Fire Chief and City Attorney; this is the last leftover of a bygone era where these offices were selected out of the local citizenry. While our current treasurer has served admirably, there is no need whatsoever to continue this practice. The City Charter Committee recommends this change and we concur.

Berkeley City Offices and Measures

Berkeley City Council

continued from page 1

Park." Hill supports more bike, scooter and electric car sharing programs. On safety, Hill worries about right-wing extremists coming to Berkeley, along with ICE and police militarization, recognizes infrastructure problems, and proposes alternative street lighting. They propose "holistic and supportive housing options including tiny houses", homeless services, "co-ownership of housing properties with city governance", and housing targeting "disabled persons, homeless, LGBTQ, youth, indigenous and black residents and multigenerational families." Hill thinks Berkeley "needs to tackle gentrification ... with a public housing option ... and by developing tolerance training for property owners." They support "Land Value Capture ... public ownership of land and giving land back to the Ohlone people," oppose SB 827, and favor strong rent control and the repeal of Costa-Hawkins. Hill is for "disarming the police" as well as banning chemical agents, drones and non-participation in Urban Shield, UASI and with ICE.

We recommend Rigel Robinson be ranked second because of his experience, energy, and progressive stance on most issues. Robinson is a UCB sophomore committed to social and environmental justice whose top concerns are en-

vironmental issues (climate change), the affordable housing crisis (including student housing), and Telegraph Ave business where he wants to incentivize worker-owned cooperatives to stimulate the area threatened by large corporations. He advocates increasing student housing density around campus, mandating rooftop solar in new construction, and safe/sanctioned encampments for the homeless. He understands the impacts of University mistaken decisions that abrogated responsibility to the City and students by failing to prioritize student housing, instead misusing scarce land for a new stadium and pool. These errors drove up housing prices and drive gentrification. Robinson supports bicycle lanes and electric car use, and is against prioritizing parking. He is progressive in his emphasis of affordable housing located everywhere in the city, not just poorer sections, and supports protections for renters including strong rent control. He supports land value capture to fund affordable housing. Regarding the homeless, he supports establishing sanctioned encampments, ending police raids, and providing basic sanitation services like toilette and shower facilities. His positions on police include non-participation in Urban Shield, no collaboration with ICE, guidelines on the use of surveillance equipment, and he favors making the Police

Review Commission independent of the City Manager.

Leave the 3rd ranking blank. Do not rank Cecilia "Ces" Rosales at all because of her support for SB 827 (Sacramento usurping local zoning power in favor of developers) and her positions on police which include support for Urban Shield (including having the City Manager rather than the City Council determining participation), her apparent lack of familiarity with MOUs with NCRIC and UASI (regarding surveillance and police militarization), and her position against an independent Police Review Commission. Time and again over the years she has betrayed progressives.

Time and again over the years, Kriss Worthington has championed progressive causes. After Dona Spring's passing, he became the greenest member of the Council, often a strong ally and effective advocate for our values. For this, we thank him and invite him to join the Green Party and become an even stronger ally during his well-deserved retirement.

In sum, we rank Green Party candidate Aidan Hill #1 and Rigel Robinson #2. While we have some reservations about Hill and Robinson, they are quite minor compared to the major concerns we have with Rosales -- please do not vote for her at all.

Berkeley Auditor Jenny Wong

The City Auditor, according to the City of Berkeley web page, provides an independent assessment of whether the city's services and operations are: (1) being managed properly and in compliance with laws and regulations; (2) achieving their objectives and desired outcomes; and (3) being provided efficiently, economically and effectively.

As the city watchdog, trust is a big issue. We recommend Jenny Wong, a long-time Berkeley resident who has 18 years of experience in the government auditing field including the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Her responses to our questions can be found here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Jenny Wong has a long record of community service, is endorsed by the current Auditor Ann-Marie Hogan, former Auditor Anna Rabkin, all the members of the Berkeley City Council, former mayor Gus Newport, and a long list that contains conservatives and progressives indicating this is not a partisan candidate.

We strongly advise against Vladislav Davidzon who did not return our questionnaire and who is an unknown with no record of service in the city of Berkeley. His candidate statement states "I do not accept endorsements" so there is no list to indicate his supporters in the community. He lists his profession as "Chief Executive Officer" but fails to list what he is CEO of. His candidate statement also includes: "provide vouchers for housing outside the city for our homeless" indicating he favors shipping our homeless to other communities rather than providing local solutions – a gated community solution which doesn't work in an open city. Lastly, his online comments in Berkeleyside indicate a strong pro-developer slant and conservative politics. Vote for Jenny Wong.

Berkeley City Council, District 1

#1: Igor Tregub #2: Mary Behm-Steinberg #3: Margo Schueler, with reservations
Don't vote for Kesarwani

This is the North Berkeley district which Councilmember Linda Maio served for over 25 years. Since Linda announced she would not run again, four candidates are running to replace her. The Green Party strongly endorses Igor Tregub for this seat for his years of community service and his progressives policy positions. Because of Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) we recommend choosing Mary Behm-Steinberg as #2 and Margo Schueler (with reservations) as #3. Do NOT rank Rashi Kesarwani at all. The three ranked candidates returned Green Party questionnaires which can be found here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Igor is a progressive on affordable housing, rent control, improving conditions for the homeless, increasing employment opportunities, saving Alta Bates, preventing displacement (especially for "working families, teachers, and our first responders"), and on environmental issues. His extensive community service includes serving on the Rent Board, and chairing the Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board, Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission, SF Chapter of the Sierra Club, and dozens of other commissions and committees. Igor stated: "Housing affordability, anti-displacement efforts, and neighborhood stabilization has been my subject matter expertise over the last 15 years, and will be my top priority if elected." Igor was Chair of the Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission, backed Measure U1 (business fee for affordable housing), "fought for increases to both the Affordable Housing Mitigation Fee and inclusionary housing percentage", and voted "to ease the process of creating new Accessory Dwelling Units." Igor connects housing to climate change in stating: "Neither sustainable communities nor transit-oriented developments are able to achieve their goals of reductions in greenhouse gases and vehicle miles traveled unless they benefit residents at a mix of incomes." With the Sierra Club, Igor has been active "in trying to stop the transport of coal and petroleum coke through District 1," as well as the proposed export of coal through Oakland. He favors a transportation plan that "reduces privately owned vehicle trips, while investing in EV infrastructure," more bike and walking transit accessibility, and reduced parking "in transit-rich areas." Igor's other progressive positions include higher minimum wage, land value capture, attacking gentrification, against SB 827,

against Costa Hawkins, favors homeless shelters without harassment and with "on-site hygiene facilities" including "services to help with mental health and substance abuse issues." He also supports withdrawal from Urban Shield and a charter amendment to create an independent Police Review Commission. Igor is endorsed by many progressive organizations, including the Berkeley Progressive Alliance and unions such as the California Nurses Association. The Green Party previously endorsed him for Rent Board in 2016.

Mary Behm-Steinberg has been a small business owner and has worked for non-profits, but has not held elected office before. She has many progressive ideas, especially regarding reducing homelessness and increasing the availability of truly affordable housing. She supports increasing the authority of the Berkeley Police Review Commission. Margo Schueler has served on the Berkeley Public Works and West Berkeley Project Area commissions, but has not held elected office before. Perhaps from her experience as a Supervisor for EBMUD (our water district), she emphasizes infrastructure improvements as well as housing issues. However, her support of Urban Shield and stance against a charter amendment for an independent Police Review Commission causes us to rank her much lower and "with reservations."

Rashi Kesarwani refused to submit answers to our candidate questionnaire. Her answers to the Berkeley Progressive Alliance questionnaire evaded direct answers in a number of important cases, but would appear to indicate that she supports large scale development of high density housing. She does not believe single payer health care is practical in California. She supports and is endorsed by AD15 candidate Buffy Wicks, the neoliberal Hillary Democrat with backing from pro-charter schools advocates and rich venture capitalists.

In summary, we endorse Igor Tregub and urge you to rank him #1. Rank Mary Behm-Steinberg #2 and Margo Schueler (with reservations) for rank #3. Do NOT rank Rashi Kesarwani at all.

Berkeley City Council, District 4 Kate Harrison

Vote only for Kate Harrison who won the District 4 seat eighteen months ago after Jesse Arreguin left it to become mayor. She has been a consistent progressive vote on the Council while simultaneously leveraging her career expertise in public sector operations to move the Council to more progressive positions. This is the downtown district represented so ably by Dona Spring, the Green Party elected official who spent the longest time in office of over 1,000 elected officials nationwide. Even when she became disabled, Dona Spring remained the hardest working, most dedicated, most innovative, and most accessible Council member ever, a true champion of the people, the planet, and animals -- big shoes to fill! While not yet an official Green, Harrison is turning out to represent Green Party values more solidly than Arreguin who had been Spring's hand-picked successor. Read the candidates' questionnaire responses online here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Housing is clearly a top priority for Kate Harrison where she has emphasized affordable housing, housing for the homeless, and protecting tenant rights. She recognizes that "30 percent of our city is covered in asphalt" and that we "need more open space in the form of parklets, and to reduce our dependence on gasoline-powered cars." She supports Berkeley doing its part to fight climate change by supporting green infrastructure, zero net energy building requirements and policies that reduce the Berkeley carbon footprint (such as expanded transportation by bikes). Regarding the homeless, Harrison's priorities include preventing further displacement through "tenant protections, rent control and affordable housing" and the promotion of "tiny homes, modular units and RV parks" to provide less expensive immediate relief. She wants to "prioritize public bathrooms and trash services to ensure that our homeless population can live clean, dignified lives." She also recognizes the need for increased social services to help those with physical and mental disabilities, including addictions, to end the "cycle of criminalization of the homeless." Harrison supports reform of the Police Review Commission to make it independent of City Manager control and make it more effective in dealing with claims of misconduct. She took a stance against Urban Shield and police militarization, and thinks public safety in Berkeley would be better served by efforts to "bolster our disaster preparedness and prevention of gun violence"

and by saving Alta Bates. Regarding ICE and surveillance agreements with NCRIC, Harrison is "deeply concerned with how collaboration with these federally-funded entities can threaten our civil liberties and harm our immigrant communities and communities of color" and is in favor of eliminating or restricting those agreements.

Because Berkeley has ranked-choice, we recommend not ranking either of the other two candidates, Greg Magofna or Ben Gould, who both appear to be developer-backed conservatives pushing for more market rate housing, the scaling back of tenant rights, and reducing Rent Board power. Vote for Kate Harrison – rank her #1.

Berkeley City Council, District 8

#1: Mary Kay Lacey #2: Alfred Twu, with reservations #3: Russ Tilleman, with reservations
Don't vote for Droste

The Green Party strongly endorses Mary Kay Lacey. She is running against the conservative incumbent Lori Droste because, in Lacey's words, "District 8 needs a strong progressive leader to represent our interests." On this we definitely agree! Because of Berkeley Ranked-Choice Voting, we advise (with reservations) ranking Alfred Twu as #2 and Russ Tilleman as #3, and strongly recommend not ranking Droste. See Lacey's and Twu's responses to the Green Party questionnaire here: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Lacey is a Berkeley graduate with a law degree from Georgetown who has worked on land use and redevelopment, Native American tribal law, river flow, and represented a neighborhood association addressing problems related to Chevron. She wants to "uphold local planning and zoning" and make sure the city "gets entitled community benefits from upzoning" including preventing exemptions from CEQA. Her key issues are retaining Alta Bates, creating affordable housing (with assurances "that we have the infrastructure to handle the increased population"), strengthening rent control (including the repeal of Costa-Hawkins), and supporting the Transfer Tax to fund homeless services (favoring a "housing first" approach, including the Pathways Project). She supports environment policies of mass transit, bikes, electric cars, banning plastics, and promoting green infrastructure. She thinks she can work with the University: "one of the biggest issues I see is that Long Range Development Plan between the City and UC." Regarding community safety, Lacey states the police staffing problem is "not unique to Berkeley but is part of a nationwide trend" and is partly due to Berkeley's high cost of living which can be addressed with the budget process. She favors community policing (bike and foot patrols), more earthquake prep, and addressing storm water runoff problems which require "adding pumps where appropriate." Regarding development, she states that "unfettered market rate development ... is not a solution ... will do nothing to solve the affordability problem ... we have to build affordable housing now." She supports "efforts to identify publicly owned lands that are not presently being utilized as possible sites for building affordable housing" and that "the housing stock for rental housing do not sit vacant." Lacey sees the need to build housing in all districts including at the North Berkeley BART Station and Adeline corridor – but it "should be affordable." She believes gentrification can be fought with strong rent control laws to prevent evictions. Although she waffled a bit on policing issues, she is progressive. She is well qualified, the most viable challenger, the candidate who is most likely to beat the incumbent. Rank Lacey #1 for District 8.

