

Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: November 3, 2020

Federal Offices	1, 3
State Senate and Assembly	4
State Propositions	1, 16 17, 18
Superior Court Judge	5
County Supervisor	5
Peralta Colleges	5
City of Alameda	5, 6
City of Albany	6
City of Berkeley	1, 7, 8, 9
City of Emeryville	9
City of Oakland	1, 10, 11, 12, 13
City of Union City	13
Special Districts	14, 15
County Measures	16
Voter Card	19, Back page

President and Vice-President Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker

The Forthcoming Presidential Election

The 2020 U.S. presidential election has been labeled the most important election in world history as well as one where American's democracy is at stake. There are reasons for this sense of crisis, beginning with the ongoing global climate emergency and the coronavirus pandemic, along with ongoing injustices imposed on people of color, all causing a still emerging economic and social meltdown. The two main presidential contenders increase the tension. Current President Donald Trump is the main cause for serious worry. He represents a hideous combination of a woman hating racist proto-fascist authoritarian, a corrupt Mafia type con man, and a pathological liar, who is mentally ill with, among other maladies, narcissistic personality disorder. It says a lot about the sickness of current U.S. society that such a man could rise to the presidency and have about a 40 percent level of public support while in office. Joe Biden, on the other hand, is a long time servant of big corporations and the wealthy, an uncreative man who wants to return to a simpler time. Unless seriously pushed by circumstances and the people in the streets, Biden would likely be a passive tool in the hands of the current ruling class, led by Wall

Street. This conclusion is reinforced by Biden's choice for his vice president. That Kamala Harris is another establishment candidate is illustrated by her personal political history, the staff members who surround her, by the funding and favorable media coverage she receives from the powers that be and by the numerous identity rather than class politics political proposals she put forward during her campaign for president. See the September 6, 2019 article by Laurence H. Shoup: "Kamala Harris, another Establishment Candidate" on <http://www.counterpunch.org>.

What it Takes to Successfully Run for President

Making a serious run for the presidency involves bringing together large-scale private funding, extensive coverage from the mainstream media, high level endorsements, and expert professional advice from leading capitalist-class think tanks, such as the Council on Foreign Relations. Such a combination results in name recognition and the willingness of tens of millions of voters to vote for a given candidate, even if he or she is known to be a lesser evil. Green Party candidates do not command any of the above mentioned advantages. Take funding, for example. As of

continued on page 3

How the Electoral College Impacts Your Voting Choices

Unlike all of the other races on the ballot, the offices of president and vice-president are not determined by the total popular vote, but rather by the Electoral College that was enshrined in the U.S. Constitution back in 1789. Therefore, regardless of whether candidates win a particular state by just one vote or by ten million votes, they still receive exactly the same number of electoral votes from that state. Because of this "winner-take-all formula," a "third-party candidate" who receives a small percentage of the vote in states which are "solidly blue" or "solidly red" simply has no effect whatsoever in how those electoral votes are awarded.

To be specific, California is a "deep blue state." In the last presidential election, Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump in California by 30 percentage points (62 percent to 32 percent), while Green Party candidate Jill Stein received only three percent of the total ballots cast. Therefore, our

continued on page 3

Berkeley City Council, District 2

Cheryl Davila Don't Rank Alex Sharenko!

We strongly endorse Cheryl Davila and recommend she be ranked #1. Read her responses to our questionnaire—the only candidate who replied. If you feel the need to rank the other candidates, please read our analysis of them at the end of this article. We recommend NOT ranking the others—especially NOT Alex Sharenko!

Cheryl Davila is by far the most progressive candidate in the field, consistently demonstrating her dedication to enlightened politics since her election in 2016. We would also rank her as the most progressive member of the City Council—filling the shoes of Max Anderson to become the new Conscience of the Council. She has championed causes for South Berkeley, spoken out against the gentrification

continued on page 7

Berkeley Mayor Aidan Hill

Don't rank Arreguin and Hsiung

Aidan Hill is active in the Green Party and serves on the County Council for the Green Party of Alameda County. Hill is Vice-Chair of the Homeless Commission, active in the Save People's Park effort, a UC Berkeley student, and a Black trans person. Hill's platform dedicates budget proposals towards climate-resilient infrastructure and public spaces, a renewable transitional economy, and universal access to public health care. Hill emphasizes the role of communities and residents in greatest need of support, such as low-income, multifamily, and small business-focused programs, and supports the use of green technologies that restore natural ecosystems. They support a culture of openness in government with the Freedom of Information Act, the California Public Records Act, and strong local sunshine measures enforcing access to government decision-making. Hill favors a 50 percent defunding of police with funds directed elsewhere—prioritizing budgeting for mental health care to include counseling, education programs, anger management, medical care, and healthcare as appropriate in a therapeutic environment for victims of violence. For more on Hill's vision, see their campaign web page: <https://hill.nationbuilder.com/vision>.

