

Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: March 3, 2020

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President

Green Presidential Candidates

There are five Green presidential candidates: Howie Hawkins of New York, Dario Hunter of Ohio, Dennis Lambert also of Ohio, Sedinam Mozowasifza-Curry of California, and David Rolde of Massachusetts. Among this group, Hawkins is the clear standout in experience, endorsements and fundraising possibilities. First of all, since 2000 Hawkins has offered himself as a candidate for office at least eleven times in New York. He ran for the U.S. House of Representatives four times, for governor three times, as well as for the U.S. Senate, mayor of Syracuse and lesser offices. Secondly, he has already been endorsed by the Socialist Party U.S.A. and Solidarity. His other endorsements include two former Green Party Vice Presidential nominees, Ajamu Baraka and Cheri Honkala. Former San Francisco Board of Supervisors head and 2008 Vice Presidential candidate (with Ralph Nader) Matt Gonzalez as well as Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Chris Hedges have also endorsed Hawkins. None of the other candidates have run for office as many times or received comparable endorsements. Finally, Hawkins is the one candidate with the background and reputation to achieve even minimal fundraising goals. As of the time of this writing, he is the only candidate to raise over \$25,000 for the 2020 campaign.

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Democrats and Republicans

In current American politics, following the facts and the why of campaign funding for the presidential candidates of the two mainstream parties along with related media coverage are the twin keys to deeper understanding. As usual, the very rich have an outsized influence. Two of the leading candidates are virtual personifications of capital. Billionaire Republican President Donald Trump represents the most right-wing, reactionary, racist and gangster like elements of the United States capitalist class. Even some Reagan Republicans label him an “ignorant demagogue”—an incompetent, lying and egomaniacal lunatic who is destroying our nation and threatens to destroy others. Sad and alarming to say, Trump is popular in many Midwestern and Southern states, and overall gains about 40 percent support in our country. This level of support has a number of sources, prominent among them the role of the Fox Television network, which has propagandized for Trump for decades.

Democrat Michael Bloomberg (who won twice as a Republican candidate for Mayor of New York City and once more as an Independent) is much richer than Trump. At well over \$50 billion (that is more than \$50,000 million) in assets, Bloomberg is likely by far the wealthiest candi-

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Register Green by Earth Day, April 22

If you are not already a registered Green, or if perhaps you changed Party preference to vote in the primary, please be sure to register Green! To remind yourself of this, resolve that you’ll register Green no later than by Earth Day (April 22). It’s important to let the corrupt “Corporate Parties” know that you don’t approve of their many policy failures and the unconscionable actions that they’ve taken, both recently as well as over the past decades. (Please also see the article, “The Business Party Syndicate,” which begins on this page).

In addition, please remember that all future elections until the Spring of 2024 will not be affected by your party registration status—all voters will receive the exact same ballots. (For example, as a registered Green, you can vote for any candidate this November, 2020, as well as in all of the 2022 elections). So for almost four full years, you can officially be counted as valuing the corporate-free politics of peace, justice and ecology. And by registering Green, you will also help us maintain our status as a “ballot-qualified” political party.

Postage-paid voter registration cards are available for free at most libraries and post offices. Or you can register online at: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. Please remember to register Green as soon as you can, or at least by Earth Day!

** 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 Guide online) instead of printed copies.

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

Thanks everyone!

The Business Party Syndicate

Each year leftist Democrats, Socialists and Radicals are asked to hold their noses and vote for the lesser-of-two-evils. This is a false choice because we live in a rigged One-Party state—a plutocracy run by the Business Party, a Syndicate with Democratic and Republican wings. “Syndicate” is the proper word for our corrupt One-Party system because there is no real choice—only the appearance of choice. We are onlookers cheering for the villain or the babyface in a pro-wrestling spectacle we call elections orchestrated by a complicit mass media. We must open our eyes to this facade for “the first revolutionary act is to call things by their true name.” (Rosa Luxemburg)

At both the state and national levels, the candidates offered up by the Syndicate are corporate-funded purveyors of empire whose primary loyalty is to the investor class that funds them. In fact, the only requirement the Syndicate makes on their candidates is that they are capable of raising massive amounts of money from corporations, or the corporate rich, to ensure they have the blessing of the investor class. There are no requirements on morality, voting record, or policy positions within the Business Party Syndicate. Mark Twain was correct when he wrote: “It could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctly native criminal class except Congress.” This corruption is as true today as it was 150 years ago. And the higher that one is elevated in the party wings of the Syndicate, the more fundraising dominates their time and focus. It is this process that transforms politicians (who might initially believe they can honestly represent the public) into marketers whose role is to convince the public that there is no alternative to the capitalist system or the policies written by corporate-funded think tanks. “Corruption is not an anomaly but an essential element in the functioning of managed democracy.” (Sheldon Wolin)

In addition to fundraising, rising in the Party Power Structure requires adherence to the status quo ideology of the Washington Consensus. To obtain backing in the Syndicate, candidates must first profess a belief in American mythology: that the U.S. is the “indispensable country”—a benevolent force where Americans are innocent in our hostilities, that capitalism is the only method for organizing an

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Alameda County Supervisor

District 1: Vinnie Bacon

District 4: Esther Goolsby

District 5: No Endorsement

A five-member Board of Supervisors (BOS), all of whom are elected on a non-partisan basis from separate districts where they live, governs Alameda County. The board directly oversees social programs for the poor and working poor, such as welfare, Medicaid, and food stamps. It also has nominal oversight over the Sheriff, District Attorney, and many other departments. Yet the supervisors, in reality, have little supervisory power, because, like many governmental bodies, the appointed county officers and employees run things with a county administrator who is in charge of the bureaucracy. Although the county government is supposedly the single largest employer within the geographic boundary of Oakland, few keep an eye on it or even really know what precisely are its responsibilities. Consequently, much of the BOS’s deliberations receive far less public scrutiny than the Oakland or Berkeley City Councils. Most of the time, the County BOS meeting room is empty, except for businesspeople who want money via contracts with the county. On extremely rare occasions, supervisors will speak on a specific item to explain why they are casting a no vote or abstaining on that particular item. The result is that almost no one knows what transpires at the county level. It gets worse when the supervisors chose among themselves to

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County Board of Education

Area 2 - Angela Normand

This district includes all of the City of Alameda and much of Oakland. There are two candidates, the incumbent, Amber Childress, and teacher activist Angela Normand. This race pits two women from largely opposing camps in the battle around public education.

Ms. Childress was first elected in 2016, upsetting the progressive Board member Marlon McWilson. Her position as a nonprofit manager positions her to function with the education establishment; despite the usual rhetoric around equity, she has done little to break from the current pro-corporate agenda for public education. She has not spoken out against cuts in programs and school closures in Oakland and did not oppose charter expansion there. She has generally been backed by ‘deformers’ such as GO Public Schools. She showed no support for the Oakland teachers in their recent strike and the Oakland Education Association actively opposes her reelection.

Normand has a background of serving in the military, then shifting to public education. She has trained as a special education teacher and worked with students with special needs, teaching in Brentwood for the last 13 years.

In addition, she currently serves on the CTA Board of Directors for the ALCOSTA region. Her policy views are much more progressive than her opponent’s. She regards outside state management, such as FCMAT, as an obstacle to democratic management of the schools. Likewise, she is very critical of the lobbying and pressure exerted by the California Charter School Association. She actively lobbied for the recent legislation (AB 1505 and AB 1507), which demanded greater charter school accountability, especially regarding fiscal impact on districts. She advocates for much greater funding for public schools and supports the upcoming “Schools and Communities” initiative to alter Prop. 13 to allow for a significant increase in corporate property

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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 6,000 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://acgreens.org>. (510) 644-2293

Albany and Berkeley Greens: We are working on a number of November candidate and ballot measure contests. For more information, please contact: acgreens1992@gmail.com or: (510) 644-2293

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: We are actively running local candidates in the November election. Please join us as soon as you possibly can. For additional info, see our website, <http://oaklandgreens.org> or telephone us: (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, Bill Balderston, Dale Baum, Paul Burton (page layout), Mandeep Gill, Greg Jan, Don Macleay, James McFadden, Debbie Notkin, Paul Rea, Justin Richardson, Michael Rubin, John Selawsky, Larry Shoup, Phoebe Sorgen, Kent Sparling, Joan Strasser, and Laura Wells.

Voter Guide Contributions

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

Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

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

Some races aren't on the ballot

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

In this Green Voter Guide some measures are endorsed as "Yes, with reservations." Often it's a good cause with bad funding such as bonds, parcel taxes, sales taxes, and other regressive taxes that tax the rich at lower rates than the rest of us. The good news is that voters will have a chance in the November 2020 election to make taxes more fair.

Prop 13 flattened property taxes in 1978 and started the "tax revolt" that swept the country and primarily benefited the super-rich. Prop 13 reform will be on the November ballot and Big Money will use misrepresentations, distortions, spins, and outright lies to persuade people to vote against the interests of current and future generations. It is very important now to start telling everyone you know in California, north and south, that it will not affect residential property at all, not homeowners, renters, second homes, not even luxury complexes owned by huge corporations, and it will help small businesses. The reform bill will remove corporate tax loopholes and start making big corporations pay their fair share for the first time in 40 years.

In 1992, fourteen years after Prop 13 passed, the Green Party achieved ballot status in California and we've been fighting for a fairer tax system ever since. Unfortunately,

neither supermajority Democrats nor minority Republicans have used their power to promote real solutions. For more information on how to increase our People Power vs. Money Power, please see <http://evolve-ca.org> or <http://schoolsandcommunitiesfirst.org>

Regressive methods of funding public services include the following.