Alfred Twu is generally progressive on issues, and like Tilleman supports green infrastructure. Twu supported a Police Review Commission Charter Amendment as well. Twu, a creative designer, says of Alta Bates, "New senior housing near the hospital would benefit from and could subsidize the retrofit of Alta Bates. I would also work with state officials to obtain state level funding or policies to keep Alta Bates open." However, Twu supports market-rate housing and has voiced some pro-developer positions during public comments at City Council and Commission meetings.

Russ Tilleman is tough on policing issues, having worked with Bobby Seale on a potential ballot measure for an elected Police Accountability Board with teeth. Regarding Alta Bates, he wrote that if it "has no value to Sutter, they can sign it over to the Berkeley Free Clinic and we can provide universal health care for Berkeley residents. If

continued on next page

Berkeley City Offices and Measures

continued from page 8

necessary, the City of Berkeley can use eminent domain to take possession of it.” Despite launching a different measure with Seale, Tilleman says he supported the coalition drafted ballot measure to strengthen the Police Review Commission, which the City Council ultimately failed to put on the ballot. Tilleman, however, has little experience in city government or its commissions, and some found him inflexible when discussions of a police-accountability measure arose earlier this year. Tilleman did not return our Green Party questionnaire so there are still questions about his policy positions on some issues.

Do not rank incumbent Lori Droste who has failed progressives. She has taken pro-developer positions and anti-homeless positions on legislation time and again. She voted against putting even the watered down version of the Police Review Commission charter amendment on the ballot, and was a strong voice in favor of Urban Shield. She is one of Berkeley’s most conservative Council members, favoring developers and police over constituents.

Vote Green Party endorsed Mary Kay Lacey #1. Please rank Twu #2 and Tilleman #3 (due to reasons listed above), and don’t rank Droste at all. Mary Kay Lacey’s victory will be a victory for the people.

Berkeley School Board Ty Alper, Ka’Dijah Brown, and Dru Howard

There are six candidates running for three seats for the Berkeley School Board. One is an incumbent, one served a short term as an appointed member of the Board, and two candidates, though not new to the District, are new to politics.

Ty Alper is the incumbent, and deserves your support. Vote for Ty Alper on November 6 based on his experience, generally progressive outlook and decision-making, and an awareness of equity and racial performance discrepancies within the District. He has exhibited a commitment to the students, the families, and the staff of the District in his tenure on the Board and his re-election is merited.

Ka’Dijah Brown is an elementary school teacher in a neighboring District. She has matriculated through our Berkeley public schools, Washington, Longfellow, and Berkeley High. She has support throughout the community, including sitting School Board members. Her experience as a teacher-of-color merits support from Berkeley voters; please include Ka’Dijah Brown as one of the three candidates you vote for.

Dru Howard has worked as a classified staff member in BUSD for over 10 years. She has experience on City Commissions and as a parent advocate at Berkeley Head Start, and has had two enrolled children in our public schools. She would bring a unique perspective to the School Board, that of a long-time classified staff member and an employee-of-color. Most Board members come out of teachers’ unions or public education advocacy backgrounds, and Dru Howard’s different experience would add another level of diversity to the Board. She deserves our vote; vote for Dru Howard on November 6.

The final three candidates have varied experience and backgrounds. Abdur Sikder lists himself as an Entrepreneur and Professor. He is of Bangladesh background and would definitely add diversity to the School Board. However, his candidacy does not appear to have much traction or commitment. Julie Sinai was an appointed member of the School Board and lost her seat in the last election. She has connections to many politicians, and that’s our major reservation and concern about her. She was very closely allied and associated with the Hancock/Bates machine for many years, and we doubt her independence and objectivity. Norma Harrison has run before and is a Berkeley activist well known to many progressives. However, again, her candidacy seems more symbolic than practical, there does not appear to be any traction or commitment to her campaign.

Berkeley Rent Board James Chang, Soli Alpert, Paola Laverde, Maria Poblet, and John Selawsky VOTE FOR ALL 5!

This one is easy. Five candidates were chosen at Berkeley’s Tenant Convention in April who are committed to protecting and expanding rent-control and eviction protections, and there are three candidates running against them for five seats, two of which are Berkeley Property Owners Association supported and funded, and the other an unknown who doesn’t seem to have any support or campaign effort. John Selawsky, Paola Laverde, Maria Poblet, James Chang, and Soli Alpert are the five tenant endorsed candidates to support and vote for on November 6. Selawsky is current Chair, Laverde is Vice-Chair, Chang and Poblet are incumbents, and Alpert is the newcomer. All have experience with tenant issues and advocacy and each will add a somewhat different set of experiences and perspectives to the Rent Board. All five support Proposition 10, which would end Costa-Hawkins and allow locals to fully control their own rent stabilization and eviction policies.

James Chang, Soli Alpert, Paola Laverde, Maria Poblet, and John Selawsky deserve your support on November 6. Vote for all five.

Measure O – YES Affordable Housing Bond

This measure authorizes the City to issue \$135 million in general obligation bonds to construct, rehabilitate and preserve affordable housing of all types, and creates an independent citizens’ oversight committee to ensure that the funds are spent as intended. Measure O is designed to give the City maximum flexibility to pursue affordable housing projects of all types, and to partner with non-profits and community land trusts. The bond money can also be used to leverage state and federal funds that require a local match. Approximately \$7.5 million will be generated per year, with an increase in property taxes of about \$23 per \$100,000 in assessed home value. The City typically uses bonds to finance building projects rather than parcel taxes. Bonds also have the potential to generate a lot of money quickly, and in this case can be used to reimburse the City’s general fund if opportunities arise before the bond money is available. The measure will provide the City real money to fight the “market” forces that have made our community unaffordable for so many who deserve to live here. Vote YES on Measure O.

Measure P – YES Homeless Services Tax

Property Transfer Tax Increase -- This measure will generate badly needed revenue to continue Berkeley’s efforts to seriously address the humanitarian crisis on our streets. Measure P increases the tax that is collected by the City when property is sold (the transfer tax) from 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent for commercial and residential properties that sell for over \$1.5 million for the next ten years. The money will go into the general fund, and a “Homeless Services Panel of Experts” will be established to make recommendations to the City Council on how best to spend the new money to end or prevent homelessness. This is similar to the mechanism established with the Soda Tax to assure accountability. The City Council’s intent in crafting this measure was to limit the tax increase to only the top one-third of sales, with \$1.5 million as a bottom threshold that can be adjusted upward annually. This is a progressive tax that is paid only once, capturing a little bit of the wealth created by increased property values for community services. Vote YES on Measure P.

Measure Q – YES Rent Stabilization and Good Cause for Eviction Ordinance Amendments

If Proposition 10 on the statewide ballot passes, Measure Q ensures that Berkeley will be ready to take back full and fair control of our rental housing market. The 1995 Costa-Hawkins Act was the culmination of a decades-long battle between cities and the rental housing industry that took significant powers away from local governments to fully regulate rents. Proposition 10 would repeal Costa-Hawkins, allowing Berkeley to strengthen and extend rent controls and eviction protections. Measure Q would amend the existing ordinance (which exempts “new construction”) to define it as anything built in the last 20 years rather than anything built since 1980. This will extend rent control to thousands of additional tenants. Newer buildings will automatically come under rent control when they hit the 20-year threshold. The 20-year exemption is generous, but it will ensure that rent control is not viewed as an impediment to new housing construction and that Berkeley’s proposal cannot be used to attack Proposition 10. The measure also amends the ordinance to establish base rent ceilings (the maximum allowable rent) for all covered housing units as the most recent rent. Landlords will be allowed to keep all of the grossly unfair “market” increases since 1995 (no rent rollbacks), but they will no longer be able to raise the rent beyond the rent ceiling when a unit becomes vacant (no more vacancy decontrol!) Hopefully this will prevent legal challenges to the re-imposition of vacancy control. Additionally, new housing units that qualify as “Accessory Dwelling Units” would be exempt. This was included to reassure homeowners that want to build a small cottage or add-on unit that they will have control of its tenancy. While not ideal from a tenant perspective, this will probably affect only a handful of people each year. Since the Rent Ordinance was enacted by a citizen initiative, it can only be changed by a vote of the people. These modest but vital changes need to be enacted now to take advantage of possible changes in state law as soon as possible. Vote YES on Proposition 10, and make it effective November 7 by voting YES on Q!

Measure R – YES Vision 2050 Plan

Measure R is an advisory measure asking the people of Berkeley to get behind the development of “Vision 2050,” a sustainable 30-year plan designed to replace our crumbling infrastructure in the face of radical climate change, employing the latest technologies. Vision 2050 is intended to build on Measure G, an advisory measure that was passed overwhelmingly in 2006 to reduce Berkeley’s greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, and that resulted in the Climate Action Plan. Vision 2050 seems to be the obvious next step, not at all controversial—except possibly how we will pay for the resulting plan. The City Council really doesn’t need to ask Berkeley voters to weigh in on this. In 2006 there was a real question (if not controversy) about the extent to which local governments had a responsibility to address climate change, and whether Berkeley should expend precious resources to do so. The intervening years of devastating fires, floods and hurricanes should be enough to erase any question that local governments need to take the lead in meeting the demands of our climate future. Berkeley handed the Council a mandate with Measure G. If they need another one, let’s give it to them by voting YES on Measure R.



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).

Emeryville City Offices and Measures

Emeryville City Council

**Scott Donahue,
with reservations
Dianne Martinez,
with reservations**

Candidates for Emeryville City Council are two incumbents, Scott Donahue and Dianne Martinez, who are running as a slate, and Ken Bukowski, council member of 24 years who has not served on the council the past few cycles. All three responded to our questionnaire. Ken responded most thoroughly. Since not serving on the council he has been an unpaid videographer of many city and regional meetings, which he posts on his website. This volunteer activity, as well as his long experience on city council, have provided him a deep understanding of regional as well as local issues. Ken has made clear that he is neither seeking nor making endorsements, and expects to run a minimally expensive campaign, no glossy mailers, only a letter to the citizens detailing his proposals. Ken's purpose in running is to give voters an opportunity to hear his ideas through both the mailer and on candidate panels during the campaign. Ken opposes parking meters in Emeryville, questioning expenses of enforcement, and suggests instead that developments be required to provide free parking to residents, thus easing street parking problems. Whereas both Scott and Dianne expressed satisfaction with the present city charter, general law other than for specific tax purposes, Ken recognizes the limitations of being a tax-only charter city, and would like to see Emeryville become a full charter city. This would be in line with Green Party values, as alternate voting methods would be available to a full charter city. Ken also suggests the city build retail condominiums, open a local public bank, start a loan fund for small businesses and keep a record of all council member's votes. Scott's ideas for the future lack depth and detail. His greatest additional concerns are preserving parks and open space, and making bike and pedestrian paths more accessible. Dianne has more concrete suggestions, including additional bus only lanes on some streets, and combining city owned and private developments

in creating additional park space. Dianne also is seeing the cannabis industry as an opportunity to attract small businesses to Emeryville. As a member of the Budget and Governance Committee she is advocating for a Public Information Officer in order to increase transparency of government. Scott and Dianne deserve credit for being on a council that has created a fair work week and high minimum wage for workers, and got voters to pass Measure C, which will help the homeless, renters and home buyers. Scott states that he registered Green during his council tenure, and has now re-registered Democrat. He and Dianne are both endorsed by the entire present City Council. Of concern to us, both Scott and Dianne have endorsed the corporate Democrat, Buffy Wicks, for State Assembly. The Green Party most certainly has not! As Ken has had difficulties in the past, and is neither seeking endorsements nor funding for his campaign, we've decided to endorse the two incumbents, with reservations.

Emery School Board No Endorsement

There are three available seats for Emery Unified School District Governing Board and five candidates: Brynnda Collins, appointed incumbent and present president of the board, Ken Bukowski, who is also running for City Council (please see the Emeryville City Council article), Katy Brown, who did not provide any contact information, so we were not able to send her a questionnaire, Susan Donaldson, former Vice President and present Secretary of the Emeryville Parent Teacher Organization, and Sarah Ngyuen, a teacher. At the time the Voter Guide went to print, we did not have sufficient information to make endorsements. However, we have posted the questionnaires we received on our website (<http://acgreens.org>). Further information and endorsements will also be posted to our website by early October.