Four years ago, we endorsed and ranked Jesse Arreguin and Kriss Worthington as our two choices for mayor based on their positive histories in the progressive minority on the Berkeley City Council. This ranking was also with the knowledge that realtor Laurie Capitelli was a real threat to the community based on his voting record that favored developers and landlords. The fact that the developer-realtor-landlord power base in the Democratic Party has not put up a candidate to run against Arreguin says it all—he has moved to the center-right previously occupied by Tom Bates. Once elected, Arreguin's progressive agenda was mostly left behind in favor mainstream Democratic Party management that caters to the police, to developers, and to its wealthy base. Arreguin is not taking public financing, which he supported, and which the public put in place. So, this election has become a test. Can Arreguin demonstrate the primary skill needed to move up the Democratic Party

continued on page 7

Proposition 15 Yes, yes, yes!

Funding for Schools and Local Governments by Fairly Taxing Large Commercial Properties

Schools and Communities First, Proposition 15, provides up to \$12 billion a year for public schools, community colleges, and local government services by requiring commercial and industrial properties to be taxed based on regularly re-assessed market value.

Yes, this reforms the much-beloved Prop 13 from 1978, so it's important to tell everyone that Proposition 15 does not affect residential property at all — not homeowners or renters, mobile homes, assisted living facilities, vacation homes, AirBnB, live/work spaces, or home-based businesses.

continued on page 16

Oakland City Council, District 3

#1: Carroll Fife Sharing #2 and #3: Seneca Scott (ranked but not endorsed) and Meron Semedar (ranked but not endorsed)

Six candidates are running for the District 3 council seat. The two front-runner candidates are incumbent Lynette Gibson McElhaney and well-known Oakland activist Carroll Fife.

Carroll Fife is the executive director of Alliance of Citizens for Community Empowerment (ACCE). She made local (and sometimes national) news late last year as a leader in the Moms4Housing campaign, in which a group of Black homeless mothers fought an eviction proceeding and gained at least a partial victory over a rapacious Oakland developer. She has substantial union endorsement, and is the East Bay Democratic Socialists' preferred candidate. Fife has been a tireless supporter of local people and local causes, and an exemplar of putting her feet and her voice on the ground and

continued on page 10

Oakland School Board, District 5

Mike Hutchinson Do NOT vote for Leroy Gaines

District Five is bifurcated between the Fruitvale and Glenview. While there have been some demographic changes in the majority Latino Fruitvale, these two neighborhoods largely define the voting base.

This is seemingly the easiest endorsement of the four school board races. The progressive community is showing virtual unanimity in support of Mike Hutchinson. Nonetheless, it's worth examining his opponents. (There are three: Sheila Pope-Lawrence, Jorge Lerma and Leroy Gaines (the GO candidate).)

Jorge Lerma has a significant history in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), including being an assistant principal at Highland Elementary School 15 years ago. Though he claims to oppose closures, he endorses the Blueprint for Quality Schools. He is focused on social justice issues and is especially concerned with Central American students in District 5. He states opposition to standardized testing and other progressive pledges, but offers little in the way of specific plans.

continued on page 12



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@yahoogroups.com

(all one word, no spaces, but a dash between County-subscribe). To get occasional announcements about current Green Party of Alameda County activities send an email to: 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, David Arkin, Bill Balderston, Dale Baum, Ed Biow, Eric Brooks, Paul Burton (page layout), Chris Finn, Mandeep Gill, Paulina Gonzales, Rick Greenblatt, Greg Jan, Saied Karamooz, Michael Kaufman, Liz Kroboth, George Lippman, Don Macleay, Nick Maderas, James McFadden, Ann Menasche, Debbie Notkin, Kathy Park, Justin Richardson, Bob Scofield, John Selawsky, Larry Shoup, Phoebe Sorgen, Kent Sparling, Inger Stark, 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 standard bond reservations" reflects our position that funding through bonds is more costly and therefore less fiscally responsible than a tax.

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

Taxes and Bonds: TAX THE RICH not just the rest of us

In this Green Voter Guide some measures may be 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 have a chance in the November 2020 election to make taxes more fair.

Proposition 15, Schools and Communities First Act, reforms the old Prop 13 that flattened property taxes in 1978 and started the "tax revolt" that swept the country and primarily benefited the super-rich. 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 to tell 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. Proposition 15 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, were divided roughly 50/50 in totals from residential as opposed to commercial and industrial properties, but now residential pays 72 percent and commercial pays a mere 28 percent. Homes are reassessed upon sale, whereas tax loopholes allow corporate properties to escape reassessment. Proposition 15 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 Proposition 15 on the ballot, we can vote YES, and 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.

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

Federal Offices

President

continued from page 1

August, 2020 both Biden and Trump had already raised over one billion dollars for their campaigns. They will both raise much more during the final months of the campaign. Howie Hawkins, the Green candidate, has raised just under 300 thousand dollars as of August, 2020. This means that the two major candidates have each raised many thousands of times as much money as the Green. Add to this the reality of nearly zero media coverage, few if any key endorsements or advisers, and an electoral system without choice voting that effectively freezes out third party voices; clearly we can expect limited results. Then why are we running?