BONDS have been sold to voters as "no new taxes" but should be called "spend now and make kids pay later, with interest." Super-rich individuals and corporations, instead of paying taxes, lend money to the government in the form of bonds, and get even richer with interest. Good news this past year is that Sacramento passed a bill to allow publicly owned banks, which will enable California to use its own capital to fund public projects, and then invest the interest back into the state and localities.

PROPERTY TAXES, before Prop 13 in 1978, came primarily from commercial properties, but now primarily from homes, currently 28 percent commercial and 72 percent residential. Homes are reassessed upon sale, whereas tax loopholes allow corporate properties to escape reassessment. November's Prop 13 reform will close the loopholes.

PARCEL TAXES are basically applied per property regardless of value, with small exemptions that are not nearly enough. Some residents of smaller properties now pay more in parcel taxes than they pay in basic property taxes.

SALES TAXES are another example of regressive taxes, and they incentivize governmental decisions in favor of shopping malls rather than needed affordable housing and open space.

"With reservations" we endorse funding when needed for vital services. This year, with Prop 13 reform on the ballot in November 2020, we can all educate and organize for fairer 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.

President, U.S. Congress, State Senate

Green Presidential Candidates

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He has already raised enough money to qualify for matching funds for New York and California. For more info, you can view the candidates' websites by clicking on their respective names, as displayed on the national Green Party website, at: <https://www.gp.org/2020?page=2>

Green Policies

Our world is increasingly on the verge of planetary catastrophe at the hands of a world capitalist class willing to snuff out millions of human lives to protect their profits and their system of endless capital accumulation. It is a plain fact that capital cannot function humanely because it is based on inequality and on the exploitation of people and ecosystems, an endlessly expansive system in contradiction with our finite earth. The capitalist path we are on is leading to massive ecological destruction, climate hell and a likely end to a livable planet for us humans. The Greens' answer to this unjust system must be to assert that an ecologically sustainable world is possible. This requires a comprehensive ecosocialist vision, stressing nature valued for itself, cooperative ownership and production for human need, full equality and democracy for all. Such an ecosocialist world of peace, equality, social justice and democracy would liberate humanity from the all devouring monster that is capital.

Among the Green presidential candidates only Howie Hawkins has fully articulated this ecosocialist vision. Hawkins' Green New Deal plan is by far the most fully developed. It solves many sustainability, democracy, equality, peace and social justice issues all at once. This plan consists of two major programs. The first is the Economic Bill of Rights. It includes a jobs and basic income guarantee, decent homes for all, comprehensive health care, free lifelong education and a secure retirement. The second is the Green Economy Reconstruction Program. The goal is to zero out greenhouse gas emissions and a 100 percent clean renewable energy system by 2030. Key aspects include social ownership of key sectors of the economy to be able to democratically plan the reconstruction of all sectors of the economy, including electric power production, zero waste manufacturing, regenerative agriculture, green buildings, peace conversion, and electrified transportation. The plan includes the creation of over 30 million good jobs with a just transition for those who will lose their jobs due to the need to transition out of the fossil fuel economy.

If implemented, Hawkins' program can save the people and the planet. It is available in full at Howie Hawkins' website (under "The Ecosocialist Green New Deal Budget") and projects spending about \$42 trillion over ten years, paid for with taxes on large corporations and the rich, revenues from publicly produced goods and services, a 75 percent cut in military spending and public borrowing. The major sacrifices will be made by the wealthy and the large corporations. Howie's plan is almost three times larger than Sanders GND program and over ten times larger than Warren's. Some will say that this is too expensive, Greens must answer that without an ambitious GND we will likely lose our planet's livability. After all, what are our own lives, the lives of our loved ones and the rest of humanity ultimately worth, together with other living beings?

Democrats and Republicans

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date for president in American history. With such wealth, Bloomberg can spend his way to vast influence, which he is busy doing, from media advertisements, to large donations to state and local party organizations, to paying high staff salaries, to giving funds to other political campaigns. Several other leading Democrat candidates are financially supported by a number of less wealthy billionaires, many of whom hedge their bets by giving to several candidates. Forbes magazine recently had a series of short articles covering this topic. Their research found that four of the leading candidates had at least 20 billionaires backing them with large donations. No surprise, these four are all part of the so-called "moderate" wing of the Democrats, all favoring mild reforms to basically preserve the status quo. As of late 2019, Cory Booker and Joe Biden had 45 and 44 billionaire donors respectively; Pete Buttigieg had 40 and Amy Klobuchar had 21. Obviously, the capitalist class likes the middle of the road, do not rock the boat politics of these four candidates. In sharp contrast, Elizabeth Warren had only three billionaire donors and Bernie Sanders had zero. One billionaire tried to donate to Sanders, who is funded by large numbers of small rank and file donations, but he refused to accept the billionaires' money. This illustrates the current sharp divide in the Democratic Party between the democratic socialist (favoring an upgrade of the 1932-1945 New Deal) politics of Sanders, and Warren's somewhat

less progressive stances (she states that she is not only not a socialist but is, as she puts it, "a capitalist to my bones") and the remainder of the party's candidates.

The above illustrates that only Bernie Sanders' campaign is worth covering more deeply here. The Green New Deal (GND) which the Green Party started talking about and organizing for over ten years ago, was, after a decade of refusal, partly adopted by some Democrats in 2018. Sanders has now become by far the leading advocate for a serious GND among the Democrats. Sanders' 48 page GND program specifies spending \$16.3 trillion over 10 years for everything related to transforming the U.S. economy into a sustainable one that reverses the ecology destroying path that the current focus on endless capital accumulation has put us on. The second biggest GND plan among the leading Democrats is Warren's at about \$4 trillion over 10 years.

Needless to say, the mainstream media has, in general, slighted Sanders in its coverage of his campaign, anyone paying close attention will notice this. The system has always been rigged against any democratic socialist running for president. The fact that Sanders' positions on the environment, health care, jobs, militarism and education are popular among the people at large should give Greens hope and inspiration that a better future is indeed possible. Sanders deserves credit for raising the level of dialogue to include both questions of class and socialism. Sanders is dividing the base of the Democratic Party from the conservative establishment of that party, Greens need to be prepared to take advantage of this new reality by aggressively advancing our own program. And of course, regardless of who ends up as the candidate, the Democratic Party will remain a party of war, imperialism and racist policies.

U.S. Representative, District 13 Boycott or Write In

Please boycott this race, or write in a name that will demonstrate your values.

When there is a candidate who is overwhelmingly favored to win, such as Barbara Lee, voting for them exerts no pressure at all on them, and condones their votes for war budgets, acceptance of corporate money, and lack of endorsement and support for important bills, initiatives, and movements. Every member of Congress needs maximum pressure to do everything they can to stop the foreign interventions and to start providing public services and a real democracy that inspires and empowers people to take part in our government.

Use your write-in vote to pressure for change. Write in someone who is telling or leaking the truths that we need to know, and who is organizing for a better world. The following is a list of possibilities—not everyone will agree about all of them but choose someone that furthers your values. Alphabetical by last name: Julian Assange, Jimmy Dore, Amy Goodman, Chelsea Manning, Abby Martin, and Ralph Nader.

Here are some factors that demonstrate that Barbara Lee needs our pressure, not our acquiescence.

In April 2019, Barbara Lee cast the deciding vote to advance from committee a budget that increased already-bloated military spending, instead of following the lead of other Democrats on the committee who voted against it, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Ilhan Omar.

In advance of the November 2020 election, Californians are organizing strongly for a ballot initiative to reform Prop 13 and turn around years of corporate tax loopholes, without affecting residential property taxes. The only U.S. Reps that are early endorsers of the effort are Ro Khanna and Karen Bass from California. Where are the others?

Over the years Lee has accepted money from corpora-

tions and PACs such as PG&E, Bayer, Lockheed Martin, General Motors, Google, JStreetPAC, and Microsoft.

Unlike the majority of her constituents in 2016, Lee did not support Bernie Sanders' no-corporate-money run for president, and her endorsed candidate for 2020 was Kamala Harris, not one of the more progressive candidates.

To learn more about Barbara Lee's elections, you may be interested in reading this report by a Green candidate who ran against her when Lee ran unopposed in the 2018 "Top Two" primary (<https://laurawells.org/running-against-barbara-lee-13-surprises-in-a-challenging-campaign/>.)

In summary, in the 18 years since Barbara Lee became a hero voting "No" to war after 9/11, her engaged progressive constituents have wished she would push faster and stronger on many vital issues. The problem is, she didn't have to. In this election, your decision to either boycott the election, or better yet, express your values through a write-in vote, will help to pressure Congress members, especially the most progressive ones, for they are the ones who set the upper limit of what regular people can expect from Washington.

State Senate, District 9 Write-in someone

Nancy Skinner is running unopposed for a second term in the California State Senate. Previously, she was a California State Assemblymember, and before that she served on the Berkeley City Council and the East Bay Regional Parks District Board.

She has sponsored and co-sponsored many bills. She recently won a judicial victory: the California appellate court, which upheld SB1437, a Skinner law mandating that a person cannot be charged with felony murder if they didn't actually kill someone and did not directly help the killer or behave with "reckless disregard for human life." Persons convicted under the old felony murder law can petition the court for re-sentencing. She also authored the law which opened up California's police misconduct records.

She did not answer the Green Party 2020 election questionnaire. In 2016, she supported single-payer health care, supported tuition reform (but not free tuition), and claimed she would be willing to author a bill introducing a state public bank. Instead though, she declined to be a primary author on AB 857, the successful bill defining the path for local public banks in California; however, she did co-author the bill and voted in favor.

In 2019, she was the primary author of 10 bills, including ones relating to housing, criminal justice, a single-use plastics ban, and the high-profile new law providing more opportunities for college athletes to earn money.