Measure S - No Endorsement Emeryville Cannabis Tax

Prior to the passage of Proposition 64, which legalized recreational marijuana in California, our state has long had an entrenched illegal market in recreational marijuana sales. One challenge resulting from legalization has been that if the state, counties or cities tax marijuana cultivation, businesses or retail sales exorbitantly, the illegal market will continue to flourish. Some state legislators tried to reduce use of the illegal market via a bill (AB 3157) which would have lowered state taxes on marijuana sales from 15 percent to 11 percent, but that effort hasn't yet succeeded. In the meantime, many cities in California have implemented city taxes on marijuana sales, and the taxes have varied widely, from 2.5 percent in Albany to 15 percent in Hayward, with most cities taxing at 4-8 percent. Some cities have taxed medical and recreational sales differently, others have not. Emeryville has put on the ballot a measure taxing all gross sales receipts from marijuana businesses at 6 percent. This measure caps the rate, but gives the City Council power to reduce the rate. Measure S misleadingly states the purposes for which the income to the city will be used. As this is a general tax, the money goes into the city's general fund, and can be used for any purpose the city wishes. The city estimates a \$2,000,000 yearly income from the tax. This estimate appears to be based on income from neighboring communities during the first month or quarter of legalization. Oakland made \$2.86 million in the first quarter, Berkeley three times the revenue in the first month than the first month of 2017 when only medical marijuana was legal. Having paid this much in taxes during the first months of legalization, did consumers return to the illegal market? Will the state reduction in taxes compensate for the addition in city taxes? Will the city of Emeryville put the income to uses progressive voters approve? Will the council lower the tax if customers appear to be returning to the illegal market? These are all issues the voter must consider in deciding whether to support Measure S in Emeryville. Because there are too many unanswered questions, we regrettably are not able to take a position on this measure.

Hayward City Offices and Measures

Mayor Barbara Halliday

Personable, energetic, and well intentioned, the mayor can be tough. She knows the city well and is very well liked in Hayward. She reaches across difference and is mostly progressive. Elected to the office in June of 2014, Mayor Halliday served as a City Council member for 10 years prior to that. Endorsed by a large number of people in and out of office, she is far and away the better candidate.

Mark Salinas holds a BA La Raza Studies and an M.A., Educational Administration and Public Policy Studies, both from San Francisco State University. He served on Hayward City Council, 2010-2014, 2016-present. This is his second run for Mayor.

Hayward City Council Aisha Wahab and Sara Lamnin Don't vote for Joe Ramos

Two seats are open and seven candidates are running. Green Party Researchers went through all the questionnaires received back, checked campaign websites, and attended an in-person candidate forum where six candidates were present (Wahab, Fields, Lamnin, Peixoto, D. Ramos, and J. Ramos—the last two have no relation).

The part of the forum that contained the City Council discussion is half an hour long and is viewable online at <https://youtu.be/RiEv9k-3GCE>. (Other portions of the forum, for Mayor and Hayward Unified School District, are not included in this video). Green Party researchers are confident in endorsing Aisha Wahab and Sara Lamnin for the two open seats. Both candidates demonstrated strong progressive commitments in their responses on green issues.

Aisha Wahab is a bright, articulate, ambitious businesswoman and non-profit director; she is energetic and charismatic, with a strong following among younger voters -- she received by a good measure the loudest cheers at the forum. She is environmentally progressive and drives an electric vehicle. She has spoken at the Women's March, does not take corporate money for her campaign, has come from being a foster child to being a community leader, and was

highlighted in San Francisco Magazine's "The Resistance" Issue in 2017. We feel very positive about giving her our highest endorsement in this race.

Sara Lamnin is an incumbent and former member of Planning Commission. She fears deficits and wants to control the city's CALPERS contributions for its employees. She is strongly progressive in her commitment both to affordable housing and to homeless and disadvantaged communities. While on the council she has worked on economic development, homelessness, public finances, and public safety. She currently serves in several significant statewide policy committees and also serves as Hayward's delegate to the County's StopWaste and AC Transit Policy Advisory Committee.

Another incumbent, Marvin Peixoto, has much experience on the Council; he has also demonstrated green commitments, but seems more focused on the housing issue than on expanding open space or access to EV chargers in the city, or how he would expand solar on rooftops. He also struck researchers as more of an old-time kind of Democratic politician.

Mekia Fields has some excellent credentials, including her work for Habit for Humanity, but seems too inexperienced. Similarly with Didacus Ramos, a city planner with interesting ideas and some good green credentials.

Joe Ramos would not seem qualified, since his blunt, loud manner at the candidate forum was a turn-off to those present. We have enough of this kind of grandstanding at the national level, and don't need more in our local politics.

Hayward School Board Todd E. Davis and April Oquenda

Researchers want to acknowledge that several qualified candidates are running, so it was difficult to limit ourselves to endorsing only two. However, the two we have listed at the top below appear to us to be the strongest candidates.

Todd E. Davis is county consumer mediator. He holds a BA from Cal Berkeley in political science and rhetoric and believes schools need to serve underachieving communities. He favors "oversight with teeth," strong support for arts programs, improving safety, and after-school tutoring. Davis has experience in the corporate tech sector and on

police/community advisory board but does not have thus far very much experience in politics.

April Oquenda is a college and yoga teacher. With a PhD in English, she is a lecturer at Cal State Stanislaus in Turlock. Poised, tactful and articulate, she has done volunteer work at an elementary school and at a Food Bank. The daughter of Hispanic immigrants, she is endorsed by the area's State Senator and Assemblyman as well. Ms. Oquenda has also done environmental lobbying in Sacramento.

William L. (Tyler) McGee is an incumbent and current President of the Board. A middle school principal who strongly supports Visual and Performing Arts, he seems confident and well intentioned. His accomplishments have included prioritizing student achievement and maintaining a balanced budget.

Ken Rawdon was middle and high school music teacher in Hayward for 28 years and now is retired. He seems fair, sincere, confident and committed to doing the work. He is endorsed by East Bay Realty Association, so would likely be more conservative on housing issues.

Lisa Brunner is an incumbent with eight years on the Board. At the Candidate Forum, she tended to deliver PR for schools as they are and implicitly endorsed the Common Core, a controversial curriculum. Her website is dysfunctional.

Nicholas Harvey, a scientist/entrepreneur/consultant and avid bicyclist, was not present at the Candidates Forum, and did not return a questionnaire either.

Measure H - Yes with bond reservations School Bond

Measure Statement: To provide safe/modern schools; upgrade aging classrooms/school facilities; upgrade classroom technology; provide art/music classrooms, improve accessibility for students with disabilities; install solar panels; repair leaky roofs, etc. Shall Hayward Unified School District issue \$381,700,000 in bonds and levy approximately \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation annually to generate approximately \$24,502,000 anticipated through 2050 with independent oversight and all funds staying local?

continued on next page

Oakland City Offices and Measures

Hayward

continued from page 10

Recognizing that this measure does not address the problem of low teacher salaries, it does address long-delayed maintenance and improvements in the Hayward schools, which are not in good shape. This measure merits a YES.

Measure T - YES Services Property Transfer Tax

Measure Statement: To support the City of Hayward services with revenue that cannot be taken by the State, including funds for repairing streets and sidewalks/ 9-1-1 emergency and firefighter response times; neighborhood police patrols, disaster preparedness, extended library hours and after-school programs, etc. Shall Hayward increase its real property transfer tax from \$4.50 to \$8.50 to per \$1,000, providing about \$13,000,000 annually, with all funds benefiting Hayward?

Since transfer taxes typical affect persons who own property and are indexed to the value of the property being sold, this should be a progressive tax. Vote YES.

Oakland Mayor

continued from page 1

can view their respective answers online at: <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>. For choice number #1, we ardently endorse and support Saied Karamooz who is the official nominee of the Green Party of Alameda County and the Oakland Greens. He also has been endorsed by Block by Block Organizing Network (BBBON) [#2]. For #2, we rank Cat Brooks, who is widely known for her work with the Anti Police-Terror Project (AFTP). She would bring powerful and needed messages to city politics for a strong community support system for black, brown and poor people. For #3, we rank Pamela Price, who recently won a majority of the Oakland vote while running unsuccessfully for District Attorney in Alameda County. Keep in mind, that a third choice vote is one that could decide this election! Price would be far better than Schaaf. Under all circumstances, do not vote for Libby Schaaf.

The other candidates running in sharp disapproval to Mayor Schaaf include, Ken Houston, Nancy Sidebotham, Jesse A.J. Smith, and Marchon Tatmon. We especially applaud Jesse Smith for his voter turnout efforts among the city's youth and his focus on police accountability issues. All of them, however, would move Oakland forward politically if the voters were to elect them.

The real culprit in Oakland politics, if the truth were spoken, is the city's neoliberal establishment of corporate power that has rendered Mayor Schaaf's administration reactive, defensive, and fragile in a number of foreseeable debacles, including a nighttime protest curfew, a police sex trafficking scandal, the Ghost Ship tragedy, and an ICE raid collaboration on 27th Street. In the latter incident, the mayor supported the raid, and then covered for her police chief after the chief lied about the false claim of criminal arrests being involved. Her administration precisely bought into the absurd Trump narrative about ICE and immigrants, namely, that refugee parents bring children across the southern border for prostitution. Yet the mayor has been good at making herself look good on the immigration issue while being ineffective in areas that are actually the city's responsibility, such as affordable housing, police accountability, and local employment. It is easy to "stand up to Trump" when one has no responsibility for enforcing immigration laws and has few local Trump supporters within The Town.

Saied Karamooz, a Muslim immigrant from Iran, distinguishes himself among all reformist challengers to Mayor Schaaf in remarkable innovative and accountable ways. He possesses an exceptional skillset forged during his extensive career designing business operations to achieve process efficiencies, quality improvements, and cost reductions in large enterprises, such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, American Airlines, and the U.S. Navy. His platform, which can be viewed at <https://EveryOnesMayor.org>, outlines his plans to apply his professional expertise to generate 10 to 15 percent productivity gains in city operations, including the city's largest department, the Oakland Police Department, which is famous for doing things that cost the city money. His plan would maintain the same city operations, continue all funding levels, increase the number of city employees, and apply the excess savings resulting from productivity gains (approximately \$75 million) to improve public services, particularly in initiatives targeted for affordable housing expansion, educational improvements, and quality jobs creation. No other candidate has had his level of experience in going through every stage of solution formulation and implementation. Nor have any of the other

candidates committed themselves to accomplishing specific, objective, and measurable outcomes on which they would be willing to be evaluated. If given the chance to serve as mayor, Oakland will achieve much better public safety results with this approach than with the current unacceptable status quo.

Karamooz is also exceptional in his refusal to take political contributions from corporations or non-Oaklanders, or in excess of \$45—a pledge designed to avoid his being indebted to anyone other than the people of Oakland. As a non-career public servant detached from the faction-ridden, and often vindictive and self-serving, politicians at City Hall, he will be well-positioned to bridge the gap between the flatlands and the hills. For the last decade, he has been affiliated and participated with a number of local activist organizations, such as the Oakland Justice Coalition, AFTP, Fight for \$15, Oakland Privacy Working Group, and especially with the Coalition for Police Accountability in which he currently serves as a member of the Steering Committee. To quote Saied, "My motivations are deeply rooted in my belief in the act of social solidarity that embraces not only feeling the pain, struggle, and suffering of the city's under-represented and marginalized residents, but also celebrating their joy, prosperity, and triumphs."

To forever change the political trajectory of Oakland and to provide that all—not just a few—will be able to enjoy living the quality of life they deserve, we sincerely recommend that you vote for Saied Karamooz as your first choice for Mayor of Oakland.

City of Oakland

Oakland is holding elections for Mayor, Auditor, three seats on City Council, and three seats on the Oakland School Board, all by ranked-choice voting.

One of the main issues at City Hall during the past two years has been the housing crisis that includes a neighborhood-busting upwards price spiral in rents and a horrifying increase in the homeless population. "Development" and real estate speculation are going unchecked. Many of our councilpersons and our mayor are "pro-business" meaning pro-speculator, pro-construction, and pro-developer. Abatement of the homelessness crisis has been an intermittent mix of token measures, such as building some wooden boxes for homeless people to live in under the freeways and implementing mild rent and vacancy controls. Oakland city government does not plan to tax the local windfall real-estate profits to pay for low-income housing. Nor is it willing to re-purpose a significant amount of our existing budget to address this crisis.

Another issue that gets more talk than action at City Hall is police accountability. Despite being well into our second decade of federal court oversight and second year of a police commission, the foot dragging continues. When it came time to empower the police commission created in 2016, Mayor Libby Schaaf and her supporters have looked for ways to undercut the authority and independence of our limited police accountability mechanism.