Why We Run

Like our direct political ancestors, the abolitionists of the mid-19th century U.S., we Greens are in front with the ideas that can change everything. We try to be visionaries. We are able to imagine a different and sustainable world, one that is scientifically based, more ethical, more just, more equal, and more peaceful. We do our best to bring this necessary different world into being with our ideas and actions. It is important to always have this visionary perspective, but especially now as multiple crises face our country and our planet. Looming over everything is the climate crisis, which threatens to overwhelm the livable biosphere that sustains all life. Concerns include maintaining moderate temperatures, as well as pure air, water, seas and soil. Leading scientists indicate that we have only about a decade to turn things around on this key front of struggle. Also menacing our lives is the failure of the existing power structure, led by the incompetent and self-centered Donald Trump, to correctly handle the Corona pandemic, allowing it to run wild, even as other nations were able to control it instead of letting it control them. The result is great suffering and many deaths, along with serious economic and social consequences. Finally, the worst constitutional crisis since the Civil War might be on the horizon. This is due to the fact that Trump, who hates democracy, is suggesting that the November election should be “postponed” and if defeated, he might refuse to leave office. He is now busy scheming how to sabotage or steal the election, even appointing a major Republican Party donor to head the U.S. Postal Service, which will need to deliver a massive number of absentee ballots come October and November.

The Howie Hawkins Campaign

Our Green presidential candidate, Howie Hawkins, has wisely built his campaign around the most ambitious Green New Deal (GND) program ever proposed. The Green Party

conceived the GND almost 15 years ago and in 2010 Howie was the first candidate to run (for governor of New York) on this platform. His version is properly visionary. Howie has developed the details for an eco-socialist GND, a necessity if we are to halt and reverse the global climate crisis. Howie’s GND has two interconnected parts, the Green Economic Reconstruction Program and the Economic Bill of Rights. The Economic Reconstruction Program can be summed up as a plan, through federal public works projects, to create social ownership of key sectors of the economy in order to democratically plan the coordinated reconstruction of important sectors for sustainability. This rebuilding of the American economy aims at achieving a transition to clean sustainable energy by 2030, essential to prevent climate chaos. The Economic Bill of Rights guarantees to every adult the right to a living-wage job, a decent home, free health care and education, and a secure retirement. The budget for all of this is projected at 4.2 trillion dollars a year, paid for by taxing the wealthy and undertaxed giant corporations, ending corporate welfare, and a 75 percent cut in bloated military spending. Learn more at howiehawkins.us.

In sharp contrast, Biden’s GND plan is only 2 trillion dollars over four years. Howie’s plan would spend as much and likely accomplish more in only six months. Biden’s GND is grossly inadequate to halt and reverse the global climate change that threatens to destroy the livability of our planet. Howie’s choice for vice president is also quite a contrast to Biden’s. Angela Walker, a working class socialist and union activist, is the Green vice president candidate.

Final Words

Our state is one of the bluest in the nation, so Biden should easily win here. This means that California Greens can vote our consciences without worrying about having to stop Trump’s re-election. The larger the vote for Howie Hawkins, the clearer it will be to sellout conservative Democrats that they need to adopt and implement a real GND, not a phony version of it. In any case, it is likely that massive demonstrations, nonviolent direct action and large scale-strikes will be necessary to achieve the GND we need to save the people and the planet. We can hope that the massive recent protests against racialized police violence represent the beginning of a new era where racialized capitalism itself is called into question and eco-socialism put on the agenda. This can be a time of new beginnings, not the twilight of democracy. We Americans have had to fight for our rights before, we cannot be timid about asserting these rights now.

Electoral College

continued from page 1

current presidential candidate (Howie Hawkins), if he is able to have an amazingly strong campaign, might be able to double that to six percent and Joe Biden would still be able to win California by over 20 percentage points—and probably closer to 25 points.

The Electoral College, along with the fact that duopoly presidential campaigns now spend billions of dollars on advertising, means that it is completely safe here in California to vote for Green Party candidates who are free of corporate money. Voting Green will not help His Orangeness at all. But if you have concerns, it is easy to monitor the California presidential polls: <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2020-election-forecast/california/>. You will see that Biden will overwhelmingly sweep the state.

Vote Trading and Ranked-Choice Voting

Have you heard of vote trading? Some people in swing states want to vote their values without depriving the less evil candidate of their vote. Save their cake and eat it, too? Yes! If there is someone they trust in a non-swing state, they may arrange to trade votes. So a Green in a swing state might agree to vote Biden/Harris for a trusted friend who is a Democrat in California if the Democrat promises to vote Hawkins/Walker.

Is this legal? Again yes! The practice of vote-swapping has been tested in court ever since it became very prominent and controversial in 2000. In 2007, it was held to be legal by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. As the U.S. Supreme Court has not considered the issue, the Ninth Circuit’s ruling stands in California, and is a strong precedent in the rest of the country.

To help enact democracy in the U.S. and eliminate rampant confusion about the “spoiler effect,” an erroneous accusation which could eventually become more than mudslinging as the Green Party grows, we need Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in more cities and states, and eventually nationwide. RCV started in San Francisco in 2004. RCV is currently in place in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro, and the City of Albany will be voting on employing it in November. See <https://www.fairvote.org/> and search for “Albany could adopt Multi-Winner RCV.”