Unfortunately, Skinner has not been very good on local Berkeley land use issues, especially regarding downtown development. She also supported a telecom industry backed bill in 2017, SB 649, which would have stripped control from local communities to determine wireless facility placement. Fortunately, hundreds of California cities opposed the bill, and at the last minute, the Governor decided to veto it. And she's also accepted a lot of corporate campaign donations, including from companies such as: Verizon, T-Mobile, Pfizer, AT&T, General Motors, Blue Shield, Clorox, Google, Facebook, and PG&E.

We recommend that you write-in the name of someone who doesn't take corporate money, who speaks truth to power, and who is working to change this corrupt system. For example, most any Green Party candidate who has run for any office during the past decade is on our website at: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides/>. Click on PDF under the Green Voter Guide logo to view the full issue).

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State Assembly, District 15

Sara Brink, with qualifications

The race for Assembly District 15, covering Berkeley, Albany, part of Oakland (20 percent) and portions of Contra Costa County is particularly interesting. There are three candidates, all female, representing three distinct perspectives.

To begin with the easiest to summarize, there is the Republican candidate, Jeanne Solnordal. She, along with her husband, are real estate brokers/business owners. Her views represent the usual GOP line in California. She opposes any alteration in 1978's Prop 13, including the current Schools and Communities Initiative. She calls for a moratorium on any tax increase to protect the rich from any other progressive taxation proposals. Her views around homelessness fit in with more development (generally at market rate); while advocating a 10 percent pay increase in all teachers' salaries (though they are uneven at best statewide), she calls for expansion of charters schools as a key proposal. Enough said.

The incumbent is Buffy Wicks, first elected in 2018. Though born in California, she only returned to the state in 2016, after a long absence for college and working in D.C. Although she had/had some progressive background including anti-war and labor organizing, and is very supportive of LGBTQ issues, she is the most conventional of California Democrats. She moved up the party's ladder, including being Rahm Emanuel's campaign manager in 2010, gaining most renown organizing "community contacts" in the 2008 Obama campaign. She continued being involved in his administration, moving on to be a key organizer in the Hillary Clinton campaign in 2016.

Wicks's campaign in 2018 for Assembly was most telling. She ran against a large field, many to her left, having a runoff against notable community activist Jovanka Beckles on the Richmond city council and a member of the Richmond Progressive Alliance and DSA. Often using smear tactics and outspending Beckles 4 to 1 with a \$1.5 million war chest, only 10 percent of which came from district residents and over three quarters of her contributions of \$1000 or above, including from Trump/DeVos supporters and from the California Charter School Association, Wicks won 56 percent to 44 percent. Her time in Sacramento reflects a current "mainstream" Democratic agenda.

Her three priorities are housing (especially related to transit), public education (including charters) and universal/single-payer health care. She has co-sponsored many bills relating to community colleges, Native American rights and other issues of concern to people of color, reproductive rights, et al. She did vote for AB 5 and the public banks bill. She has a 100 percent rating from the Sierra Club for 2019 and only a 20 percent rating from the state Chamber of Commerce lobby. Wicks has liberal credentials tied to corporate friends and donors. It is safe to say she is someone being groomed by the DNC for higher positions.

The last candidate is quite curious. Her name is Sara Brink. She identifies as a filmmaker, which relates to her entrance in the race. She is running not only to champion a broad, radical protest agenda, but as someone making a film about people working a full time job, while running for office. In short, her campaign is a project in participatory art and she sees other artists as a key constituency.

Sara responded to our questionnaire, unlike the other candidates. She is outraged by the inequality in society, as reflected in corporate domination of politics, as evidenced in Wicks' donors and big money campaign. She believes virtually all basic necessities, such as housing, transportation, and food, are human rights, and should "not be tied to employment status." This includes health care and she strongly supports single payer, and is for legalizing virtually all drugs. Brink also believes housing should be free. On the environmental front, she advocates for abolishing extractive industries. She sees this issue linked to Native American rights and the restoration of their tribal lands. Likewise, she sees democratic/civil rights interwoven with all the other issues mentioned. Thus, she sees police reform/violence as linked to living in a "police state." She is for delinking public education from a corporate agenda and favors a public bank.

Sara notes that she may not be seen as "serious" since she does not have specifics on implementation, but she is motivated by "dignity and urgency." She generally advocates for left/independent politics (she is listed as No Party Preference), including, but not limited to the Greens. She calls for a party that is "pro youth, pro Black, pro-LGBTQ."

It is hard to disagree with Ms. Brink's program and vision; thus we advocate an endorsement, with a qualification, since she clearly wishes this campaign to be a protest and not one to have a strategic/organizational structure. We can help with electronic media, which she prefers, and other means, to show support.

State Assembly, District 18

No Endorsement

Assembly District 18 covers all of Alameda, and most of Oakland and San Leandro. Incumbent Rob Bonta was first elected in 2012. It is hard to refer to this as a contest, since Bonta has won by over 85 percent in his last three election cycles. His opponent is Stephen Slauson, who also ran in 2018; should Slauson reach the 20 percent level, it would be miraculous. What makes this race of interest is that Bonta is a rising star in the left-liberal wing of the California Democratic Party.

Only a few words on Slauson. This GOP retread has never held elected office and has a self-financed campaign. The one policy position of note is his rejection of rent control, which is a major source of controversy in Alameda, where he (and Bonta) both reside.

Rob Bonta has a background. While having attended Yale (and Yale Law School), he is the offspring of parents who were both labor organizers (with the United Farm Workers). He served on the Alameda city council (his wife now sits on the town's school board) and had been seen as being closely connected with local developers; in fact, this was the cause of a recall effort later which failed. Despite this corporate shadow, Bonta has been seen as a significant voice for the left-liberal wing of the party. Besides supporting the usual bills acknowledging varied ethnic/immigrant cultures (he is the first Filipino-American to serve in the California Assembly), he has a fairly strong civil rights record, including sponsoring a number of bills addressing LGBTQ issues. Likewise, he has supported legislation supporting community colleges and is generally perceived as a backer of public education versus the privatizers. Yet last year, he and other local Democrats, including Tony Thurmond, while getting involved in the Oakland teachers strike (partly at the behest of the California Teachers Association) pressured Oakland's teachers union (the OEA) to settle short of many key goals -- around support staff, greater reduction in class size, and critically, school closures. Bonta also has strong links, with support from the Labor Federation, and many key public sector unions (SEIU, CTA and CFT). Not surprisingly he has sponsored legislation to help low income workers, such as those in the food industry.

But the two key themes which have gained Bonta renown are prison/criminal justice reform and environmental justice. As to the former, when we last reviewed his record, for the 2018 election, we focused on his role as principal Assembly sponsor for SB 10 which eliminated money bail in the state; there was considerable controversy around it, due to amendments on post-release restrictions which impact many poor people-of-color arrestees. Last

session, he co-authored a bill phasing out private prisons in California, a key issue for undocumented immigrants. The law is currently being challenged by GEO, a major force in the world of prison privatizers. Regarding environmental/climate change matters, he has been active in campaigns around environmental questions such as "No Coal in Oakland" and a major reduction in carbon output in California. Now, as this article is being written, Bonta is in the news around policy and legislation to create a California Green New Deal, linking climate change policy with public housing, affordable housing and universal health care/single payer.

All this said, Bonta is still joined at the hip to the Democratic Party establishment. While we can agree and give (often critical) support to some important legislation he proposes, we must not see him as an advocate for, or leading, a needed insurgency in the Democratic Party, not even of the Bernie Sanders variety. For this reason, it is impossible to endorse Bonta, or his GOP opponent.

Superior Court Judge, Office #2

Elena Condes

Mark Fickes, with reservations

There are three candidates running for the Alameda County Superior Court seat currently held by Carol Brosnahan, a long-serving and highly respected judge. The three candidates are Elena Condes, Mark Fickes and Lilla Szelenyi. All three have significant legal experience, and any of the three would contribute to diversity on the bench, with one being a Latina lesbian (Condes), one a gay Jewish man (Fickes) and one an immigrant (Szelenyi). All three responded to the Green Party questionnaire. Based on their answers to the questionnaire and information on their campaign websites, we give an edge to Condes, with Fickes a strong second.

Elena Condes has 25 years of experience as a criminal defense attorney, and has been an active participant in the community, particularly on education issues. Condes also has an impressively long list of endorsements, including that of Judge Brosnahan. While Condes does not have much diversity of legal experience, her criminal law background means that she has spent a significant amount of time in court, and criminal cases are a major and important part of a judge's workload. Condes provided detailed and thoughtful answers to our questionnaire. There is no question that she is qualified to be a judge, she has a strong progressive background, and the endorsement of Judge Brosnahan is a plus.

Mark Fickes has a broad diversity of legal experience, including criminal prosecution and defense, private practice and working for the Securities and Exchange Commission. He has been an attorney for over 20 years, and his list of endorsements is also impressive and almost as long as that of Condes. While his background appears to be less consistently progressive than that of Condes, he also has significant court experience, and his breadth of experience is potentially valuable, as judges hear more than just criminal cases. Fickes provided detailed and thoughtful answers to our questionnaire. Again, there is no question that Fickes is qualified to be a judge.

Lilla Szelenyi has been a practicing attorney since 1990, and has been an Administrative Law Judge since 2005, so she also has significant legal experience. Unfortunately, all of her experience is in the area of workers' compensation. She appears to have little or no experience in criminal or civil litigation of the sort she would be presiding over in Superior Court, and from the information she has provided it is not clear if she has even appeared in Superior Court (and if she has, it was not recently). She has a very short list of endorsements, and her answers to the questionnaire were brief and oddly vague. Based on the information available to us, we cannot endorse Szelenyi.