And there are many smaller issues that need attention in Oakland city government that have more to do with good governance, effective planning, and proper community consultation on neighborhood issues. From the local art cooperative to the business improvement districts, the mention of getting city approval and cooperation is met with a painful groan. There is no comptroller office, the auditor's office is limited in scope, and the concerns of the Alameda County Grand Jury tend to get played down and then ignored at both City Hall and among the school board trustees.

The mayoral race is written up separately from this article.

Looking across the list of candidates for all the seats it is clear that there is no organized progressive slate or anything resembling a progressive alliance. Although many of the candidates claim to be "progressive," their goals are piecemeal and there is no common reformist platform, cooperation, or any kind of proposed new leadership team.

Auditor Courtney Ruby

The auditor race is between the incumbent Brenda Roberts and the former office holder, Courtney Ruby. Both of them have a record of doing little when it comes to some of Oakland's major governance issues. The job of auditor is really the job of managing subaltern auditors who work for the city and deciding what to look into and on what terms. Most of what we get looks more like analysis than inspection and there does not seem to be much of a direct link to what the Alameda County Grand Jury comes up with year after year. This is partly because the auditor inspects financial

practices, and does not really measure the effectiveness of what city departments actually do. The auditor's office could do a lot more when it comes to contract enforcement of our major vendors in parking, trash removal, towing, and non-profits. More scrutiny of the real delivery of community benefits promised by developers would also be good for the city.

Both Roberts and Ruby seem to lack the political inclination to distance themselves from the business sector. We thus should expect both of them to be close to Mayor Libby Schaaf's thinking on most issues. That said, the incumbent has not managed the auditor's office well and it has become even more ineffective. Courtney Ruby would bring back more effective teamwork and competence, so at least there will be some important audits preformed.

City Council, District 4

#1: Sheng Thao

#2: Pamela Harris

#3: Nayeli Maxson*, with reservations

(*Ranked, but not endorsed)

Don't vote for Michelson

The City Council races come in two types this year. One of our gerrymandered seats is "open" meaning that the incumbent, Annie Campbell Washington, has released ownership of "her" seat in District 4. We thus have a flurry of would-be professional politicians trying out for their "starter job" as an elected official who can run without upsetting higher-ranking politicians. Mayor Libby Schaaf has given a first choice endorsement to Charlie Michelson, the CEO of Oakland's West Coast Ship Supply who was born and raised in the district -- a happenstance that he highlights, similarly to Mayor Schaaf, in his campaign ads.

The race has shaped up as a four-person contest pitting a triad of energetic and accomplished candidates running against Michelson, namely: Pamela Harris, a nonprofit finance professional and a local Democratic Party activist; Sheng Thao, chief of staff for Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan; and Nayeli Maxson, an attorney who was formerly on staff for current Councilmember Ann Campbell Washington, now the executive director of the Alliance for Community Development. These like-minded candidates, who are running to the left of Michelson, have been rumored in media reports to have formed a slate to game the calculus of rank-choice voting -- a logical strategy given the arrangement in which voters rank their top-three choices.

Rounding out the field are Matt (Francis) Hummel, a member of the Oakland Cannabis Regulatory Commission and a candidate in 2014 for the Oakland at-large seat, Joseph Simmons, the senior pastor of Greater Saint Paul Church, and Joseph Tanios, a longtime Oakland civil servant.

All have compelling life stories: especially Thao, the daughter of Hmong asylum seekers from the Vietnam War who, while a single mother and domestic violence survivor, put herself through UC-Berkeley; Harris as an Ivy League educated and Fulbright alumna who eschewed working on Wall Street to work with people with physical and developmental disabilities; and Maxson, as the director who reorganized the local nonprofit Alliance for Community Development to require members to commit to equity, diversity, inclusion, and sustainability.

Thao, Harris and Maxson all prioritize finding immediate solutions to the city's growing homelessness crisis, protecting tenants from displacement, supporting Prop 10 (repealing the Costa Hawkins Act), establishing a Public Bank of Oakland, and blocking corporate donations to political campaigns. In Maxson's words, the person who holds the District 4 seat must "understand through first-hand experience the challenges of housing insecurity, poverty, racism, sexism, and classism." We agree, and thus encourage Thao, Harris, and Maxson to form a slate in their challenge to Michelson.

The two other seats (District 2 and District 6) belong to incumbents and, historically in Oakland politics, incumbent city council and school board members rarely get unseated. However, this time around both incumbents have strong negatives that earned them challengers when normally a serious political career is enhanced by waiting one's turn.

continued on next page



continued from page 11

City Council, District 2

Sharing #1 & #2:

Nikki Fortunato Bas*
and Kenzie (Donte) Smith*
 (*Ranked, but not endorsed)
Don't vote for Guillén

Abel Guillén has a challenger from the non-profit “leftist” Democrats. Nikki Fortunato Bas, along with a message candidate, Kenzie (Donte) Smith, who was guilty of using a BBQ while black. Inspired by the Black Panther Party, Kenzie Smith’s candidacy and greater work in the community reach all people, perhaps most notably his defense of homeless residents and engagement with youth through culture and civic activism. Consistent with his principles, Smith’s website states he will not accept contributions from “big name companies.” Both Bas and Smith are better choices than the incumbent is. Guillén’s voting record is consistently on the wrong side of real estate and affordable housing issues when he is not voting the police officer’s union line to undermine the police commission. The status quo will not do. Nikki Bas is qualified to be an effective council member, but she will only be better than Guillén on certain issues. Our reservation about Smith is that he has less experience than Bas.

City Council, District 6

Sharing #1 and #2: Marlo

Rodriguez* and Mya Whitaker*
 (*Ranked, but not endorsed)
Don't vote for Brooks,
Middleton, or Taylor

Desley Brooks has a challenge from a candidate closer to Mayor Schaaf and from three other candidates who are more grass roots -- all of them Democrats. There exists an “anyone but Desley” group with some serious funding. While there is strong reason to admire much of what Ms. Brooks has done over the years to get resources to African American organizations and ignore her sharp elbows while doing it, there is stronger reason to question her personal behavior and actions that go past being forceful and into the unethical around her relationships to city funding. She has been the subject of an Alameda County Grand Jury report and there are at least two lawsuits against her, one of which is about her famous physical attack on an elder. Desley Brooks also shows no leadership of the progressive community and is not helping develop new leadership among the youth of her district. The challengers are a mix with different levels of experience and political leadership. None really stands out, but there are a couple who would make good council members. There is not a lot of difference between Maria L. “Marlo” Rodriguez, Natasha Middleton, Loren M. Taylor, and Mya Whitaker. Note that Taylor has Mayor Schaaf’s first endorsement and Middleton used to be on her staff. At this point, however, most would be preferable to the incumbent.

Oakland School Board

What matters most in Oakland schools is the well-being of our children while they are in school and after they leave, hopefully with a high school diploma.

Measured in this way, Oakland schools are a mixed bag. Overall they are doing better to provide a safe environment, and so is Oakland as the national high crime madness has subsided here as elsewhere. By certain measures the graduation rate is up. Truancy rates may be lower.

Life on campus and in the classrooms provides many a developmental opportunity for all of our children, mostly thanks to the hard-working staff, teachers and community volunteers.

But Oakland’s schools are in a disastrous crisis of division and mismanagement of their own making. In calendar year 2017 the OUSD board gave us four budget cuts, each one took about \$5 million away from the classrooms. Transparency and accountability is an ongoing disappointment. We also lost our superintendent to another school district where he was asked to resign in disgrace. Three of those budget cuts were mid-fiscal year and caused increasing program instability and employment insecurity on the campuses. The school board “trustees” are currently debating yet another set of cuts that includes sport programs and we fear another round of layoffs. The teacher’s union is being pressured to cooperate with these austerity measures.

While we are forced to make these cuts, the so called charter school movement has siphoned off vast amounts of funds, enrollment and real-estate for projects that they call public schools but which are operated more like private ones. These charter schools have been taking “their share” of the funds, but do not share in the burdens of an urban school district when they do not want to. Their “movement” is still heavily funded by billionaire school “reformers” who spent heavily in our last election.

The cash spent on our elections seems to have come from Bloomberg, the Rogers Family Foundation, and from groups affiliated with the billionaire public school meddler Eli Broad. There are others and we do not have a full account of what was spent in Oakland in 2016, but it is near a million dollars on four school board races and represents interference and corruption in our democracy by big money.

Five of the current seven school board members are or were charter-movement supported, one first got elected with its support and all seven have been part of the serial funding fiascoes and authorizations of more charters, or at least in non-opposition most of the time. In no way has this board shown leadership on these major issues. They blame their problems on Proposition 13 and state law, but they do not lead any effort to change such laws or advocate for Oakland’s special needs.

Because the board majority is in favor of the charter school policy, there is virtually no resistance to the destructive effects of Proposition 39 that makes it near impossible to deny a charter or control its use of taxpayer funds. Our school board has now resolved that the public schools and the charters are a single cooperative community.

For these and other reasons, the Green Party will not support any current incumbent school board member, or any candidate supported by “charter movement” funding. We will only endorse or recommend school board candidates who have a commitment to our children, education, our teachers and their union and to our community in general, and who are independent of the money and political interests that have been creating the battleground in our public-school systems.

This year we have two incumbents who do not deserve another term but are running unopposed, which is a crime, and one seat challenged because the incumbent in District Four dropped out.

School Board, District 2

Don't vote for Eng

School Board, District 6

Don't vote for Gonzales

This is the saddest school board election in years. Note should be taken that Aimee Eng (District 2) is another “charter darling” and Shanthi Gonzales (District 6) has been a total disappointment because she has been going along with the privatization program and has shown no leadership despite being elected her first time as the only board member fully independent of the charter school movement. She is, however, not outside of the control of the Democratic Party or factions of the nonprofit community, and her dependency shows.

School Board, District 4

Clarissa Doutherd

In the only open and contested school board race, former School Board office holder and temporary superintendent Gary Yee has decided to come back. Yee has been part of the problem on charters and lack of board control over their administration. He is running against the only bright light in this election, namely, Clarissa Doutherd, who runs with the support of labor and public school advocates.

Measure V - YES

Cannabis Business Tax

Oakland taxes businesses at the rate of \$1.20 per \$1,000 in gross receipts while allowing the cost of raw materials to be deducted from total receipts for tax purposes. Medical cannabis businesses are taxed at a rate of \$50 per \$1,000 gross receipts and recreational cannabis at the rate of \$100 per \$1,000 but without the provision that raw material cost can be deducted from the gross receipts. Combined with costs associated with required State permits, the high tax rate imposed upon cannabis businesses in Oakland has made it difficult for new Oakland cannabis operators to be successful. Measure V would allow cannabis businesses to deduct raw material costs from their gross receipts, just as

other businesses are permitted to do, and would allow the City Council to reduce the tax rate on cannabis. The measure would also allow the Council to greatly lower the tax on medical cannabis, which definitely shouldn’t be taxed at such a high rate. Vote “Yes” on Measure V.

Measure W - YES

Homeless Services Vacant Property Tax

Measure W on the Oakland November ballot creates a new city tax on vacant parcels of property. According to W, parcels are deemed vacant if they are used less than 50 days per year. The new tax rates are \$6,000 annually for residential, nonresidential and undeveloped properties. \$3,000 annually for vacant condominiums, townhouses, duplexes and ground floor commercial space parcels.

The measure provides a number of exemptions from these taxes. They include very low income households, low income seniors and people with disabilities who can demonstrate that the tax would be a financial or other hardship. Also exempted are properties already being developed and non profit owners.

Measure W funds can only be used for purposes described in W. Those include programs and services for the homeless, or financial assistance for the development or maintenance of affordable housing. The city is required use at least 25 percent of money raised for code enforcement and to eliminate blight and remedy illegal dumping. With some limits money could be used for administering the measure.

The measure would create a new Commission on Homelessness to review and make recommendations for spending this money and publish an annual report on implementation and expenditures of the tax money. The City Auditor would regularly audit revenue and expenditures. The tax would be leveled no sooner than the 2020-21 fiscal year and would expire 20 years thereafter. A 2/3 Yes vote is required to pass the measure.

The League of Women Voters estimates around 5,000 properties could be affected if Measure W passes. The League also estimates that up to \$10,000,000 a year would be raised.