With RCV, more voters feel free to vote for the candidate they prefer. RCV eliminates pressure to vote for the lesser evil for fear of helping the greater evil. Meanwhile, we know Biden/Harris will take California by a landslide, so no Californian has to worry about voting our values.

Conclusion

Voting Green in Presidential elections helps the Green Party retain our hard won ballot access and helps us qualify for federal matching funds. The hurdles are so arduous that no other progressive party is likely to ever attain ballot access in enough states to matter, so please do all you can to strengthen the Green Party. By the way, we are the only global political party. There are Green Parties worldwide, and we network.

If you are progressive—whether you voted for Hawkins, Sanders, Warren, or another candidate this past March, or even if you skipped this year’s primary election—you will want to vote Green in November! Actually, vote early in October! Double check your registration now: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>.

More Electoral College info is at:
<http://acgreens.org>.

U.S. House of Representatives, District 13 Boycott

Unfortunately if you want to vote for a peace candidate who literally puts OUR money where THEIR mouth is, then you must boycott this race. In April 2019, incumbent U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee cast the deciding vote to advance from committee a budget that increased the already-bloated military budget. She could instead have followed the lead of other Democrats on the committee who voted against it, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Ilhan Omar. At the time, Ro Khanna said, “This is a key philosophical moment for our party. We cannot be against endless wars and then fund those wars.”

What are the other choices? Since the passage of the “Top Two” primary, writing-in candidates became prohibited in California’s general election in November. The only other candidate on the ballot is Republican Nikka Piterman, who wants to “cut capital gains tax rate and reduce corporate tax rates” which would only increase corporate and billionaire wealth and power at the expense of the rest of us. As in so many races, all Barbara Lee has to do is be better than the Republican, and if you want peace and justice, that is a very low bar.

When candidates like Barbara Lee are overwhelmingly favored to win, voting for them exerts no pressure at all, and condones their votes for war budgets, acceptance of corporate money, and lack of early and strong endorsement and support of 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, especially in this time of COVID and of heightened awareness of racial and economic injustice.

In addition to her advancing a budget that increases military spending, here are other factors that demonstrate that Barbara Lee needs our pressure, not our acquiescence.

Over the years Lee has accepted money from corporations and PACs such as PG&E, Bayer, Lockheed Martin, General Motors, Google, JStreetPAC, and Microsoft.

Unlike the majority of her constituents, as a super-delegate Lee did not support Bernie Sanders’ no-corporate-money run for president in 2016, 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 19 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 boycott the race 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.

Become a Dues-Paying Green Party Member!

A number of Green Party groups around the country have started to ask for dues, not only as a way to raise money, but also to help foster group solidarity, commitment, and the like. So we’ve decided to try it out here in Alameda County!

We’ve decided on a sliding scale amount of \$12 to \$120 per year, but with waivers for financial need. The annual deadline for sending in your dues is December 12. (Quarterly or monthly is also fine).

Please become a dues-paying member now! You can either mail a check to: Green Party, 2022 Blake St., Berkeley, CA 94704, or you can donate online at: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/donate/> (Feel free to use the coupon on page 2, and write “For dues” on it. Note: Neither your voting nor your participation rights will be affected by the payment, or non-payment, of these dues).

Thank you so much, in advance, for your support, in becoming a dues-paying member!

Warmly, Green Party of Alameda County

State Senate, District 9 Boycott

Nancy Skinner is running for a second term in the California State Senate. Her only opponent is Libertarian Jamie Druzak. She did not answer the Green Party 2020 election questionnaire. Previously, Skinner was a California State Assemblymember, and before that she served on the Berkeley City Council and the East Bay Regional Parks District Board. As we wrote in March, the California appellate court upheld SB1437, a Skinner law mandating that a person cannot be charged with felony murder unless they actually killed someone, directly helped the killer, or behaved 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. In 2016, she supported single-payer health care, supported tuition reform (but not free tuition). 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 law providing more opportunities for college athletes to earn money. Her bills from this session include a law preventing information from “jailhouse snitches” to be used as evidence, and a law helping keep foreclosed homes in the hands of individuals rather than corporations, both of which are awaiting the governor’s signature.

Unfortunately, Skinner has disappointed us on local Berkeley land use issues, especially regarding downtown development. In 2017, she supported a telecom-industry-backed bill, SB 649, which would have stripped control from local communities to determine wireless facility placement. Fortunately, hundreds of California cities opposed the bill and the Governor vetoed it. She has 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.

Her opponent’s “website” is quite thin and hard to navigate and interpret. He didn’t answer our questionnaire. However, since he is running on the Libertarian Party platform, we can presume that he also represents their inarguably consistent values, which include privatizing all water and energy assets, repealing laws regulating the sale, possession, or use of any product or service, and ending all controlling, regulating, or prohibiting the raising of funds or the sale of securities by an individual, partnership or corporation for any legal business purpose. While we are somewhat more in sympathy with their views on the police (decentralization of police protection to the neighborhood level whenever full privatization is not possible, and opposing expansion of federal police forces anywhere, and particularly into California), we are – to say the least – skeptical that privatized police would be better for the minority populations the party claims to defend.