HELP WANTED
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**FOR OUR
FALL VOTER GUIDE**

Writing Election Analysis
 Phone Calls Distribution

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

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

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

**If you can help with any of the above tasks,
please contact us at: (510) 644-2293 or
agreens1992@gmail.com**

Proposition 13 - NO **Bonds for Education Facilities**

The opposition to this measure is not simply our general reservations about such pro-banking, regressive means of raising funds; we have given critical support to such measures if the funds were spent for important social needs, with no identified hidden agenda involved. However, in this case such a not-so-subtle poison pill is present. This initiative is the offspring of Prop. 51, passed in 2016. We opposed that proposition which was also for building/repairing of education facilities, even though it focused on K-12 districts of highest need as well as community colleges and career technical schools.

The key problem with 51 and now with 13 is the restriction on any fees being placed on developers for all the infrastructure which accompany these facility projects, benefiting real estate interests (and their profits), at no costs to them. It is not an accident that the measure was largely initiated and funded by real estate and construction firms.

Massive funds are involved: \$9 billion for K-12, \$4 billion for universities, and \$2 billion for community colleges. Another negative is that this proposition, like Prop. 51, provides substantial funds for charter schools (\$500 million).

Politically the measure is backed by Governor Newsom and much of the Democratic Party centrist establishment. The two main teacher unions, CTA and CFT, are largely sitting this out, their main efforts being focused on the Schools and Communities initiative (to reform 1978's Prop 13), scheduled for this November's ballot.

County Measure C **Health and Child Care Sales Tax** **No endorsement**

There is a child care and early education crisis in Alameda County that deserves our attention, however, we strongly would prefer if this measure did not have funding in the form of a regressive sales tax, as well as convoluted management.

The crisis is twofold. Early educators' (including staff) pay has not kept up with the rising cost of living and affordable childcare is out of reach for working and middle-class families.

However, the sales tax approach to this important issue disproportionately taxes the very people the measure intends to help and who need this assistance the most. Communities in need will be paying a larger percentage of their income in sales taxes than higher-income groups.

A second concern is the two-step management with First Five as a contractor, and a civilian oversight committee. What we really need is oversight of the entire Alameda County budget in a global and organized manner. The single fund oversight committees have not been effective and are normally bogged down with busywork. Having fund specific management adds to confusion. Funds should be allocated to the departments who already have the child welfare job, avoiding the duplication of management and the whole of each department should have effective audit and oversight.

Back in 2018 the Green Party of Alameda County reached out to County Supervisors to express our concerns about the regressive sales tax on the first version of this measure before the wording was finalized, but we received no response. Although we definitely want children to have access to high quality services they desperately need in the early stages of life, it is also simply unjust to fund these services via a regressive sales tax. Therefore, we are not making an endorsement on this measure.



Albany Measure B **School Parcel Tax** **Yes, with reservations**

Albany's Measure B is an extension of Measure LL, approved by Albany voters in 2014, and which expires on June 30, 2021. The measure imposes an education parcel tax for six years beginning on July 1, 2021, at the rate of \$448 on each taxable parcel of real property within the District, and will raise \$2.2 million per year. The measure includes provisions for exemptions and rebates for seniors and those on fixed incomes. The measure has clear language about the uses of funds raised, and good accountability and accounting provisions.

The Green Party position is generally that flat parcel taxes are regressive, in that they impose the same tax on each parcel regardless of the difference in parcel values, and are therefore unfair to people with lesser-valued properties, who are taxed at the same rate as those with higher-value properties. However, it can be broadly argued that all property owners in Albany benefit from the value that the Albany Unified School District creates; the quality of education in Albany makes the community desirable for families with children in the public school system, thereby increasing property values of all homes in Albany.

There is no question that the loss of funds, should the existing Measure LL funding expire without being extended, would be detrimental to the District, its employees and its students. Teacher and administrative positions would be lost, and programs and classes would have to be cut. This diminishes the community as a whole.

It's our view that this parcel tax is an equitable solution to continuing to fund valuable education services within Albany, and that the oversight and exemption provisions make it a fair measure. Since the State of California seems unable to properly fund education, it does fall upon local communities to do what they can to keep their programs and staff active and thriving, and there is little question that Albany should continue to support a strong School District. We therefore recommend a YES vote for Measure B.

Berkeley Measure E **Teacher Salaries Parcel Tax** **YES, with reservations**

Berkeley Measure G **School Facilities Bond** **YES, with bond reservations**

Berkeley Measure H **Maintenance and Classified Staff Parcel Tax** **YES, with reservations**

On the face of it, putting three measures on the ballot by BUSD seems excessive. However, because of chronic historical and CURRENT state funding for education, the apparent overreach is justified.

Berkeley, like many Bay Area communities, faces a dire situation with attracting and keeping teachers. Housing costs are through the roof (ha, ha) and the cost of living is high. Classified staff face additional financial burdens...though classified are paid a living wage, their proportional kick-in for health benefits hurts. We've created communities where our day-to-day workers can't afford to live in Berkeley, compounding car use and BART capacity issues.

There's no quick out for this situation. But teachers and maintenance/food/clerical staff deserve higher pay, and BUSD has to offer competitive wages to attract quality people. Add to that 11 elementary schools, three middle schools, one large comprehensive high school which is the envy of neighboring communities, one smaller programmatic high school, and a vibrant adult school that all need general maintenance and regular systems replacement and BUSD's needs are enormous and legitimate.

Measure E is a parcel tax the proceeds of which will help fund teacher salaries, Measure G is a large bond measure for general and on-going facility upgrades, renovations, and replacement, and Measure H is a parcel tax funding on-going maintenance and classified salaries. All include provisions for citizen oversight committees.

Vote yes on Measures E, G, and H

Emeryville Measure F **Services Sales Tax** **YES, with Reservations**

The Emeryville City Council has put Measure F on the ballot, which if approved by 66.7 percent of voters, would levy a quarter cent sales tax on sales in Emeryville, raising approximately \$2 million annually which would be used for hiring police, maintaining police, fire and emergency services and funding the Emeryville Child Development Center. All funds will stay in Emeryville, and food and medicine are exempt from the tax. Emeryville has the most progressive city council ever elected in the city, and we want to support their request. We have three reservations. Although this is a small tax, all sales taxes are regressive, thus the Green Party does not approve sales taxes without reservations. This tax has no sunset, and another measure will have to be approved by the voters in order for the ordinance to expire. The measure does not specify percentages of the tax to be allocated to each purpose proposed. We would like to see a large portion of the money allocated to the Emeryville Child Development Center, but suspect that only much pressure from the electorate would influence the City Council to spend a significant portion of the money raised on the ECDC.

Emeryville Measure K **Education Parcel Tax** **YES, with Reservations**

This parcel tax of 12 cents per square foot would take effect in July, 2020, and continue for nine years; it is anticipated to raise \$1,800,000 annually for the Emeryville Unified School District. A parcel tax of 15 cents per square foot, passed by a measure in 2014, has almost identical wording to the present Measure K, and will continue in effect until June 30, 2037. Parcel taxes do not take into account the value of a property. Therefore, we do not recommend "Yes" on a parcel tax without reservations. In addition, these measures have stated in very general wording that parcel tax money will be spent on teacher recruitment and retention, enrichment of curriculum, after school programs and teacher pay for after school programs.

The Emeryville Unified School District (EUSD) has not been stable during the past decade. There have been several turnovers in superintendents, principals, high turnover in teachers, and a variety of people have served on the school board. In addition, the Oversight Committee, which is specified in these measures as responsible for overseeing that monies are spent as specified by the measures, has an advisory, but not a decision making role. Money can be, and may have been misspent, used to fix budget deficits and to hire expensive consultants. More information regarding these allegations may be posted on our website (<http://acgreens.org>) as we receive additional information.

Although the measures have consistently stated that administrators could not be paid from these funds, additional administrators have been hired from other funding sources, who might not have been hired had money collected from the parcel tax not been available for other purposes. The possible problems of the past as stated constitute additional reasons we cannot recommend a yes vote on Measure K without reservations. However, much has changed in the EUSD over the past two years. The present superintendent appears to have wide support of the school board, principals, and teachers, the union is under new leadership, there has been greater stability in teaching staff from last to this school year than there was between the previous two years, and teachers appear to be supportive of all three principals. We would like to be assured that parcel tax money will go to the teachers and classrooms, for teacher pay for running after school programs, and for additional pay for experienced teachers in the next union negotiation two years from now. Unfortunately, these items are not specified in the measure, thus there is no guarantee that the parcel tax will be spent as we would like. We will have to put our faith in the present school board, a hopefully newly strengthened union, and a new well liked superintendent.



Local Measures

Oakland Measure Q Parcel Tax for Park Maintenance and Homeless Services YES, with Reservations

Great cause, bad funding. Please vote YES on this parks measure, AND work to make taxes more fair in the future. This "future focus" will help undo 40 years of regressive taxation, which means rich individuals and corporations are taxed at lower rates than the rest of us. Regressive taxes include parcel taxes such as this measure, and sales taxes, as well as increased fees for college tuition, traffic fines, parking, and parks. We can organize now to pass tax reform in November 2020. See the article on page two of this publication, "Taxes and Bonds: TAX THE RICH not just the rest of us."

Measure Q will help unhoused individuals find shelters and housing, and help to ensure that all Oakland parks, waterways, and recreation centers are clean, safe, and equitably well-maintained. Oakland's parks and recreation centers host after-school programs, arts instruction, community meetings, senior events, and a variety of sports and other activities. Use of the park services has grown tremendously, but the investment required to keep these areas clean and to protect our water supply has not increased. The funds

from Measure Q will be allocated roughly 2/3 to parks and 1/3 to the homelessness crisis.

This parcel tax is \$148 per year per single-family parcel, and \$101.08 for multiple-residential-units. Commercial property is based on calculating how many single-family residential unit equivalents the property represents based on size. There are exemptions built into the bill for low income and for seniors. A parcel tax measure requires a 2/3 majority.