Measure W is a very limited measure. \$10,000,000 is a drop in the bucket considering the size of the problems and that amount is less than 1 percent of the annual city budget. 50 days is too little time to consider a property is being used. The large number of exemptions is a problem also. Even though this measure is weak, it does have opposition, being coordinated by Larry Tramutola, a mainstay political operative for status quo politics.

On the positive side, Measure W highlights the situation of the homeless in our city. It is an indictment of the landlords and real estate speculators who run our city. Even in its limited way, it points the way that government could do more than the “market” to meet human needs.

Vote Yes on Measure W.

Measure X - Yes,

with reservations

Graduated Real Estate Transfer Tax

Currently the sale of real property in Oakland is taxed at the rate of \$1.10 per \$1,000 by Alameda County and \$15.00 per \$1,000 by the City. Under State law the taxes collected by a county are split with the city in which the sale occurs. Charter cities in Alameda County charge between \$4.50 per \$1,000 in Hayward to the \$15.00 per \$1,000 levied in Oakland and Berkeley, the highest in the State. General Law cities including Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin, along with many charter cities in the State do not tax real estate transfers. The vast majority of California cities, including many charter cities, do not impose this tax, instead relying on receiving one-half of the \$1.10 per \$1,000 tax counties impose.

The tiers proposed by the measure are unlikely to reduce the tax burden on first time low income home buyers because the 1 percent tier is limited to properties selling for less than \$300,000, an amount below which few homes in Oakland sell. It is not clear that anyone will see any significant reduction in their property tax transfer bill while the biggest change this law makes is the increase in tax on sales above \$2 million. San Francisco is the only city in the state currently imposing a tiered tax rate structure, but the rates on properties selling for less than \$5 million is \$7.50 per \$1,000, far less than the current Oakland tax.

continued on next page

continued from page 12

The ballot arguments do not provide the context needed to determine what the overall impact will be on property sales and whether the measure will provide the relief to low and moderate income home buyers implied by the arguments. What the measure will do is increase the tax on properties selling for over \$2 million, which will provide the projected increase in revenue to the City. The tiered rates are a step in the right direction but because it's questionable whether very many low or moderate income residents will actually benefit from Measure X, we're endorsing it "with reservations."

Measure Y - YES Just Cause Eviction Amendments

Measure Y would make it harder for homeowners who live in duplexes and triplexes to evict tenants living on the property. A new landlord would still be able to select one of the units to live in, but the remaining tenants would be protected by "closing" the present just cause eviction loophole. This loophole has allowed property owners to push longtime tenants out and rent to newer wealthier tenants for a much higher rent.

Just Cause protections currently do not prevent landlord owners from evicting renters so that they or a qualified relative can then reside on their property. Without Just Cause protections, discriminatory and retaliatory evictions are difficult to prove and tenants simply move, which thereby increases displacement and homelessness. The Association of Realtors (AOR) claim it would cost "thousands of dollars" in attorney fees if a problem arises, but we believe they're merely fearmongering and disregarding democracy and fairness.

Vote YES on Measure Y.

Measure Z - YES Hotel Workers Workplace Protections and Wages

It would seem a "No Brainer" to support this Oakland initiative, focusing on wages and work conditions of hotel workers but other important features as well.

This amending of the Oakland municipal code has four basic features. The first two are linked together and specific to hotel workers: first, it would improve wages to \$15 an hour (with benefits) or \$20 an hour (without benefits); second, it would significantly improve working conditions, including devices/means to report harassment of workers, limiting mandatory overtime, and having access to employer pay and hours records.

The other features include, but go beyond hotel workers, and focus on enforcement. First, the burden of follow through on the municipal labor code would place much more responsibility on the city, including bringing legal civil action against employers. Perhaps even more impactful would be the establishment, by July, 2020, of a Department of Workplace and Employment Standards, at a projected cost of \$2.8 million annually. These enforcement features are quite important since often labor and other laws are passed without means or resources to back them up.

This measure was placed on the ballot through petition. While it is limited to hotels with 50 or more rooms/suites, it would be a great step forward for Oakland workers and

be complimentary to the HERE-UNITE 2850 contract campaign at the Marriott. As a final point, it's worth noting that the negative argument in the County's voter guide was coauthored by the notorious pro corporate and regressive city councilman Larry Reid.

Measure AA - NO, NO! Education Parcel Tax Charter Amendment "Children's Initiative of 2018"

We are opposed to The Children's Initiative of 2018. We don't believe that we should increase taxes on housing while we are in the midst of a housing affordability crisis, especially to create a fund that will be under the Mayor's control, with no plan on how this money will actually improve early childhood education in Oakland.

This tax is a regressive tax. Every parcel of land in Oakland will be assessed a tax, commercial parcels based on their size, single residence units \$198, and multi-unit residences \$135 per unit. This proposed tax will last for 30 years! Although this tax will only be levied on property owners, we know that most landlords will pass this cost on to their renters. Any tax that adds to Oakland's skyrocketing housing costs is ill-advised at this time.

Oakland already has two early childhood education systems. We have a federally-funded city-run head start program and we have Early Children Education Centers and Transitional Kindergarten programs run by OUSD. This initiative does not go directly to fund either of the existing programs, instead 62 percent will be used to create a Children's Initiative Fund and 31 percent to create an Oakland Promise Fund.

It is hard to determine how this money would be used. The initiative has no language on who will manage the Oakland Promise Fund, but we can assume it will be managed by Oakland Promise. Oakland Promise is run by the Oakland Public Education Fund, which like GO [GO Oakland Public Schools] was started and is heavily funded by the Rogers Family Foundation, pro-charter school advocates.

There is no community control or oversight over Oakland Promise, which, as a private non-profit is not even required to report to the community. Oakland Promise supports and promotes charter schools and privatization. Currently most of its funding comes from philanthropy. It is not proper to fund Oakland Promise directly with tax dollars.

The Children's Initiative Fund will be managed by a committee appointed by the Mayor for 3-year terms. Committee members are not required to be Oakland residents. This mayoral committee will have the sole authority over how this fund will be used. If passed this parcel tax will raise millions of dollars a year and instead of it going directly to OUSD or Oakland Head Start it will be controlled by people and organizations politically connected to the Mayor.

We urge everyone to vote no on Mayor Schaaf's Children's Initiative of 2018. We cannot afford a regressive tax that will increase housing costs in order to fund the Mayor's pet project that continues to fund the privatization of public education with no community oversight.

Understanding and using "Ranked Choice Voting" (RCV)

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

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

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

IRV invites strategies like:

- Only ranking sincere choices, people with politics or ideals you believe in, even if they can't win.

- Saving the last vote for the "least disliked front-runner" in case your sincere choices are eliminated. Use your last place vote strategically. It may be the only one that counts.

- Make a statement by ranking a candidate you want to appear in the vote counting until they are eliminated, even if they're not a sincere choice, as long as they have no chance of winning.

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



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Union City Offices and Measures

New Haven School Board Sarbjit Cheema

There are two open seats on a board of five, with four candidates running. Only one, Sarbjit Cheema, returned her questionnaire to us, two of the others explicitly said they were not seeking a Green Party endorsement, and one of those said she would ask the last candidate to contact us if she wanted it, and we never heard from her.

The one candidate who did respond to us, Cheema, had very strong answers, and is currently the Board President. She includes in her achievements in the last eight years of being in office: getting parents more involved in education, increasing graduation rates in the district, helping the district overcome the significant challenges of the state wide fiscal crisis and keeping the emphasis on classroom priorities. Her three top priorities are: student achievement, school safety and a sound budget for the district. She further has worked alongside her sons in one of the elementary schools in the district to grow a kitchen garden on the campus, and has stencil painted "Drains to Bay" on the storm drains in the neighborhood schools. She has supported installing solar panels on the school building in the district, and is strongly opposed to the privatization of learning institutions, calling charter schools "education shops." On ethnicity issues, she also is the first ever Sikh-American woman elected to any public office in United States, and as she wears a turban herself, she has directly experienced racism, so that dealing with these issues and helping the society become more tolerant of diversity is part of her daily life. Given all her answers, we have no hesitation in giving a strong endorsement to Cheema.

For the other seat, though we make no official endorsement since we did not get a questionnaire back from them, we will implicitly support incumbent Linda Canlas, who Cheema has also endorsed (and who indicated she was glad to be receiving our endorsement, in a Facebook Message exchange).

We will finally note that the candidate who explicitly told us she will not seek an endorsement when we contacted her by phone, Michelle Parnala, is listed on the County Registrar of Voters website as a Deputy Probation Officer, indicating the type of mindset she would bring into being on a school board.

Measure DD - YES Cannabis Business Tax

Measure DD would allow licensing and taxing of cannabis businesses in Union City, just as has happened in adjacent jurisdictions, such as Hayward. This will be a per square foot type tax on the business itself, and not an additional sales tax on the users.

With cannabis now legalized for recreational use in California, there is no reason to try to keep such a business out of one's town (which just leads to the road of the only repealed U.S. Constitutional Amendment, Prohibition). Furthermore, such a tax can, the proponents argue, raise funds for needed services such as funding for youth education for children and teens, after-school youth programs, public safety services including crime and gang prevention and neighborhood patrols.

The proponents project that \$1.4 million per year will be raised, and state that the Measure "includes strong fiscal accountability, including financial audits and public reports to ensure funds are used efficiently, effectively and as promised to voters." We will note however that this part of the Measure merits exactly 3 lines in a detailed 20 page document (most of it on the actual administration of the tax) so we have slight concerns about this, and will need to watch over how the funds are spent in the future.

On the whole though, we find this an eminently reasonable way to move forward on the legalization front in all communities, and recommend a YES vote.

Measure EE - NO Charter City and Real Property Transfer Tax

We do not find the current Union City city council to be trustworthy and transparent on multiple issues, and cannot support enabling them with more power or money at the current time. We agree with "No" argument in the County's voter guide: Union City voters should vote NO on becoming a Charter city. Why? All three California cities that have filed bankruptcy were Charter cities: San Bernardino, Stockton and Vallejo. Charter cities are exempt from state laws on salary limits for elected officials. For example, the City of Bell paid its City Manager \$800,000/year and Council members \$100,000/year. Do you want this in Union City? Also, Charter cities are exempt from 1986 Proposition 62, which mandates a public vote whenever cities want to raise taxes on business licenses, hotel rooms, certain real estate transactions and other items. Do you want to waive your vote if the City wants to increase your taxes? You are already burdened with one of California's highest sales tax rates at 10 percent. Now the City wants to add a real estate transfer tax that will significantly increase the cost for you to sell or buy a home or business in Union City. The City is taxing us two years later for the same programs in Measure QQ. Why are they requesting more taxes? The City is not managing our tax dollars wisely and is asking for the freedom to increase taxes without voter approval. Vote NO on Measure EE.

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).

Special District Measures and Offices

AC Transit, At Large Dollene Jones

If the standard is to elect someone who will do no harm, then that would be anyone but Joel B. Young, the incumbent. He did not return the Green Party questionnaire, but his past questionable actions speak for themselves. He seems to be most concerned about what the board can do for him and not what he can do for AC Transit. He has used information only the board and legal staff are privy to for a law firm he works for. The board censured him for this. Also, he reportedly struck his ex-girlfriend in the face after she caught him cheating. A year after that Young spit in the eye of fellow politician Jason Overman, then campaign manager for Rebecca Kaplan's mayoral campaign.

Young did not seem to have paid attention to the staff reports on the fuel cell buses or AC Transit's finances, because he said previously, "I believe that AC Transit can support an entire fleet of these buses..." If the agency did so, it would have to severely cut back service. The existing fuel cell buses were purchased with grant funds as a "Demonstration Project." They demonstrated that they are very costly to purchase, maintain and operate. That was four years ago. Now, AC Transit is ordering 10 new fuel-cell buses and five of their first battery-electric buses. Unwilling to cut service to pay for expensive buses, challenger Dollene Jones' pragmatic reaction to this is to say "if the grant money is still in place, then go forward. If no money is in the budget to sustain this project then this would be a big problem." Young's campaign website states his goal to "push for AC Transit's bus fleet to be 100 percent zero emission by 2030." The fleet is at 2 percent presently, so Young's goal makes a good sound bite, but seems neither serious nor realistic.

Jones lives and breathes buses and even attends most board meetings. She lists her qualifications as having "21 years of experience and knowledge about the policies, procedures and implementation of the District." As a retired bus operator, she may have a limited perspective but she would support drivers and not vote for buses whose cost would impact service! She would do no harm.