If Druzak had any plausible chance of taking the seat from Skinner, it would be necessary to vote for her; however, this is a race to boycott until a consistently progressive anti-corporate candidate steps up to the challenge.

State Assembly, District 15 Sara Brink, with qualifications

The race for Assembly District 15, covering Berkeley, Albany, a part of Oakland, and portions of Contra Costa County, features two female candidates. One is a corporate Democrat, and the other is an unorthodox independent.

Incumbent Buffy Wicks was first elected in 2018. Al-

though born in California, she returned to the state in 2016 after a long absence from attending college and working in Washington, D.C. Her progressive background includes anti-war and labor organizing, and support of LGBTQ issues. She moved up the party’s ladder by helping to organize “community contacts” in the 2008 Obama campaign and serving as Rahm Emanuel’s campaign manager in 2010. After her involvement in the Obama administration, she became a key organizer in Hillary Clinton’s campaign. She is now among the most conventional of California Democrats.

Wicks’s campaign in 2018 for state assembly was most telling. She ran against a large field, many of whom were to her left, and faced a runoff against Richmond City Councilmember Jovanka Beckles, a notable community activist and a member of the Richmond Progressive Alliance. By using smear tactics and outspending Beckles four to one, Wicks won by a twelve percentage margin. Of her \$1.5 million campaign war chest, only ten percent came from district residents and over three quarters of it consisted of donations of \$1,000 or above, including those from Trump/DeVos supporters and from the California Charter School Association. Her time in Sacramento reflects a current “mainstream” Democratic agenda.

Her three priorities are housing, especially in relation 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, reproductive rights, and other issues of concern to people of color. She voted for AB 5 that entitles workers classified as employees to greater labor protections and for the public banking bill. She has a 100 percent rating from the Sierra Club and only a 20 percent rating from the state Chamber of Commerce lobby.

In recent months, she has solidified her liberal image with a focus on medical issues, such as reviving CA Healthy Start, and consumer concerns, such as AB 1760 on consumer rights and a bill restricting the sale of super sweetened beverages. She continues to propose legislation around housing the homeless, albeit with close ties to developers. She is in favor of the CA Wealth Tax and has recently garnered much attention around the mistreatment of working moms by bringing her infant to the State Assembly floor.

Wicks has liberal credentials, but she is tied to corporate friends and donors. It is safe to say that the Democratic National Committee is grooming her for higher positions.

The other candidate, Sara Brink, identifies as a filmmaker, which relates to her entrance into this race. She is running not only to champion a broad, radical protest agenda, but also 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.

Unlike Wicks, Brink responded to our questionnaire. She is outraged by the inequality in our society that is reflected in corporate domination of politics and evidenced in Wicks’s obscenely “big money” campaign. She believes that virtually all basic necessities, such as housing, transportation, health care, and food, are human rights and should “not be tied to employment status.” She strongly supports “Medicare for All,” favors legalizing virtually all drugs, and believes that housing should be free. On the environmental front, she advocates abolishing extractive industries -- an issue that she sees 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. She thus sees police reform/violence linked to living in a “police state,” advises delinking public education from a corporate agenda, and favors public banking.

Brink notes that many voters might not see her as a “serious” candidate because she lacks specifics on implementation of her goals. Motivated by “dignity and urgency,” she advocates for left/independent politics, including, but not limited to, the Green Party. Although registered as “No Party Preference,” she calls for a party that is “pro-youth, pro-Black, and pro-LGBTQ.”

She has more recently moved to a focus of driving reactionaries out of office on both national and state levels. She views the current U.S. regime as fascist and denounces white supremacist power, which backs police violence here in the Bay Area. While much of her outrage is aimed at the GOP, she also criticizes the Democrats as a useless opposition.

We agree with Brink’s program and vision, and thus we advocate an endorsement, albeit a qualified one. Because she wishes her campaign to be a protest devoid of a strategic/organizational structure, we shall help with electronic media, which she prefers, and other means, to show our support for her candidacy.

State Assembly, District 18 Boycott

Assembly District 18 covers all of Alameda, and most of Oakland and San Leandro. This race can hardly be considered a contest, because since 2012 the incumbent Rob Bonta has won by over 85 percent of the vote in all his election cycles. If his Republican opponent Stephen Slauson were to 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 are necessary. This GOP retread, who ran against Bonta in 2018, has never held elected office and has self-financed his campaigns. The one policy position of note is his rejection of rent control, which is a major source of controversy in Alameda where both he and Bonta reside.

Rob Bonta is the offspring of parents who were both labor organizers with the United Farm Workers. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School after attending Yale College and Oxford University in England. He served on the Alameda City Council where he was seen as being closely connected with local developers—a perception that was the cause of an unsuccessful recall effort.