In summary, we endorse voting YES on Oakland's Measure Q in March, and we endorse spreading the word that November's Prop 13 reform will not affect residential property at all, but will close corporate tax loopholes. This process will help us get good parks now, and good tax reform in the future.

Oakland Measure R - YES Official Newspaper(s)

The City of Oakland relies on newspapers to publish legal and other notices of important public matters. The City Charter contains outdated language requiring a designated newspaper to be printed and published within the city and to have a daily circulation of 25,000. Since 2016, this situation no longer exists. Because the city charter contains

this requirement, a vote of Oakland residents is necessary to update the city's "newspaper of record" circulation requirements. This measure will allow the Oakland City Council to designate a newspaper or newspapers as the official newspaper(s) of the City of Oakland for the purpose of publishing legal and other notices of matters where publication is required by the city charter or by other laws. No opposition argument to Measure R was submitted and we could not otherwise find any arguments against it either. Vote "Yes."

Oakland Measure S - YES Increase Appropriations Limit

Every four years, the State of California requires cities to ask voters' permission to spend tax revenue it is already collecting. Funding measures for such things as emergency medical services, libraries, homeless services, etc., has already been previously approved by the Oakland voters. But in order to continue collecting and spending these funds, we need to vote YES on Measure S. This measure is not a new tax and it does not increase taxes. If Measure S does not pass, the City will lose millions of dollars of already approved tax revenue -- forcing drastic cuts in city services. Vote YES on Measure S.

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Oakland Greens

The Oakland Greens are a local subgroup of the Green Party of Alameda County committed to a just and sustainable Oakland.

We emphasize the need for a new system of preventing and addressing crime, with a focus on increasing opportunities for education and employment so that residents are not driven to crime out of desperation.

We run candidates in local elections as we also advocate that our local voting process must also be extensively reformed so that the voices of all residents are heard.

Join us at a monthly meeting and/or our monthly dinner and movie night

Contact@oaklandgreens.org (510) 436-3722




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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.



Join Action 2020 and Fight for Oakland Schools

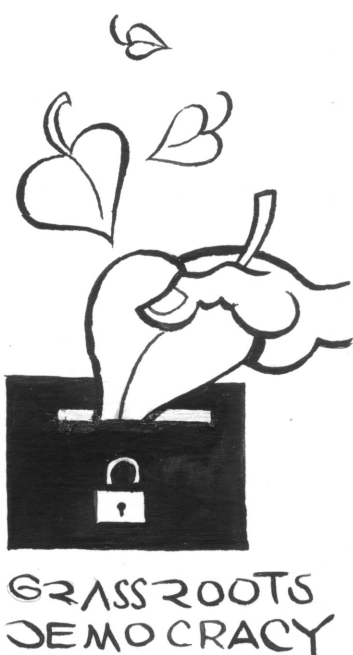
*In November of 2020
four of the seven school board seats in Oakland
will be up for a vote.*

Action 2020 is a group of parents, teachers and residents who want an Oakland School Board majority that is in favor of public, community schools, and wants to keep our neighborhood schools open.

We want responsible, audited budgeting done in public.
We also want an end to the charter movement running the public schools.

The members are from different political affiliations, united around these goals and building up support for candidates who share these same values and commitments.

<https://www.action2020oakland.org/> 510 402-5021
oaklandpublicschoolaction2020@gmail.com



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).

County Offices

Alameda County Supervisor

continued from page 1

appoint themselves to as many as a dozen other regional agencies, such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Very few know what happens at those agencies or who is responsible for decisions made by them. The agency administrative heads deflect inquiries with explanations such as, “Well, the board members are mostly elected officials from other jurisdictions.” As a group, the supervisors have a record of always voting for regressive taxes (sales/property), while rarely refusing anything that Sheriff Greg Ahern wants, such as more funding for the tainted operations of his deputies and for those in charge of the troubled Santa Rita Jail.

We need dedicated citizens to keep a watchful eye on each county agency, provide agenda/information links, a brief paragraph synopsis of certain important issues, and tally the votes on a website dedicated to “our” government. The press has not done it and will not do it. The folding of the Tribune into the other Bay Area News Group papers makes an already bad situation even worse. At least the East Bay Express recently reminded its readers that this March ballot could bring about the desirable oversight of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff Ahern’s biggest supporters on the board have been Nate Miley and Scott Haggerty. Thus, the marquee races are arguably in District 1 and 4: With Haggerty’s declination to seek re-election in District 1, the wide-open race includes Fremont Councilmember Vinnie Bacon, District 10 State Senator Bob Wieckowski, Dublin Mayor David Haubert, and Dublin Vice Mayor Melissa Hernandez. In District 4 Miley faces Esther Goolsby, a community activist with the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE) and Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), East Oakland. In District 5 Supervisor Keith Carson, whose district includes Berkeley and North Oakland, is facing a challenge to his re-election from Albany Councilmember Nick Pilch.

District 1: Vinnie Bacon

Along with knowing their histories, after reading through the questionnaires we received back from two of the candidates running, Vinnie Bacon and Bob Wieckowski, our initial impression is that they are both strong and progressive public advocates. Bacon and Wieckowski cover much of the same ground in caring about climate change, affordable housing, better transit options, and addressing homelessness in their responses.

The key difference is that Bacon has never taken any corporate money, and has only accepted donations from individuals. He was also a Green party member earlier in his career (*and* quotes Carl Sagan’s *Cosmos* as the first place he learned about the significance of climate change). Further, Bacon is a former Sierra Club activist and has been stellar on the Fremont City Council, championing issues such as saving Coyote Hills park, promoting affordable housing along the BART corridor, and opposing the oil trains planned to run through the East Bay.

On the other hand, Wieckowski has extremely valuable state-level experience, and some strong environmental values. He will be able to interact with state legislators and staff in likely useful ways on myriad issues because of his time in the Capitol. He has also explicitly stated he has not and will not take money from PG&E, which is an organization that continually works in Sacramento against the interests of the residents of California.

Further, from the available public information, we did not find anything about the two other candidates who are running (who did not return their questionnaires) which

warranted us giving either of them further consideration.

We’ll conclude by giving our endorsement to Bacon, but believe that Wieckowski will be a worthy public servant as well, if he wins the race.

District 4: Esther Goolsby

Alameda County’s Fourth Supervisor District includes portions of Oakland, from Montclair in the north to Oracle Arena and the Coliseum area in the south, and the communities of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, El Portal Ridge, Fairmount Terrace, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and Pleasanton. Nate Miley has represented the district since 2000, and he is now up for re-election for his 6th term. Although he has done good things in areas of health, education, and welfare for the county, he has become far too comfortable with the status quo. He has alienated progressives with his disapproval of efforts to adopt ranked-choice voting for the county, obstruction of the movement to audit Sheriff Ahern’s department to create greater transparency on how the money is being spent, and opposition, albeit unsuccessful, to the Stop Urban Shield coalition. Although the state legislature through AB 857 created a firm foundation for establishing public banks, Miley is not ready to make Alameda County a founding member, participant in, and part owner of the Public Bank of the East Bay. Many progressive groups fear, that when Miley suggests a project, such as in this case, “is worth exploring,” it means that he will need to consult with his large corporate donors to learn what position to take, complete with talking points why such action poses so many risks and problems. Perhaps the greatest disappointment with Miley has arisen in East Oakland where the particulates in the air—from the A.B.&I. foundry combined with the smoke from the local crematorium, plus the exhaust from the tailpipes of cars and diesel trucks—cause a child of color born in these flatlands to live, on average, about a dozen years less than a white child in the more affluent hills. Miley often mentions that not a single polluting occurrence listed above is against the law. His remedy, again in this case, is to tout his “Illegal Dumping Pilot” to beautify the area by collaborating with “Trees for Oakland” and with “a robust network of local businesses and community groups,” to plant trees along Railroad Avenue. When the “local businesses” happen to include three polluters (Aaron Metals, Argent Materials, and A.B.&I.), the reaction of his constituents has been more cynical than appreciative.

The bottom-line is that the argument for Esther Goolsby goes beyond the fact that her election would guarantee a change in the dynamics of the BOS and shift it to the progressive left. Whereas Miley would continue to be an entrenched standpatter, she will be an agent for change. Goolsby understands that the climate crisis and environmental injustice demand building the resilience of frontline communities for a just and revolutionary transition away from nineteenth century industries and towards a regenerative Green New Deal economy complete with a public bank to give taxpayers control of their own money. Electing Goolsby will make the switch a reality.

Employed for the past three years with Communities for a Better Environment as the East Oakland staff organizer, Goolsby has lived in East Oakland for over forty years and for the past decade as a self-described “Advocate, Activist, and Freedom Fighter.” Over the years, she has volunteered many hours doing work for local organizations and county initiatives, and has worked with the HOPE (Health for Oakland People and Environment) collaborative, the Acta Non Verba Youth Urban Farm Project board, and currently with the REAL Peoples Fund. She is also one of the Anchor Owners of People Power Solar Cooperative, one of the

first-ever residential-owned solar cooperatives in the United States. Her website is <http://www.Goolsby4District4.net> Vote for Esther Goolsby for District 4 County Supervisor.

District 5: No Endorsement

Incumbent supervisor Keith Carson has held the seat since 1992 and for the first time in over two decades is facing a contested race. Challenger Nick Pilch currently serves as Mayor of Albany. The District 5 County Supervisor represents the most consistently radical part of Alameda County, including Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and North and West Oakland.

Our local elected officials need to be pushing hard for the major changes we need to move society in a more positive and progressive direction. Both candidates have the experience to do a reasonably good job performing the duties of the office and are able to recognize areas where change is most needed in county government programs and policies. Still, judging from their answers to our questionnaire both have a tendency to hedge their bets rather than lead the way on many key issues.