AC Transit, Ward 4 Nicholas Harvey

The incumbent, Mark Williams, was elected to the AC Transit Board in 2010, and it has been nearly as long since his campaign has filed any campaign statements as required by state law. Williams' delinquency finally caught up to him earlier this year as he faced \$60,000 in penalties imposed by California's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

The last campaign statement he filed was in January 2011 (for the last two months of his 2010 campaign), indicating the campaign had \$6,295.65. With no subsequent filings, the public remains in the dark about how that money was spent, who funded his campaign, and how much. Williams filed election documents before the 2014 election to change the name of his committee for his re-election campaign. He then went on to win the race in 2014 without filing a single campaign statement, effectively hiding his campaign activities from his opponent and the public.

His run for the seat in 2018 is shaping up to be no different, although he appears to have negotiated the \$60,000 fine down to \$7,135.

The challenger, entrepreneur Nicholas Harvey, is much better at filing paperwork. Harvey filed papers and will appear on the ballot for five local races; however, the AC Transit seat is the one he is most enthusiastic to win. Harvey was inspired to run because, in his words, upon observing the public infrastructure and services in his community, "Nothing gets done."

Harvey's answers to the Green Party Questionnaire convey a sophisticated understanding of AC Transit issues with sensitivity to fiscal, environmental and social responsibility, as well as a technical understanding of various fuel-cell technologies being considered and implemented in the AC Transit bus fleet. He stated, "Fuel cells are a buzzword -- the technology is not commercially viable right now for a variety of reasons. Fuel cells use significant amounts of Platinum which is a conflict mineral predominantly mined in Sub-Saharan Africa often using child-labor. Furthermore, the hydrogen used by the fuel cell is generated by the reforming of hydrocarbons (oil) to molecular hydrogen -- the bus may be clean but the hydrogen to get it isn't. In contrast, electric buses (powered by batteries and/or super-

capacitors) is a much smarter alternative because we have ways to generate clean electricity -- wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, etc."

On how to improve service for youth, seniors, disabled, and low-income riders, Harvey proposes that "AC transit needs to partner with organizations more to create reduced or free fare passes. . . . We do not have enough options for low-income or fixed-income members of the community." Commenting on AC Transit's expansion of Transbay service and use of double-decker buses, Harvey observed, "The double decker buses are good in the case of reducing congestion; however, for the All Nighter service I do not believe this is necessary as there is not enough ridership (the buses are often not full)."

As an avid bicyclist and frequent bus-rider with informed observations and ideas, Nicholas Harvey seems qualified for the job, and appears to be highly motivated to "get something done."

AC Transit, Ward 5 Diane Shaw, with reservations

Since the incumbent is not running for re-election, this is a chance to elect a new person to this Hayward-Newark-Fremont area seat for the first time in 20 years. Both candidates running, Diane Shaw and Kewel Singh, have a background in transit administration so their strengths and areas of weakness are somewhat similar. That is, both candidates responses to our questionnaire express an awareness of overall budget issues and personnel concerns, but neither candidate comments on the technical aspects of moving toward zero-emissions buses. Both gave vague answers about how to improve marketing and in general the importance of meeting various goals, but little substance on how to do so.

Diane Shaw, now retired, has been volunteering for Safe Routes to School and she shows a personal ongoing commitment to improving transit in Ward 5.

Kewel Singh has listed endorsements from, among others, current AC Transit Board members Mark Williams and Joel young. See our other AC Transit Board articles for information on these two to understand that they are not the sort of politicians that one should be proud to list as endorsers.

Special District Measures and Offices

BART Board, District 4 No Endorsement

Since the 2013 BART labor contract negotiations were so terribly handled and had such an effect on the Bay Area, BART and its leadership have received more attention. A Board-sanctioned study yielded a 225-page report with 63 recommendations, mainly asserting that BART needed to improve its Labor Relations and the elected Board of Directors needed to play more of a role holding management accountable for an anti-worker environment.

Of the four candidates for an Alameda County BART Board seat, Robert Raburn was the only candidate on the Board at that time. Raburn has some progressive credentials as the former head of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, and has tended to vote with the more progressive side of the BART Board of Directors, but has not been a strong progressive voice on the Board. We were disappointed with his performance during the 2013 negotiations and would hope to see a more progressive approach. Two-tier pensions and PEPR (a statewide pension reform plan) were major issues underlying the 2013 labor negotiations. Raburn's answer to our question on this topic was the type of answer a politician gives before they vote the way they know they shouldn't. We'd like to see him articulate a more clear position in support of fair treatment of workers on this and other issues. The only other candidate, Paul Cummings, told us he would not be returning our questionnaire. His web page does not have much content other than brief mention of some issues that were highly covered in the news. His platform for improving safety is to stock more train parts.

For the reasons cited above, we are not able to endorse either candidate in this race.

BART Board, District 6 No Endorsement

We were not able to come to consensus on this race. Some of our volunteers have participated in candidate forums for numerous races and heard the candidates for this race answer numerous questions, in addition to reviewing their responses to Green Party questions, the candidates' own web pages and other materials. Of the two candidates, Anu Natarajan is an urban planner, a sustainability consultant, and has experience on a policy board, serving on the Fremont City Council for 10 years. Liz Ames has experience as a civil engineer, Save Our Hills chairperson, and a former planning commissioner for Union City.

Anu has won the endorsement of a long list of elected officials, including the Sierra Club and four of the more progressive and environmentally-conscious BART Board members. She currently sits as the chairperson of the Measure RR Bond Oversight Committee as the nominee of the League of Women Voters. Liz is knowledgeable and articulate about a number of broader environmental issues, though seems less familiar with the workings of BART.

Some appreciate Anu's awareness of the dynamics and the forces at play in making effective policy, and what appears to be a better understanding of issues at BART. Given the importance of BART in progressive politics and the much-reported need for the BART Board to oversee an effort to improve Labor Relations after the 2013 labor negotiations, some have deep concerns about a number of Liz' responses in a separate forum that indicate she would be on the wrong side of a number of issues, especially those affecting Labor.

We were happy to see the BART Board work with their Labor unions before the Measure RR bond was passed in 2016 and are concerned about any steps backward. Some also have concerns about candidates who campaign on a promise of change, pledging to fix problems at BART highlighted in the news, but don't show the necessary understanding of those issues and what it would take to fix them. Such claims may not be intentionally false, but have a similar effect.

We like Liz's positions regarding preserving open space and growth, but Liz may be better suited for a position other than on the BART Board. She did run as a write-in candidate for District 2 on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors earlier this year and we would like to hear more about a campaign for such a seat in the future. As we go to press, some of us would like to have seen more policy ideas on Anu's website. As mentioned above, we were not able to reach consensus on this race, so we're not able to endorse.

EBMUD, Ward 7 No Endorsement

There are two candidates on the ballot, the incumbent, Frank Mellon, and a challenger, Nicholas Harvey. However, Harvey has decided to focus his November election efforts on his AC Transit run and is not actively campaigning for this BART seat. Therefore, we have no information on Harvey's positions related to BART (he did not return our BART questionnaire, but he did return our AC Transit questionnaire).

Mellon is a long-time incumbent and we endorsed his opponent in 2010, which was the last time this race was listed on the ballot. It seems he hasn't gotten any better over the past 8 years. Most of his questionnaire answers were quite short and lacked enough specifics to give us any real confidence in his replies. So we're not able to support Mellon either. For EBMUD, Ward 7, write in the name of your cat, dog, or goldfish.

EBRPD, Ward 5 No Endorsement (Dublin Hills-Del Valle-Ohlone-Sunol)

This race is a repeat of four years ago with incumbent Ayn Wieskamp again being challenged by small business owner Dev Gandhi, who received 24 percent of the vote in 2014.

Ayn Wieskamp, from Livermore, is the current board vice president and incumbent for Ward 5, which encompasses Brightside, Dublin, part of Fremont, Livermore, Newark, Pleasanton, and Sunol. You may read her answers to the Green Party questionnaire at: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

A couple of the more controversial land-management issues facing the Board are the use of chemicals and tree removal as tools to reduce wildfire risk. On use of pesticides/herbicides on EBRPD lands, she offered, "I continue to support the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM). The District is reviewing all the use of pesticides/herbicides on park district property at all times. I support minimal use of such products and only where necessary. Park land, park users and park staff must be safe." Regarding tree removal, Wieskamp stated "I support our current method for managing eucalyptus and other non-native or high-fire species on district property. We spent many years developing this program to enable our fire fighters to have such areas managed so that they will be better able to fight fires effectively." On the whole, Wieskamp's answers to our questions were moderated, and showed a nuanced understanding of EBRPD business. Her attitude, as could be expected, is one of someone who has served on the Board for 20 years and appears to believe things are moving along in an acceptable manner.

Dev Gandhi is challenging Wieskamp for the Ward 5 seat. He did not return the Green Party questionnaire this year, nor does his campaign have a website as of this writing, however, we can review his answers to the previous questionnaire he completed for this race in 2014. He cited his experience during the past 20 years in "high-tech entrepreneurialism and wireless carrier operations with experience in developing and marketing mobile & online software, advertising and media technology" as his primary qualifications. His answers to the questionnaire were vague and general, for example: "I would like the opportunity to advocate for more open space to provide recreational opportunities for our growing communities so we have adequate open spaces for people to enjoy for the next century." A repeated theme in his comments was the need to "balance the available open spaces with the community demand so we can preserve our parks & habitats for future generations." Although the precise meaning of this intent was not clear, it seems to mean limiting the usage of parks in accord with their perceived capacity: "We have to control park recreation to balance with what is sustainable to keep native habitats healthy." Gandhi did not comment on EBRPD's ongoing use of pesticides in its integrated pest management program, nor did he mention the proposed removal of large numbers of trees in the wildland-urban interface.

We would prefer to have a candidate in the race who is willing to challenge the conventional thinking around chemical use and tree removal and overall be more outspoken in promoting environmental and social justice for our public lands. If you share this desire, consider boycotting this race in hopes that Wieskamp might get the message. In any case, don't vote for Gandhi. Wieskamp is likely to win the race handily either way.

Measure FF - No, with reservations EBRPD Wildlife Protection and Parks Parcel Tax

If approved by voters, Measure FF would simply continue existing Measure CC funding. Voters passed Measure CC in 2004 to provide local funding for park infrastructure, maintenance, safety, and services. Measure CC is a \$12/year parcel tax that is set to expire in 2020. Measure FF is expected to raise approximately \$3.3 million annually until it expires in 20 years.

Measure CC boasts a long list of successful improvements to East Bay Regional Parks in areas of public safety, wildfire mitigation, healthy forest management, shoreline protection, environmental stewardship, habitat preservation, park infrastructure and maintenance, recreational and educational programming, and visitor services.

While impacts of the Measure have been wide-ranging and largely celebrated, record California wildfires in 2018 have caused both opponents and proponents of the Measure to highlight the wildfire mitigation aspect of the program. Neither Measure CC nor Measure FF contains language that details how to approach reducing wildfires, however, Measure CC's funds helped in developing the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan ("Plan") that was approved in 2010 by the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) Board of Directors.

Proponents state that passing Measure FF is critical to continue to reduce risk of wildfires along the wildland-urban interface. They accept that thinning of certain tree species and controlled use of herbicides are tools outlined in the Plan to accomplish the task.

Opponents are against unnecessary removal of non-native species and use of herbicides (EBRPD has expanded use of herbicides and clear-cutting), arguing that extreme fires are driven by effects of climate change, not a particular tree species. Opponents agree with many fire experts that the key defense of homes against wildfire is defensible space, and argue that clear-cutting removes trees that sequester carbon (mitigating climate change) and removes the canopy that provides habitat for species and helps cool the environment. On pesticide use, they simply say: "If organic farmers can do it, so can EBRPD!"

We agree with the opponents: There are environmentally-sensitive alternate approaches to reducing wildfire risk that do not involve removing so many trees and applying poisons in East Bay parks, but the EBRPD Board must be willing to implement them. Vote "No" to send a message to the Board that we can do better. Our reservations are that we like the parks and want to protect them, and we appreciate most of the improvements that Measure FF funds.

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State Propositions

Prop 10

continued from page 1

1995. In cities that already have rent control, like Berkeley, it prohibits rent control on all properties constructed after 1980. This means that every year more rental housing is exempt from rent control and every year more tenants are unprotected.

We now find ourselves in a time of rapidly rising rents and forced relocations across the state. Millions of tenants have been pushed into poverty by high and rising rents while wages remain stagnant. The single leading cause of new homelessness is eviction due to an inability to pay a rent increase. We are all paying the price for weak or non-existent rent control. Repealing Costa-Hawkins by passing Proposition 10 will give local governments more tools to regulate their housing markets, prevent evictions and combat homelessness. What it will NOT do is institute statewide rent control, roll back rents or any of the other ridiculous claims made by the greedy opposition. The passage of Proposition 10 is only the beginning. If we can pass it in November, the battle for affordability will move to every city and county in California. We are enthusiastically YES, YES, YES on Proposition 10!