Despite this corporate shadow, Bonta has been a significant voice for the left-liberal wing of the party. He is the first Filipino American to serve in the California Assembly. Besides supporting the usual bills acknowledging varied ethnic/immigrant cultures, he has a 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 privatization movement. Yet last year, he and other local Democrats, including State Superintendent 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 Oakland Education Association) to settle short of many key goals, such as their demands for more support staff, greater reduction in class size, and a moratorium on school closures. Recently, he helped improve a bill forcing the Oakland Unified School District to sell off its property. Bonta also has strong links with, and support from, the California Labor Federation, and many key public sector unions, such as SEIU, CTA and CFT. Not surprisingly, he has sponsored legislation to help low-income workers, such as those in the food processing industry.

Two key themes that have gained Bonta renown are prison/criminal justice reform and environmental justice. Concerning the former, when we last reviewed his record for the 2018 election, we focused on his role as sponsor for SB 10 that eliminated money bail throughout the state. The considerable controversy surrounding it was due to amendments on post-release restrictions impacting many poor people-of-color arrestees. In the latest session, he co-authored a bill phasing out private prisons in California—a key concern of undocumented immigrants. The law is currently being challenged by GEO, a major force in the corporate world of prison privatizers. In regard to environmental/climate change matters, Bonta has been active in campaigns around environmental issues, such as “No Coal in Oakland” and a major reduction in carbon output in California. He has also been in the news around policy and legislation to create a California Green New Deal that would link climate change policy with affordable public housing and universal/single-payer health care.

More recently he has been in the news for his helping initiate AB 2088, the CA Wealth Tax, which would have placed a four percent tax on those worth more than \$30 million (and who total over 30,000 in the state). This legislation is heavily backed by much of the labor movement. On the other hand, Bonta has drawn fire from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union for his backing of the proposed new baseball stadium in downtown Oakland.

Bonta introduced a fairly strong bill (AB 1436) on tenants rights during the pandemic, but he ended up voting for AB 3088, which he had criticized as inadequate. He likewise supports a \$2 billion expenditure for the homeless. On human rights, he has called for the state agencies not to turn anyone over to ICE. Finally, he has submitted a bill to halt the racist usage of the emergency 911 number.

All this said, Bonta is still joined at the hip to the Democratic Party establishment. While we can agree and give support to some important legislation he proposes, we do not perceive him as a leading advocate for a needed insurgency within the Democratic Party. He backed Tom Steyer, not Bernie Sanders, for the Democratic party presidential nomination. For this reason, it is impossible for us to endorse Bonta.

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 go to <http://acgreens.org>, and then click on the “Candidate Questionnaires” tab near the top of the page).

Superior Court Judge, Office #2 Elena Condes

There are two candidates in a runoff for the Alameda County Superior Court seat currently held by Carol Brosnahan, a long-serving and highly respected judge. The two candidates who made it to the run-off are Elena Condes and Mark Fickes. Both have significant legal experience, and either of the them would contribute to diversity on the bench, with one being a Latina lesbian (Condes) and one a gay Jewish man (Fickes). Both responded to the Green Party questionnaire before the primary election. Based on their answers to the questionnaire and information on their campaign websites, we give an edge to Condes.

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. We accordingly endorse Condes for Alameda County Superior Court Judge.

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, but we rank him a close second to Condes.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Peralta Community Colleges

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

Four seats on the Peralta Board of Trustees are up for election, but only one race will be on the November ballot. This is because one incumbent and two new candidates are running unopposed, and the Peralta Board opts not to pay the Alameda County Voter Registration office election fee (tens of thousands of dollars) for single-candidate races. One long-time incumbent, Nicky Gonzalez Yuen (Area 4—Berkeley flatlands, Emeryville, Albany) was elected in 2004 and is unopposed. Gonzalez Yuen has been endorsed by the Peralta Federation of Teachers and the Alameda Labor Council.

In Area 2 (deep East Oakland, from Seminary to the San Leandro border), a newcomer, Kevin Jenkins is unopposed to replace Meredith Brown. Brown was first elected in 2012 and served 2 terms. In Area 6 (Berkeley Hills, North Oakland, Montclair, Oakland Hill), another newcomer, Dyanna Pool, is unopposed to replace Karen Weinstein, who served one term.

Peralta Board, Area 1 Alameda, part of Oakland Jeffrey Heyman

Jeffrey Heyman is challenging a long-time Trustee Bill Withrow. Incumbent Withrow was first elected in 2004. In three elections since then, Withrow has not had an opponent. Now Heyman is a strong challenger. We think it's time for a re-boot for the Alameda/Oakland Chinatown seat on the Peralta Board.

Heyman was an administrator in the Peralta Community College District for 18 years, until 2018. He was the Executive Director of Public Information, Communications & Media, and he taught courses in the Laney journalism department. In 2017, he filed a whistleblower complaint exposing financial, administrative and board mismanagement. Heyman's reason for running is to serve students by reforming the board and establishing financial integrity, stringent audits, transparency, and fully-functioning com-

munity oversight committees. Heyman is endorsed by the SEIU 1021, which represents the Peralta classified staff, and by the Wellstone Democratic Club.