Both candidates listed housing and homelessness among the most critical problems facing Alameda County. We asked if they would advocate for providing either affordable housing units or tiny homes for every homeless person in Alameda County. Carson observes, “there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to housing” and he has been working to make funds available through existing County and State programs while “prioritizing prevention and anti-displacement efforts.” Pilch is still gathering ideas on the topic and watching for local solutions, here and elsewhere, and wants to “monitor the costs and outcomes” of various models. Hopefully both candidates can swiftly move beyond status quo and good intentions to call for radical short-term and long-term approaches that match the urgency of this increasingly dire crisis in our communities.

Regarding the state-mandated (but administered and funded by Alameda County) General Assistance program, both men acknowledge current funding levels are too low but failed to articulate a vision for how we might increase funding. Following the 2008 recession Carson had sought ways to “maximize the programming and keep it sustainable” by helping people make use of other benefits such as SSI, SNAP, MediCal, VA, CalWORKs and housing programs. Pilch indicated it would be important to work with state legislators to both “stop any decreases in funding and to increase funding.”

Creating a Public Bank of the East Bay would be one way to generate and reinvest local funds that are otherwise paid to Wall Street banks in the form of fees and charges. The foundation for doing so was recently established by the State legislature through AB 857. Both candidates expressed support for the concept of a public bank, yet, neither candidate stated a willingness at this time to introduce or co-sponsor legislation to make Alameda County a founding member, participant in and part owner of the Public Bank of the East Bay. Carson let us know he previously provided a letter of support to the Public Bank East Bay Interim Board. Pilch stated he would cautiously and seriously consider the idea “if we have local models to use.”

For the reasons cited above, we are not able to give either Carson or Pilch our endorsement, and we will be watching to see if the winner of the contest can transform himself to become a proactive leader, which we so sorely need in these increasingly difficult times. See candidates’ completed questionnaires for additional information.

County Board of Education

continued from page 1

taxation, providing billions for education and other public services. She has been endorsed by the Oakland Education Association, the Alameda Education Association, and Rob and Mia Bonta, among many others.

Area 5 - No Endorsement

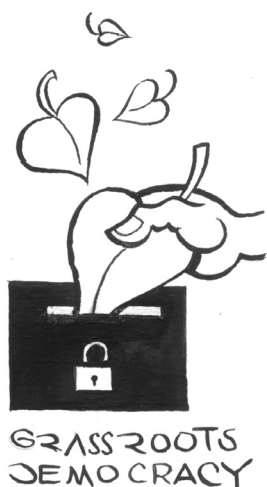
Area 5 of the Alameda County Board of Education is the only district besides Area 2 with a contested race, with Ken Berwick (Area 3) and Eileen McDonald (Area 6) running unopposed (thus, neither Berwick nor McDonald will appear on the ballot). The current Area 5 trustee, Fred Sims, is retiring, and three candidates are seeking to replace him.

The district is centered in Hayward and two candidates have ties to the Hayward School Board, Lisa Brunner, who lost her seat, and Luis Reynoso, who is, at present, on that

body. The final candidate, Janevete Cole, is an educator/parent active in the district.

Two of the candidates, Ms Brunner and Ms Cole, returned our questionnaire. Neither seemed especially insightful on fiscal matters, though they supported expanded funding such as a parcel tax, but did not reference major progressive taxation, nor did they show insight into the Local Control Funding Formula. Both seemed rather neutral on charter schools, though seeking greater accountability. Neither have any creative proposals around students with special needs.

With no questionnaire from Mr Reynoso, and no knowledge of his track record on the local board, it is impossible to pass judgement. Thus, we are not endorsing in this race.



Special Article

The Business Party Syndicate

continued from page 1

economy, that free markets and free trade function without government help and benefit all, that inequality is a natural state in a meritocracy, and that growth is necessary. One must also show fealty to the Pentagon and arms industry, to the financial interests of Wall Street, and to multinational corporate interests. Martin Luther King Jr. saw it clearly: “It means ultimately coming to see that the problem of racism, the problem of economic exploitation, and the problem of war are all tied together. These are the triple evils that are interrelated.”

Fealty to the Syndicate translates to support for endless wars, oil subsidies, bank bailouts, free trade agreements, environmental exploitation, and coups against any country that fails to embrace neoliberal ideology. This fealty also translates to lower wages, increased health care costs, poorer schools, soaring housing costs, growing homelessness, and massive student debt. It doesn’t matter which wing of the Syndicate the candidate chooses to join, they must embrace the core mythology designed to maximize corporate profits. And “if voting made any difference, they’d make it illegal.” (Emma Goldman)

The continued lesser-of-two-evils voting by the Left has facilitated 50 years of neoliberal policies that have created the highest level of wealth inequality that the U.S. has ever seen, and a series of endless wars instigated and perpetuated by both wings of the Syndicate. Einstein stated, “Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” So why do Leftists continue to behave in this manner? Have we forgotten that “he who chooses for the lesser evil all too readily forgets having chosen evil.” (Hannah Arendt) Why do we continue to vote for false-choice candidates that move us farther and farther into a hegemonic empire of bases occupying the world? To answer this question, and envision a path forward, we must first understand the history and nature of the corruption and then ask what can be done differently.

We begin by acknowledging that U.S. representative government was designed by the founding fathers to ensure that the wealthy, slave-owning men controlled the State. James Madison wrote “Landholders ought to have a share in the government, to support these invaluable interests, and to balance and check the other. They ought to be so constituted as to protect the minority of the opulent against the majority. The senate, therefore, ought to be this body; and to answer these purposes, they ought to have permanency and stability.” Representative government was never designed to be democratic—it was purposely designed to be anti-democratic in order to partner with property owners and assist their crimes of asset theft—primarily through slavery and land stolen from indigenous nations.

Early on, the mythology of white supremacy and patriarchy were intertwined with our other mythologies of capitalism, meritocracy and rugged individualism to hide this immoral theft—this piracy. Together these myths act as a social glue that justifies the inequalities apparent throughout society. This mythology still blinds most Whites to various forms of institutional racism/sexism—racialized mass incarceration and objectification of women being the most obvious. “Understanding the foundation of capitalism requires a consideration of ‘the hidden abode of race’: the ontological distinction between superior and inferior humans—codified as race—that was necessary for slavery, colonialism, the theft of lands in the Americas, and genocide.” (Michael C. Dawson). Racism, misogyny, and impoverishment are the nature of our capitalist system. Neoliberal mythology developed over the last 50 years is just the latest form of propaganda used to justify a system that uses sexist and racist oppression to control and rob us of our labor, our assets, and our dignity.

But this early system of government designed to partner with slavery and enchattelment of women has evolved into a system designed to partner with corporations: “Representative institutions no longer represent voters. Instead, they have been short-circuited, steadily corrupted by an institutionalized system of bribery that renders them responsive to powerful interest groups whose constituencies are the major corporations and wealthiest Americans. The courts, in turn, when they are not increasingly handmaidens of corporate power, are consistently deferential to the claims of national security. Elections have become heavily subsidized non-events that typically attract at best merely half of an electorate whose information about foreign and domestic politics is filtered through corporate-dominated media. Citizens are manipulated into a nervous state by the media’s reports of rampant crime and terrorist networks, by thinly veiled threats of the Attorney General and by their own fears about unemployment. What is crucially important here is not only the expansion of governmental power but the inevitable discrediting of constitutional limitations

and institutional processes that discourages the citizenry and leaves them politically apathetic.” (Sheldon Wolin, “Democracy Incorporated”)

We now live in a system of “Inverted Totalitarianism.” This is not classical totalitarianism where a strong leader seizes power. Paraphrasing Wolin: Today our leaders are products of a system—a system gradually created that retains old myths. It values corporate power over the public good, the economy dominates the political, and it uses economic instability to generate passivity in a demobilized society. The system is designed to seize the assets of the poor and funnel them to the rich, and then criminalize the poor to cover up the theft. We citizens are complicit in this process by accepting a passive spectator role. We are no longer involved in setting policy or choosing potential leaders, and a captured intelligentsia offers a false utopian vision while the ruling elite “manage democracy.” We are apolitical subjects not citizens, fixed irrevocably in childhood hoping that the leader-messiah will bring us to salvation.

However there are moments when the public recognizes that they have been deceived, that the system is broken and corrupt. At these times our political leaders offer a salve of technical fixes using the obtuse language of economics to obscure both the reality of the problems and the cause. And when all else fails, they blame the bureaucrats of government rather than the beneficiaries of government corruption and largess. In this system of managed democracy, the “two major parties are very protective of their monopoly over US politics. Should any third party begin to gain a significant following that could compete with either party in the polls, they will make common cause in attacking and bringing about the dismantlement of the third party.” (Steve Martinot)

Internal reform of the Business Party Syndicate, or either wing of that Syndicate, is prevented by the structure that governs promotion within each wing—a structure that is based upon fundraising from powerful corporations. Should any leftist candidate manage to bypass the corporate-controlled gates via small-donation fundraising, they are either destroyed via redistricting or from direct personal attacks by corporate-funded think tanks and corporate-owned mass media. Examples of the former are 2008 Green Party Presidential candidate Rep. Cynthia McKinney and anti-war Rep. Dennis Kucinich, while examples of the latter are too numerous to list. Recent examples of these attacks include those on Rep. Tulsi Gabbard for her anti-war position, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for her Green New Deal, Rep.

Ilhan Omar for criticizing Israel, and Jill Stein for challenging the Syndicate by running as a Green.