Proposition 1 Yes, with reservations Housing Assistance Bonds

There's no doubt among Californians that we have a serious housing shortage. Intending to finally do something about it, Prop 1 will allow the state to issue general obligation bonds under two mandates. A \$1 billion bond issuance would be exclusively for veteran's home ownership assistance programs which will be paid for by the veteran's themselves through their housing spending and seeks to make more affordable housing available.

The other \$3 billion authorized issuance would be split with \$450 million each going to infrastructure (think sewer improvements) and housing assistance programs like financing and down payments. Another \$300 million will be dedicated to rental and owner-occupied farmworker housing. \$1.8 billion is earmarked for multifamily housing development for urban in-fill and transit-oriented developments through loans and other market incentives.

While massive state spending on affordable housing is decades overdue, this measure has some weaknesses. First, it will cost nearly double this \$4 billion figure once bond holders and banks get their cut. Second, proponents unfortunately fail to explain how Prop 1 will alleviate veteran homelessness through existing loan programs. Third, it largely relies on subsidies to individual renters/homeowners and the same model of "public-private partnership" which has allowed developers to rake in millions in projects, many over budget or never delivered (see the fantastic Frontline documentary on this subject "Poverty, Politics and Profit," from May 2017). Lastly, the legislative analyst estimates that only about 37,000 households (of our 130,000 homeless and countless housing burdened families) will benefit through greater availability of housing from the bond issue and the general fund will be on the hook for \$170 million for the next 35 years.

We desperately need housing. We need to invest directly rather than relying on market incentives that allow our tax money to be siphoned off by landlord class and banks. We also need to fund housing through public banks, not investment firms extracting interest. Nonetheless, should the perfect be the enemy of the good? We don't think so. Vote yes.

Proposition 2 - NO Mental Illness Housing Bonds

It is really hard to vote against something that claims to build housing for people with mental illness. It is impossible to live in Alameda County and not know that many of the people living on our sidewalks urgently need mental health services and housing and that those people are seriously suffering.

But the Contra Costa chapter of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, has risked their popularity among Democrats and the non-profit community by standing up against this measure. NAMI is the leading grass roots movement supporting those with mental illness and their communities.

Why? Simply because this law, which has been referred by the California legislature, with the Governor's approval spends most of its money on their well known friends, the developers and builders. It is publicly supported by those unions close to the state government's majority but will spend mostly on bond servicing and high price projects and

will only build 20,000 units, even if it delivers as promised. \$6 billion for 20,000 units? Yep, ¼ million dollars a shot. It would be cheaper to buy today's overpriced family homes and give people rooms in them.

Then there is this unfinished business of the last time we voted to "solve" this problem called Prop 63. The NAMI officers fear that this diversion of funds away from fully funding Prop 63 could end up making more mentally ill people homeless, not less.

And housing is only a part of what is needed and does not stand in for universal health care. What the people we painfully watch people going through on the street requires compassion, outreach, sustained treatment and housing in a comprehensive program. Prop 2 is not that and is not even a step towards that.

Proposition 3 - NO Water and Wildlife Bonds

What? Another water bond on the November ballot? Didn't we just pass a water bond (Proposition 68, for \$4 billion) in June? And wasn't there another water bond (Proposition 1, for \$7.5 billion in bonds) in 2014? Well, this one is different, and not in a good way. The last few water bonds were passed through the Legislature to reach a consensus of the elected representatives, and then put on the ballot. But Proposition 3 was put on the ballot by people who want certain projects paid for by the taxpayers, by a signature drive paid for by those who will benefit. For that reason alone, the voters should be skeptical.

The \$8.877 billion bond issue has almost 20 projects that will cost \$100,000,000 or more, of which the largest is the \$750,000,000 provided "to the Friant Water Authority for water conveyance capital improvements, including restored and increased conveyance capacity to and in the Madera and Friant-Kern canals." According to the Sierra Club, "increased groundwater ...has led to subsidence, which has damaged the canals. Those who pumped the water and caused the damage should pay for repair the canals." The Sierra Club California has taken an oppose position on Proposition 3. Their article is called "Proposition 3: A Fiscally Irresponsible Approach to California's Water Problems," and can be found on their website.

The Sierra Club states that dams which the Sierra Club opposes could be built with Proposition 3 money, because there is not any overall guarantee that will not happen. The official Arguments in Favor are unusually vague; "continued investment in...canals, pipelines and water storage facilities." Does that mean new dams? The Rebuttal complains that "Prop 3 doesn't fund even one dam," but we voters cannot be sure that is true. The Rebuttal says "It's basically a scheme to collect a lot of money for special interests." We agree.

The League of Women Voters of California recommends a NO vote, saying: "this measure has a number of fatal flaws, including:

- Shifting the cost for water from the end users to California taxpayers;
- Reducing state money available for other critical state programs like education, affordable housing, and healthcare;
- Failing to provide for adequate project oversight and financial accountability.

Vote NO on Prop 3," says the League. We agree; Vote NO on Proposition 3.

Proposition 4 Yes, with reservations Children's Hospitals Bonds

Of course we should have hospitals that focus on the needs of children and yes we should all pay for them through our taxes. What we really should have is a health care system, not a health care market. Given our backwards approach to public wellbeing, funding infrastructure for these non-profit and university hospitals, and even the private ones, is probably the best we can do. That is not the fault of the hospitals, it is a consequence of not having single payer, universal health care, nor a real health department with a public network of sufficiently funded outreach workers, school nurses, neighborhood clinics and community hospitals.

Prop 4 is not a system, it is a bond measure. We Greens are opposed in principle to bonds as a funding mechanism. This bond will cost \$1.4 billion dollars to raise \$1.5 billion so the real total cost is \$2.9 billion. It is another gift to the investor class who have seen their taxes reduced over the last decades and who instead of paying a fair share, lend us the money at bad rates.

Our public health infrastructure needs help now, so we

find ourselves forced to vote for this kind of measure despite the fact that it is digging us deeper into the holes of a bad health care system and a worse public finance practice.

Proposition 5 - NO Property Tax Base Transfers

Proposition 5 pits the real estate industry against local government. Ballotpedia reports that as of July 26th \$7.20 million was raised to support Prop. 5. Of that amount 58 percent had been raised from the California Association of Realtors Issues Mobilization PAC and 42 percent from the National Association of Realtors.

In 1978 Proposition 13 imposed strict limits on how much residential property could be taxed. In 1986 Proposition 60 amended Prop. 13 so as to allow home owners over 55 years old to transfer the taxable value of their home to a new home of lesser or equal value to the home sold. But the new home had to be in the same county as the house sold, and had to be purchased within two years of sale of the old home. In addition, such a transfer of value could only happen once. In 1988 Proposition 90 amended Prop. 13 to allow homeowners over 55 to transfer the taxable value of their home to another county if the new county agreed. At present only 10 counties allow these transfers.

Prop. 5 proposes to amend Prop. 13 to allow homeowners over 55, or who are disabled, to transfer the Prop. 13-taxable value of their home: (1) to a more expensive new home, (2) anywhere in the state, (3) any number of times. The Legislative Analyst predicts that in the first few years after the passage of Prop. 5 schools and local governments would lose over \$100 million a year, and in later years the loss would be \$1 billion a year.

The argument for Prop. 5 says that it would allow older people who've outgrown their homes to move into smaller homes closer to their families. The supporters argue that Prop. 5 would ease the housing crisis because there will be more houses available when the older folks sell. But Prop. 5 gives an incentive to sell only if the older folks intend to buy a new house. There's nothing in the proposition to add to the existing number of houses in the state.

The Congress of California Seniors, an umbrella group of senior organizations, opposes Prop. 5. They are joined by the following: AFSCME California, CA Alliance for Retired Americans, CA Federation of Teachers, CA Professional Firefighters, CA State Association of Counties, CA Teachers Association, League of Women Voters of CA, National Housing Law Project, Middle Class Taxpayers Association, SEIU California. Vote No on Proposition 5.

Proposition 6 - NO Transportation Funding, Gas Taxes, Vehicle Fees

This contentious initiative aims to repeal all fuel and vehicle taxes and fees levied under Senate Bill #1 (SB1, 2017) and change the California Constitution to prohibit gas tax increases without voter approval. Interestingly enough, it doesn't repeal SB 1, only the revenue component, which is a complex bill. Understanding Prop 6 requires understanding SB1.

SB1 raised around \$5 billion annually through fuel taxes and vehicle licensing fees to pay for a host of projects, including road repairs, climate change mitigation, rail, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and improvements, as well as research and planning. It also provides revenue for repaying past loans to other funds from dedicated transportation funds. Despite the proponents' claims that SB1 money will be wasted or diverted, voters fixed that with Prop 69 in June of this year.

Prop 6 will defund SB1, exacerbating the existing backlog in road repairs and making it incredibly difficult for legislators to find sustainable funding for infrastructure upgrades from the revenue sources that make the most sense for the purpose. While as Greens we would rank "traffic congestion mitigation" a lower priority than expanding regional and intercity rail, the robust funding for local roads will help cities meet their backlogs and ease the burden from municipal budgets.

Prop 6 does have some appeal. Proponents are correct that the "gas tax" is regressive, hurting the rural and suburban working poor disproportionately and that personal autos are less damaging to roads than commercial trucking. Prop 13 reform, a land value tax or direct corporate taxes on trucking are more equitable options. However, with federal money uncertain, California is at least taking responsibility for its transportation infrastructure. The California League of Cities, State Association of Counties, the Chamber of Commerce and First Responders all agree we need to make

continued on next page

State Propositions

continued from page 16

major investments in infrastructure for the safety and prosperity of California.

The proponents of Prop 6 are putting partisan political theater above the long term investment we need. Yet, the most dangerous part of Prop 6 is permanently forcing all tax or fee increases related to fuel and vehicles to go to voters and thus tying the hands of the Legislature even tighter than the two-thirds majority now required. Prop 6 will keep Californians on dangerous and congested roads and deny funding to needed mass transit, infrastructure climate mitigation and other programs. Paying taxes is part of our civic duty to help contribute towards an orderly society, and Prop 6 is a direct affront against this basic tenet of our modern world. It is denying that the role of government is to provide for basic infrastructure, safety, health and welfare.

Proposition 7 - YES Daylight Savings Time

This is one of the unusual ballot measures that is extremely non-partisan, but much more about personal preferences, though these are often strongly held. It will thus be of interest to see where it comes out at the end of the day (so to speak).

For some background: California voted on Daylight Saving Time (DST) in 1949, when the voters approved an initiative measure that established DST periods with attendant twice a year time changes. Proposal 7 would allow us to go back to year-round normal standard time, or have year-round DST (no further clock changes) if this is further acted on by the State Legislature and passed either way with a two-thirds vote. The year-round DST, but not the change to year-round standard time, would need to be further approved later by congressional authorization at the federal level.

The state Voter Guide argument for Proposition 7 claims that changing our clocks twice a year has been hazardous to our health, and economy. It specifically refers to scientific evidence showing a clear increase risk of strokes, heart attacks, and disruption of sleep patterns. It also quotes studies that show increases in the cost of our use of electricity and in the amount of fuel we use in cars due to the clock changes. Further, as of now, 68 percent of all countries have stopped changing their clocks.

The argument against change states claims that the little inconvenience does not outweigh the danger of children heading to school in the dark, or adults commuting in the dark. And that some neighboring states will find us an hour ahead.

Apart from these kind of financial/medical arguments -- it really comes down to what people want. Should we wake up and begin our day when it is slightly dark and then see dawn breaking when we get ready to begin our commute, and then, when returning home, enjoying an extra hour of daylight versus the day havingfully ended? Or the other way one way to think of it is: what percent of people is awake and active outside at 7, 8, or even 9 am? It is high, certainly -- but definitely not as high as are at 5 or 6 pm, when it's about 100 percent. Indeed, one of the primary complaints people have about winter is just how early it gets dark. Though it is not universally preferred, the large majority of people are supportive of having DST all year, vs. the other way around.

Essentially, Proposition 7 seeks a change in how we interact with daylight by having year-round DST without any time-switching of clocks, allowing nature to determine the time when the Sun rises or sets, instead of manipulating it artificially.