See: <http://www.heyman4students.com/>.

Greens have not supported Withrow in the past. As leader of the Board's finance committee, Withrow supported the administration's recommendation to enter into a complicated, risky and ultimately failed structure for the District's long-term health care debt. For years he thwarted the Board majority's decision to divest the Peralta's investment portfolio from carbon-intensive stocks. Two years ago he attempted to censure a fellow trustee, arguing that Trustees—who are elected to hold administrators accountable—did not have First Amendment rights to draw the public's attention to problems with the agencies they oversee.

Go to: <http://www.billwithrow4trustee.com/>.

County Supervisor, District 1 Vinnie Bacon

We had already given Vinnie Bacon our endorsement in the primary but we sent a follow up questionnaire to both candidates asking specific questions on local transportation and animal treatment issues.

David Haubert again did not respond, but Bacon took the time to answer at length our further questions, and his answers assured us that we had made the right decision in giving him our endorsement to begin with.

In sum, he shows a clear understanding of the issues involved in attempting to mitigate the traffic congestion of the region, not by trying to build more roads, such as the Quarry Lakes Parkway, but by improving and increasing public transit options, working to build housing closer to where the job centers are, and improving bike routes to make people actually feel enthused about bicycling. In fact Bacon has an informed and detailed position paper on bicycle commuting, as he does for multiple other topics, on his website.

Bacon also supports the current county ban against the inhumane "mutton busting" event at the Rowell Ranch Rodeo whereby children ride frightened sheep around the arena. He supports further proposed bans on calf-roping and wild cow milking at the rodeo. Given that he is already a vegetarian, it is not surprising that he takes a very clear humane approach to treatment of animals in areas the County has jurisdiction over.

We wholeheartedly reaffirm our support and endorsement of Bacon for District 1 Supervisor.

City of Alameda Ballot Measures and Offices

Alameda City Council Trish Spencer, Gig Codiga, and Amos White Don't vote for Oddie or Vella

There are 5 people running for two seats on the Alameda City Council, including incumbents Malia Vella and Jim Oddie. Their three challengers are Trish Spencer, Gig Codiga, and Amos White. None of the challengers are taking any corporate or union donations. We leave it up to you to choose among the three independent candidates.

Amos White is the new guy in town. He's Black, is an activist, and knows how to engage with a crowd. He's been involved with political campaigns and environmental issues, including Trees for Humanity and Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA). His passions are restoring good government, attacking systemic racism, defunding the police, and addressing workforce housing. He's big on community involvement.

Trish Spencer was known as "the People's Mayor." She was the first Latina mayor. Whether or not you agreed with her, she was always available to city folks. She would drop everything to help a citizen with a problem. She offered pro bono aid if needed, and was constantly in the community networking with her constituents. She is committed to rebuilding morale after the city manager was put through the wringer by two councilmembers pressuring to choose a particular candidate for fire chief. Spencer is very concerned with Alameda's financial health and traffic issues, with only 4 bridges and one tube to carry 80 percent of our work force off the island for daily commuting. She does her homework, and has brought to our attention that Alameda's city density is higher than Oakland's (12,000 people per square mile). She has promised to vote No on Z for all the reasons we state elsewhere in this guide. In spite of Measure A, she notes

that we have already built or are committed to building over 5,000 housing units, which will continue to exacerbate the traffic problems of an island city.

Gig Codiga has history in Alameda; he's served for over 30 years on the board of the Boys and Girls Club, and served on the Alameda School Board for two terms. Now he wants to focus on big issues that impact our city: traffic congestion, effects of climate control, limiting contributions from outside Alameda. He doesn't accept donations from lobbyists or PACs, as well as corporations and unions. He does not support defunding the police; he does want to see Alameda vote by electoral district.

It is downright embarrassing to see Malia Vella and Jim Oddie running for another term. Have they no shame? Both of them meddled in the City Manager's hiring of a new fire chief a couple of years ago, although the city charter gives the City Manager complete discretion in hiring department heads, and interfering by city councilmembers is forbidden. They encouraged hiring the firefighters' union's preferred candidate. These two incumbents appear to serve at the behest of the firefighters' union and NOT in the interests of the citizens who elected them.

Alameda Auditor Kevin Kearney Alameda Treasurer Kevin Kennedy

Both Kevin Kearney and Kevin Kennedy are highly regarded for their frank opinions of city finances; their focus has been to make sound financial recommendations and they have been outspoken on our city's unfunded liabilities, and health care costs, and generally to keep the city financially afloat. Since they are elected by the citizens they are not

beholden to the city council; today they are an independent voice. In a past election cycle there were opposing candidates who were unsuccessful in either attempt to unseat "the Kevins." This election they are running unopposed. There have been times in the past when they worked with the council but today this is not the case with our majority council. We need their frank financial opinions.

Alameda School Board Jennifer Williams

Due to lack of recent interaction (largely due to the quarantine) and inadequate knowledge of the experience of most School Board candidates in this race, it has been difficult to make endorsements.