When you examine the arc of history since WWII, there is a consistency between the two wings of the Syndicate on both foreign and domestic policy. It is clear that our One-Party criminal system is designed to fund the military industrial complex, to support Big Oil so as to maintain the U.S. petrodollar as the global currency, and to destroy any liberation movements that threaten corporate profits and U.S. hegemony. Manifestations of this Syndicate include the endless wars for control of oil, coups carried out by the CIA to eliminate socialist programs, embargoes imposed on any countries that do not submit to neoliberal monetary policies, and the creation of a surveillance and police state to crush any dissent at home. Members of both wings of the Syndicate have judiciously carried out these actions.

Tens of millions of people have been sacrificed by the Syndicate over the past decades in order to maintain U.S. hegemony, and we, a docile public are complicit in these acts. We need to understand that this ruthless clinging to power at all costs is no different than what is seen in other criminal syndicates. There appear to be no moral limits to the Syndicate’s piracy, including accelerating the global climate crisis to maintain power. This latter policy of the Syndicate is apparent in both wings, with Obama’s “all-of-the-above” energy policy and Trump’s climate change denials. U.S. hegemony and corporate profits depend on controlling the global demand for oil, and the Syndicate cannot allow any policy that is a threat to this power—including the Green New Deal. Most environmentalists still do not understand this and assume they can work within the system. They have been fooled. Media manipulation has produced an expectation that the Democratic wing of the Syndicate will adopt environmental policies to avoid this disaster. Unfortunately, “It’s easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled.” (Mark Twain)

Manipulation of Americans, by limiting the dialogue allowed around political problems and by only giving voice to a narrow range of solutions acceptable to the Syndicate, is a key element in maintaining “manufactured democracy.” This control is accomplished with commercial and social media organized by a handful of corporations that use “divide and conquer” propaganda techniques, honed over the last century, to sow fear, racism, xenophobia and misogyny. The planning and propaganda centers for the globalist policies that maintain this control are the decentralized

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Ten Key Values of the Green Party

Ecological Wisdom

Nonviolence

Social Justice

Grassroots Democracy

Decentralization

Community-based Economics

Feminism

Respect for Diversity

Personal and Global Responsibility

Sustainability

Also please see:

<https://www.cagreens.org/ten-key-values>

The Business Party Syndicate

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corporate-funded think tanks whose mission is to maintain US hegemony, protect global capital, and defend neoliberal social policies of austerity.

Within this system of propaganda, political campaigns work to construct an image least offensive to their wealthy benefactors and to the voters. This image is then marketed to us. Noam Chomsky writes: “It is important to bear in mind that political campaigns are designed by the same people who sell toothpaste and cars.” Voters are bombarded with messages both from the not-so-independent corporate media and by political campaigns who now tailor their individualized messaging based on your Facebook and Google profiles. In this sea of propaganda, the voter is left to choose between Coke and Pepsi—or during the 2016 presidential campaign between Caligula and Nero. And by voting for members of the Syndicate, we give tacit approval to a corrupt system that robs us of our power, our assets, our labor, and our freedoms.

What does it mean to choose between candidates that are incapable of addressing the primary existential threats to humanity—namely climate change and war? What does it mean to choose between candidates who are guaranteed to favor Wall Street over Main Street? What does it mean to choose between candidates that will continue to pursue policies designed by corporations that remove the last safety nets we have for health, education, food security, housing and retirement? By choosing between the Syndicate candidates, are we collaborating with a system that perpetuates economic and social inequality controlled by an ever-growing military and police-surveillance state? Can lesser-of-two-evil voting be justified in such a system? Does such participation indicate consent in a system of injustice? Is there a way to break the cycle?

All attempts to reform the One-Party system over the past four decades have proved futile due to the structural reasons described above. In fact, corporate control of the Syndicate has strengthened. Any efforts to work within the corrupted structure, and that deviate from the Syndicate’s Washington Consensus, are crushed. Attempts thus far to run a non-Syndicate candidate in a winner-take-all election system have been futile both due to lesser-of-two-evils voting which causes small Party candidates to be ignored or, on the rare occasion when an outsider wins, because individual representatives within that system have no power. What is especially needed now is an effort to build something outside this system – something outside of the control of corporate money. Let’s call this something “The Movement” just to give it a name.

The Movement must be broad-based and inclusive to face off against the Syndicate, therefore it must combine all the issues that the Left struggle against. No one issue can dominate. This uniting is possible because all the political struggles have a common enemy—namely the Syndicate—which is too powerful for any subset of organizations to challenge. In addition, all the various political objectives of the Left—preventing war and climate change, ending oppression and racism, promoting democratic participation, ending corporate control, preventing environmental degradation, dismantling capitalism, providing affordable health

care and education, and ending poverty—are all intertwined with the power structure of the Syndicate. And because the Syndicate controls the current power structure, it will not allow any challenges to its power within that structure. The Movement must be built outside that system and in such a manner that the Syndicate is unable to control or destroy it.

So what form can The Movement take and what role can existing progressive and leftist organizations have with regards to The Movement? First, the Left must acknowledge that all political organizations that currently exist will be unsuccessful in achieving their objectives if they require defeating the core objectives of the Syndicate. For example, any organizations attempting to impact policy as regards global climate change will fail because Syndicate power relies on maintaining an oil-based economy, and control of that oil maintains petrodollar hegemony. It doesn’t matter that this Syndicate control will result in the deaths of billions of people because the Syndicate’s corporate-machine structure will eliminate any member whose primary concern is not maintaining Syndicate power.

Alternatively, any attempts to reduce global poverty and inequality will fail because Syndicate profits depend on that exploitation. And any attempts to move away from endless war will fail because the Syndicate’s control and profits depend on the maintaining a growing military industrial complex. Any targeted efforts at change will never be powerful enough. Only a combined effort that involves all Leftist interests with massive participation can be successful. And any organizations who choose to focus on a narrow set of goals, rather than topple the Syndicate, will fail over time and slowly become more concerned with maintaining their operations rather than reaching their goal—which would eliminate their reason for existence. In fact, such behavior can now be seen in many “leftist” or “progressive” organizations, with many environmental organizations fully captured and beholden to corporate funding.

So what can organizations do to build The Movement? First, they must be willing to sacrifice their narrow political interests to the larger goals of The Movement. This should be declared openly and their education programs must address the interconnectedness of all our political problems. They must also identify the primary driver of these problems – namely the Business Party Syndicate with its Democratic and Republican wings. Organizations must focus on community building of democratic structures outside the Syndicate’s control.

Organizations should spend little time on election-related issues except as outreach to educate and draw in others to The Movement, and should instead focus on building coalitions with other groups. Organizations must emphasize bottom-up democratic operations that build solidarity and interconnections with other organizations. The Movement will need to develop its own internal super-structure that is independent of the old systems of power, with safeguards to prevent power consolidation and disruption by the Syndicate. And The Movement must wait till it reaches a critical mass of people capable of challenging the Business Party Syndicate before it wields its political power.

So what can be done by individuals now while the path to building The Movement is unclear? A first step is to do anything one can to disempower the Syndicate. One way is to demonstrate that your loyalty is not to the Business Party by registering to vote with a non-corporate Party. No Party Preference fails to do this since this does not demonstrate interest in building an alternative to the Syndicate. Second, vote for candidates who are not members of the Syndicate and who are not from corporate-funded Parties. Third, form local groups to discuss the history and structure

of the Syndicate so we understand what we are up against. Fourth, join leftist organizations and begin a dialogue about the interconnected nature of all our social problems and the need to unite against a common enemy – namely the Syndicate. Fifth, in building The Movement we must focus on the ideology and vision that will unite us and not on candidate or leader personalities. Sixth, building The Movement means doing the hard work of community outreach and education, and in particular getting outside one’s comfort zone. This will include defending those who are attacked by the Syndicate and providing the needed economic and educational support to those communities who join The Movement. Seventh, dialogue is critical, so all members of The Movement must work to develop critical thinking and listening skills. Training must include recognition of the various propaganda techniques that the Syndicate will attempt to use to divide us.

“We live in capitalism, its power seems inescapable. So did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings.” (Ursula Le Guin) Therefore start doing the work to build The Movement today so we can do away with the corrupt Business Party Syndicate which is now the greatest existential threat humanity has ever experienced. Don’t be fooled into thinking that participation in elections means that we really have a choice or that this is democracy. Your choices are extremely limited and will not change the system nor will they help avert disaster. This can only be done by building The Movement and taking back our power from corporations. “[They] who passively accept evil are as much involved in it as [they] who help to perpetrate it. [They] who accept evil without protesting against it are really cooperating with it.” (Martin Luther King Jr., updated for gender inclusivity.)



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.

HELP WANTED

...to build the Green Party!

FOR OUR FALL VOTER GUIDE

- Writing Election Analysis
- Phone Calls Distribution

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

We’ll be working on the Fall Voter Guide from July until September, but please contact us during February or March.

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

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

** GO PAPERLESS **

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!

Green Party County Council

Vote for up to eleven of the twelve candidates.

County Councilors are elected to make decisions for the Green Party of Alameda County (GPAC). The Council makes official endorsements, decides on spending and fundraising, appoints representatives to state and national Green Party conventions, etc. Below are short statements of the candidates for County Council. The Council does not endorse candidates in this race, but provides this space for candidates to inform you of their positions. We encourage you to vote in this important race -- the winners will determine the direction of the GPAC for the next two years. County Council meetings are open to the public, and are generally held the second Sunday of the month. All in attendance have full participation, including decision making. The only exception to this is if a vote is required (we attempt to reach consensus, and usually do) only elected Councilors have a vote. Council members are elected at large, in compliance with Alameda County regulations.