Further, on the no argument: Arizona has permanent standard time and is still a fully functional part of the Union. And of course, neighboring states (and eventually, maybe the entire nation), may over time see the light and follow California's lead on this (as they have much else over time). And it is only about a month, from mid-December to mid-January (during which there are usually about two weeks of Christmas vacation off from school) when it will be staying dark as late as 8 am. The rest of the time, it will be light already by 7:30 am or earlier, so it will be getting light when people begin their commute, on average. (See: <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/which-cities-sleep-in-and-which-get-to-work-early/>).

And if it turns out we really don't like it, we can revert to the old system. But we are confident that most people will be so much happier with having that extra hour of daylight at the end of their day, that this will become a permanent change in California once we get it past all the approval processes. At which point we will finally be able to celebrate the extra rays the bright orb in the sky shines down upon us.

Proposition 8 - YES Kidney Dialysis Clinics

It should be no surprise that Big Pharma spends as little on providing care as it can to maximize profits. Prop 8, also called the Fair Pricing for Dialysis Act, will limit the amount of non-care costs and profits to 15 percent above the actual cost of providing care, versus the 350 percent mark up the industry currently extracts from desperate patients. According to the Legislative Analyst, a majority of dialysis patients use Medicare or Medi-Cal. This measure seeks to reduce costs to health insurers, individuals and pensions, which is why a YES vote is supported by CalPERS (California Public Employees' Retirement System) and the Congress of California Seniors.

Prop 8 intends to force the \$3 billion California dialysis clinic industry to pay more in benefits, salaries and employee development for front line workers by limiting the amount of administrative overhead. Prop 8 will ensure these companies are incentivized to improve working conditions, wages and quality of care by limiting "cost of care" calculations to equipment, workforce development and non-managerial staff. All revenues above 115 percent of the actual cost of care will be refunded to the payee, encouraging the companies to invest in their workforce and improve patient care.

Prop 8 is the brainchild of the SEIU-UHW (Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West) and the initiative campaign is funded entirely by the union. The largest dialysis clinic corporations in California, Davita and Fresenius Medical Care North America, are rabidly anti-union, hence the SEIU taking this fight to the ballot. Like many corporate regulation issues of our time, the opposition is funded exclusively by the affected corporations, in this case, three large dialysis companies who stand to lose profits (the above two and American Renal Associates). Their opposition arguments are disingenuous, ignore key facts (like savings being returned to insurers AND public health programs, not consumers necessarily), and make the tired trope that if they are profit-limited, clinics will close. To add insult to injury, they claim inner city clinics will close, when Prop 8 specifically aims to force clinics to reinvest in their facilities.

We need Medicare for All and we will continue to fight for it until it is a reality. Prop 8 is a good measure because it moves in that direction by protecting consumers from price gouging and will incentivize better pay for workers. Vote YES.

[Proposition 9, the Three Californias initiative, was removed from the ballot by order of the California Supreme Court.]

Proposition 12 - YES Farm Animals Confinement

Prevention of Cruelty to Farm Animals Act -- Scientific experts worldwide have repeatedly determined that industrial animal agriculture (also known as factory farming) is a leading cause of climate change, water pollution, and the destruction of wildlife habitat. By applying to both meat and egg companies within California and to producers supplying the California market, Proposition 12 will take on this polluting and cruel system by prohibiting the most extreme forms of farm animal confinement. If passed, Proposition 12 will significantly benefit the environment, animal welfare, family farmers, and food safety.

Factory farming corporations often lock egg-laying hens, baby veal calves, and mother pigs in cages so small that each animal is rendered virtually immobile. These conditions produce extremely concentrated amounts of waste which far exceeds what the nearby land can absorb. Corporations often cut corners by intentionally over-applying the waste to nearby fields or storing it in giant manure pits. These practices emit noxious gases which can lead to asthma and other health problems in rural communities. The waste often seeps into nearby waterways, causing algal blooms that kill fish and other aquatic animals. Concentrated animal waste also emits enormous amounts of various greenhouse gases.

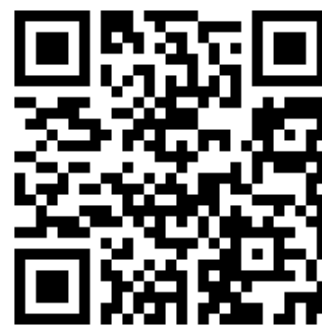
In addition to protecting the environment, Proposition 12 will improve food safety for California families. More than a dozen studies have found that caged animals are significantly more likely to harbor the dangerous bacteria Salmonella than animals in cage-free facilities. So far, nearly a billion eggs from caged hens have been recalled due to Salmonella since 2010 alone. As Poultry World, the egg industry's publication confirmed, "Salmonella thrives in caged housing."

Proposition 12 has been endorsed by Earthjustice, Earth Day Network, Center for Biological Diversity, United Farm Workers, California Labor Federation, Center for Food Safety, Organic Consumers Association, the Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA and more than 500 other non-profits, veterinarians, and California family farmers.

Factory farming systems wreak havoc on our environment, cause enormous animal suffering, and pose a significant risk to public health. A "YES" vote on Proposition 12 would help address these environmental, ethical, and health concerns at their root by ensuring that animals are not crammed into small cages for their entire lives.

Learn more at <http://www.YesOnProp12CA.com>.

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Green Sundays

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

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

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

Wheelchair accessible.





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State Executive Offices

Boycott the Following Races - see front-page article:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller,
Treasurer, Attorney General, and Insurance Commissioner
Superintendent of Public Instruction - [Don't vote for Tuck]

Federal Offices

U.S. Senate - Boycott this race, please see write-up
U.S. Representative, District 13 - Laura Wells

Other State Offices

State Board of Equalization, District 2 - Boycott this race:
see front-page article
State Assembly, District 15 - Jovanka Beckles*
*This candidate is recommended, but not endorsed
(because she is a Democrat)
State Assembly, District 18 - No Endorsement, please see write-up

Judicial Offices

State Supreme Court - Carol Corrigan, with reservations;
and Leondra Kruger, with reservations
State Courts of Appeal, First District - No Endorsements, please see
write-up

Special School Districts

Peralta Community College, Area 3 - Corean Todd
Peralta Community College, Area 5 - Cindi Napoli-Abella Reiss

County Offices

Assessor - [Don't vote for Johnson]

City Offices

Alameda

Mayor - Frank Matarrese, with reservations
City Council - John Knox White
School Board - Gary Lym
Healthcare District, Short Term - Dennis Popalardo

Albany

City Council - Preston Jordan
School District Board - Charles Blanchard and Ross Stapleton-Gray

Berkeley

Auditor - Jenny Wong
City Council, District 1 - #1: Igor Tregub, #2: Mary Behm-Steinberg,
#3: Margo Schueler, with reservations [Don't vote for Kesarwani]
City Council, District 4 - Kate Harrison
City Council, District 7 - #1: Aidan Hill, #2: Rigel Robinson,
#3: No endorsement, leave blank
City Council, District 8 - #1: Mary Kay Lacey, #2: Alfred Twu,
with reservations, #3: Russ Tilleman, with reservations
[Don't vote for Droste]
School District Board - Ty Alper, Ka'Dijah Brown, and Dru Howard
Rent Stabilization Board - James Chang, Soli Alpert, Paola Laverde,
Maria Poblet, John Selawsky - VOTE FOR ALL 5!

Emeryville

City Council - Scott Donahue, with reservations; and Dianne Martinez,
with reservations
School District Board - No endorsement, see information on our website

Hayward

Mayor - Barbara Halliday
City Council - Aisha Wahab and Sara Lamnin [Don't vote for Joe Ramos]
School District Board - Todd E. Davis and April Oquenda

Oakland

Mayor - #1: Saied Karamooz; Sharing #2 & #3: Cat Brooks* and
Pamela Price* [Don't vote for Schaaf]
Auditor - Courtney Ruby
City Council, District 2 - Sharing #1 & #2: Nikki Fortunato Bas*
and Kenzie Donte Smith* [Don't vote for Guillén]
City Council, District 4 - #1: Sheng Thao, #2: Pamela Harris,
#3: Nayeli Maxson*, with reservations [Don't vote for Michelson]
City Council, District 6 - Sharing #1 and #2: Marlo Rodriguez* and
Mya Whitaker* [Don't vote for Brooks, Middleton, or Taylor]
School Board, District 2 - [Don't vote for Eng]
School Board, District 4 - Clarissa Doutherd
School Board, District 6 - [Don't vote for Gonzales]
*This candidate has been ranked, but not endorsed

Union City

New Haven School Board - Sarbjit Cheema

Special Districts:

A.C. Transit, At-Large - Dollene Jones
A.C. Transit, Ward 4 - Nicholas Harvey
A.C. Transit, Ward 5 - Diane Shaw, with reservations
BART, District 4 - No Endorsement, please see write-up
BART, District 6 - No Endorsement, please see write-up
EBMUD, Ward 7 - No Endorsement, please see write-up
EBRPD, Ward 5 - No Endorsement, please see write-up

Statewide Propositions

1 - Housing Assistance Bonds - Yes, with reservations
2 - Mental Illness Housing Bonds - No
3 - Water and Wildlife Bonds - No
4 - Children's Hospitals Bonds - Yes, with reservations
5 - Property Tax Base Transfers - No
6 - Transportation Funding, Gas Taxes, Vehicle Fees - No
7 - Daylight Saving Time - Yes
8 - Kidney Dialysis Clinics - Yes
[Prop. 9 was removed from the ballot by court order]
10 - Local Authority to Enact Rent Control/Affordable Housing Act - Yes,
Yes, Yes!
11 - Emergency Ambulance Employees - No, No, No!
12 - Farm Animals Confinement - Yes

Local Measures

E - Peralta Parcel Tax Continuation - Yes, with reservations
F - Alameda Services Sales Tax - No
G - Peralta Sites/Facilities/Equipment Bond - Yes, with reservations
H - Hayward School Bond - Yes, with bond reservations
K - Alameda Weak Rent Control - No
L - Albany Services Sales Tax - Yes, with reservations
M - Albany Park and Open Space Parcel Tax - Yes, with reservations
N - Albany Appointed Treasurer - Yes
O - Berkeley Affordable Housing Bond - Yes
P - Berkeley Homeless Services Tax - Yes
Q - Berkeley Rent Ordinance Amendments - Yes
R - Berkeley Vision 2050 Plan - Yes
S - Emeryville Cannabis Business Tax - No endorsement
T - Hayward Services Real Property Transfer Tax - Yes
V - Oakland Cannabis Business Tax - Yes
W - Oakland Homeless Services Vacant Property Tax - Yes
X - Oakland Graduated Real Estate Transfer Tax - Yes, with reservations
Y - Oakland Just Cause Eviction Amendments - Yes
Z - Oakland Hotel Workers Workplace Protections and Wages - Yes
AA - Oakland Education Parcel Tax Charter Amendment - No, No!
DD - Union City Cannabis Business Tax - Yes
EE - Union City Charter City and Real Property Transfer Tax - No
FF - EBRPD Wildlife Protection and Parks Parcel Tax - No, with reservations

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

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.

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Please see page 19 for the Full Voter Card!

State Executive Offices

Boycott the Following Races - see front-page article:
 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller,
 Treasurer, Attorney General, and Insurance Commissioner
 Superintendent of Public Instruction - [Don't vote for Tuck]

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U.S. Representative, District 13 - **Laura Wells**

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City Council - Preston Jordan

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[Don't vote for Droste]

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*This candidate has been ranked, but not endorsed

Union City

Special Districts:

New Haven School Board - Sarbjit Cheema

A.C. Transit Ward 4 - Nicholas Harvey

Statewide Propositions

6 - Transportation Funding, Gas Taxes, Vehicle Fees - No

8 - Kidney Dialysis Clinics - Yes

10 - Local Authority to Enact Rent Control/Affordable Housing
 Act - Yes, Yes, Yes!

11 - Emergency Ambulance Employees - No, No, No!

Local Measures:

K - Alameda Weak Rent Control - No

AA - Oakland Education Parcel Tax Charter Amendment - No, No!

Sunday, October 28th

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Aidan Hill, Saied Karamooz, Mike Murphy, and Laura Wells

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Union City

Federal Offices	1, 3
State Offices	1, 3, 4
State Propositions	1, 16, 17
State Judges	4
Peralta Colleges	5, 6
City of Alameda	6
City of Albany	7
City of Berkeley	1, 7, 8, 9
City of Emeryville	10
City of Hayward	10, 11
City of Oakland	1, 11, 12, 13
City of Union City	14
Special Districts	14, 15
Voter Card	19, Back page

November 6, 2018

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VOTER
 CARD
 on Back Cover
 & Page 19

for the thinking voter