County Council Candidates

Sarah Aminoff

I am a K-12 teacher and teacher union activist. I taught Health Education at community colleges, and freshman first year programs at a California State University. I care about the health impacts on children and young adults, and work on campaigns on environmental health safety in the community. I was instrumental in helping to pass an environmental safety resolution with the California Progressive Alliance, and two school union resolutions for environmental safety in schools. I am a member of the Sierra Club, and believe strongly in the precautionary principle as well as the notion of informed consent of the public, indigenous rights, immigrant rights, transparency in government, safeguarding our eco-system, and to put the health and well-being of our people and our planet before the needs of corporations. One successful campaign I worked on helped Governor Brown to veto an industry-driven bill, thereby protecting public/environmental health throughout California by ensuring local rights.

William Balderston

Bill Balderston is a long-time socialist and advocate of independent political action. He has served on the Green Party County Council for several years and was the Green Party candidate for state insurance commissioner in 2010. He is currently involved in organizing around the upcoming Oakland school board and city council elections.

In addition, Bill is a teacher and activist with the Oakland Education Association and involved in a range of labor solidarity work, serving on the Alameda Central Labor Council. He has been heavily involved in climate change issues and immigrant rights. Lastly, he has worked on anti-war and international solidarity campaigns for many decades.

Dale Baum

I am a Vietnam era veteran who became active in the antiwar movement during the 1960s. While living for many years in College Station, Texas, I served as president of the Brazos Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and advocated for workers' rights by volunteering for the Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network. As a longtime Democratic Party precinct captain, I gradually realized that the party would not bring about the bold and fundamental changes that our nation needed. I voted in the 2012 election for presidential candidate Jill Stein. After retiring from teaching at Texas A&M University and moving in 2014 to Oakland, I was appointed the following year to fill a vacancy on the County Council of the Green Party of Alameda County and in 2016 elected to it for a full term. My top priorities for local political activism include the creation of affordable housing, decent jobs paying livable wages, improving the quality of the city's public schools, and working with the Oakland Climate Action Coalition to shape for what will be effectively a Green New Deal for Oakland.

Greg Jan

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

For decades, many Greens have consistently advocated for "political revolution" and "democratic socialism," and now that many people are finally becoming aware of these ideas, we need your help to insure that this momentum doesn't simply disappear after the March election. Oppor-

tunities that simply haven't existed before are now emerging —and perhaps just in the nick of time, given social injustice, military foolhardiness, economic inequality, and deepening climate catastrophe.

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

Val Jones

I don't have a master's degree or Ph.D. I'm an average citizen that was lucky to be in California during the big tech boom. This exciting time afforded my husband and me to raise a great family. I've always been active in the schools my kids attended and their sports events to the point of being president of a little league; I'm still enthusiastic about protesting injustices. I hope to work with the council in the push of a working economy that focuses on viable, productive businesses centered on helping the American people improve their lives and planet for future generations.

Tina Kimmel

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

I have also been an Election Precinct Inspector and Coordinator for the Alameda County Registrar of Voters for many years, so I am familiar with how elections and parties tend to work. Clearly the major parties have been captured by industry, and cannot be relied upon to serve us. Thus it is time for the independent parties to step up and take the lead.

I served on the County Council of the Green Party of Alameda County for four years. I have done computer database projects such as initiating the Paperless Voter Guide mailings, and have contributed in other ways to the Greens.

James McFadden

I have been a research physicist at UC Berkeley since 1985. I consider myself an anti-capitalist, anti-racist, and feminist. I believe that endless wars, racism, climate change, and economic inequality are rooted in capitalism which is supported by our one-party system, the "Business Party" with its Democratic and Republican wings. I believe a primary goal of the Greens must be revealing the corruption of one-party corporate control of the government in order to build a massive leftist movement. I work with local groups promoting more democratic participation and against intertwined forms of oppression. I'm currently a member of the Alameda Green Party County Council and the KPFA Local Station Board. I'm also active in several other groups including Move to Amend, McGee Spaulding Neighbors in Action, System Change Not Climate Change, the Pro-Democracy Project, and the Berkeley Branch of the NAACP. I joined the Greens about 8 years ago after reading their platform and deciding this was the Party for me. I started regularly attending Alameda Green Party meetings just over three years ago. I would like to revive the Berkeley Greens and would welcome others joining me in this effort.

Justin Richardson

I presently serve on the County Council and appreciate a number of opportunities to learn and participate. I function as an Alameda County delegate at biannual statewide gatherings of the Green Party of California (GPCA). When the GPCA State Assembly was hosted in the Bay Area in early 2019, I coordinated operational logistics and a weekend's worth of 100 percent-plant-based meals for attendees. I was elected to serve as an alternate-delegate, representing GPCA in periodic decision-making processes involving the national Green Party. During the 2018 election cycle, I served as treasurer for Laura Wells for Congress and Aidan Hill for City Council.

A landscape architect by profession, much of my current work involves rehabilitating the commons of affordable housing communities in the Bay Area. I was drawn to the craft with an aim to combine several interests—the intersection of politics, public space and design—as a way to promote social and environmental justice. I serve as a director-at-large and chair of the Projects Committee for the nonprofit Friends of the Gardens at Lake Merritt, supporting the public gardens and keeping them free and accessible to

all. I reside in Oakland with partner Lisa and two shelter cats Jupiter and Valentine.

Website: <http://justinrichardson.info>

Michael Rubin

I am a retired state employee. I am currently a County Councilor, having been appointed in 2014. I have been a political activist since the 1960's. Many of those years were spent in the labor movement. In retirement, I still remain a delegate to the Alameda Labor Council. For the past few years, I have been active against global climate change. I am involved in System Change Not Climate Change, a national network which argues that saving the planet requires radical systemic change.

In addition to serving on the County Council, I am very active in the Oakland Greens. The Oakland Greens put on a monthly dinner and movie night on the last Sunday of the month, except for November and December. Our main political project currently is playing a role in Action 2020, a group working to put together a slate of candidates to run for the open seats on the Oakland School Board in the November election. The hope is to replace the anti-community incumbents who stand for school closures and charter schools. We would love your involvement. The Oakland Greens can be reached at 510-436-3722.

Phoebe Sorgen

I am honored to be a delegate to the Green Party USA National Committee and a Green Party Alameda County Councilor. I am proud of Alameda County's Green Voter Guide and of the Green Sunday programs we produce.

A long time organizer, I was 2005 Outstanding Woman of Berkeley and a 2015 Tom Paine Courageous Spirit awardee. I served on KPFA's Local Station Board, was a Peace and Justice Commissioner for eight years, ran for Berkeley City Council twice, am currently on Berkeley Citizens Action's Steering Committee, and co-chair BFUU's Social Justice Committee.

Years ago, I decided to focus on getting the laws changed that gave corporations the power to ruin our Earth; so I serve on Move to Amend's Bay Area Steering Committee. I am currently tackling the 5G roll-out because that aspect of the corporatocracy may preempt the climate crisis; so I co-founded WiRED, Wireless Radiation Education & Defense. I helped make Berkeley the first city to oppose corporate personhood and first to have a cell phone Right to Know law. We the People of Berkeley v Big Telecom!

Here in the belly of the big bad beast, growing the Green Party is the solution.

Pamela Spevack

For the past 16 years I have been an At Large member of the Alameda County Council. I am now convinced more than ever that our grassroots approach and refusal to take corporate money is what will get corruption out of our political lives. Because more people are rising up for change, and examining the realities of the current system, it is an opportune time for us to grow The Green Party.

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

Laura Wells

I have been a Green activist since the Green Party began in California in 1992. I have run as a candidate for State Controller, Governor in 2010 after the global financial meltdown, and recently for U.S. Congress. As a candidate, spokesperson, editor and blogger, my message has been to "follow the money" to understand what's going on in our government. to "tax the rich." and to implement public banks. What the Green Party represents is what the U.S. needs: no-corporate-money politics committed to the interconnected values of peace, justice and ecology. The Green Party serves as a needed "progressive think tank," and has been in the lead regarding legalizing cannabis, legalizing same-sex marriage, public banking, the real Green New Deal, reparations and many other policies which at first seem unachievable. Looking toward the future, my favorite book suggestion is "Utopia for Realists" which focuses realistically on universal basic income, 15-hour workweek, and open borders. I live in Oakland and have a musician daughter Natalia. Website: <http://laurawells.org>

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



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March 3, 2020

Online version at: <http://acgreens.org>

Green Voter Card

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

Federal Offices

President

Five Greens and 20 Democrats will be on the ballot;
 Please see article

U. S. House of Representatives, District 13
 Boycott or Write In, please see article

State Offices

State Senate, District 9

Write In someone, please see article

State Assembly, District 15

Sara Brink, with qualifications

State Assembly, District 18

No endorsement, please see article

Superior Court Judge

Office #21 -

Elena Condes; Mark Fickes, with reservations

County Supervisor

District 1 - Vinnie Bacon

District 4 - Esther Goolsby

District 5 - No endorsement, please see write-up

County School Board

Area 2 - Angela Normand

Area 5 - No endorsement, please see write-up

State Proposition

I 3 - Education Facilities Bond - No

Local Measures

B - Albany School parcel tax - Yes, with reservations

C - Alameda County Health & Child Care sales tax -
 No endorsement, please see write-up

E - Berkeley Teacher Salaries parcel tax - Yes, with reservations

F - Berkeley Teacher Services sales tax - Yes, with reservations

G - Berkeley School Facilities Bond -- Yes, with bond reservations

H - Berkeley School Maintenance and Classified Staff parcel tax -
 Yes, with reservations

K - Emeryville Education parcel tax - Yes, with reservations

Q - Oakland Park Maintenance and Homeless Services parcel tax -
 Yes, with reservations

R - Oakland Official Newspapers - Yes

S - Oakland Increase Appropriations Limit - Yes

County Committee

Green Party County Council -

Please see write-up



ALWAYS
 FREE

for the thinking voter