Two candidates, Traiman and Casselberry, did not return questionnaires, though the latter received some favorable community feedback. Two candidates had questionable background: Little, politically linked to more conservative City Council members, and Castro, who is a school administrator in SF. There is not a great deal known of community backing of Sweet and Aney.

The remaining candidate, Jennifer Williams, seems the most viable. She is well liked and heavily backed by the teachers union, the Alameda Education Association. She is a public attorney and administrative law judge in SF. She stresses equity issues and health/ safety concerns, not only around the pandemic, but around matters related to mental health. She indicates she would not take funds from pro corporate forces. She does seem to be satisfied with the AUSD establishment. She is one candidate to whom we can lend critical support.

We recommend Williams. It's your choice for the other two seats.

City of Alameda Ballot Measures

Alameda Measure Z - No, with reservations Alameda Multi-Unit Housing

This measure is a classical example of a proposal which seems to project a desired goal it likely won't deliver. The essence of Measure Z is to overturn the longstanding Measure A, which limits multi unit housing expansion. This regulation has been at the center of Alameda politics for many years; it was adopted into law in 1973 because older homes, many of the Victorian era, were being demolished and replaced in many cases with unattractive, cheaply built apartment buildings. This law has undergone changes due to state regulations; Measure A did not halt growth but it did protect demolition of the older homes. As of June 2018 there have been or are in the works over five thousand added housing units.

Getting rid of Measure A carries NO guarantees that affordable housing will occur. The market determines how many affordables will happen. Low cost housing is not something developers want to absorb. Right now developers are required to provide 15 percent affordable units; so for every 100 units built, 15 are supposedly affordable, with the remaining at market rate (which in this area hovers around a million dollars a unit). Thus, it would take many thousands

of units to produce the number of affordable units needed, if left to the intentions of developers.

There's a charge that Measure A discriminated against Blacks. In 1970 the percentage of Blacks in the city was 2.6 percent, now it's 7 percent. But in ensuing years the Asian population grew to 33 percent. Somehow the size of the non white population got lost in the charge that Alameda was racist, when in fact its diverse population increased from 10 percent to 50 percent.

Alameda is an island city with limited ingress/egress; there is a concern that without Measure A all housing guidelines will lie with the city council. Yet the city council could have done more to meet state goals for 'affordable' housing and has not shown great energy in doing so (approximately 370 of the new units were in the affordable category, with an added 200 proposed to replace existing units. Thus some possibilities were present, even if not meeting the 15 percent level). Can one trust the city council now and in the future to consider wise housing choices and remain free of developer dollars?

The campaign in opposition is a grassroots movement, including the three non incumbent candidates for the city council. It is true that the advocates include far more prominent names, seemingly promoting a more inclusionary policy, with strong racial implications. But should Z pass, many people will see the reality behind the developers' game

plan. This is similar to policy proposed by Scott Weiner in Sacramento or Bill DeBlasio in NYC.

We share the concern of encouraging more affordable housing in Alameda, as in the whole Bay Area, but is this the best way? We wish to acknowledge the proclaimed hopes for measure Z, and that many believe these can be advanced with the measure, despite the likelihood of it being exploited by developers. Thus our opposition, but our reservation. We recommend that you VOTE NO ON MEASURE Z (with reservations).

Alameda Measure AA - YES Clarifies prohibition against meddling by city council members

No opposition argument to this proposal was submitted and we're not aware of any organized opposition to it. This measure addresses a real concern which emerged a few years ago, with accusations that City Council members were attempting to pressure the City Manager concerning an appointment to a City position; this measure would clarify the illegality for a Council member or his/ her staff to attempt to interfere with the City Manager in his/ her designated duties, which makes sense to us.

Albany City Offices and Measures

Albany City Council Preston Jordan and Aaron Tiedemann

There are four candidates running for three open seats. With our endorsement of Preston Jordan we note his long participation with the Albany Green Party and their political committee, even though he is not currently a registered Green. From the start of his moving to Albany he has provided progressive leadership on a number of issues, including rank choice voting, safe sidewalks and streets, tax exemptions for low income households, climate action, renewable energy, and on and on. His election could tilt the council toward a proactive bent on a large number of Green priorities. Preston narrowly lost his bid to unseat one of two incumbents in 2018; his strong showing in that election indicates the strong community support behind his candidacy. Preston co-founded three successful community groups: Albany Strollers & Rollers, Albany Climate Action Coalition (formerly Carbon Neutral Albany), and Voter Choice Albany, working to pass Ranked Choice Voting this Fall. He knows Albany and will serve it well.

Aaron Tiedemann would bring an aggressively fresh perspective to the council. His work as a Housing Analyst for Alameda County's Housing and Community Development Department and service on Albany's Economic Development Committee position him well to be a strong progressive voice. A lifelong Albany resident, he is keen to see many of the city's perceived and real injustices corrected. His ideas for enacting Albany's Climate Action Plan go further than any of the other candidates. He is also one of the principal proponents of Voter Choice Albany, first advocating for its placement on the ballot and now working to pass Measure DD (see below).

Ge'Nell Gary or Tod Abbott: You Pick – Like much of the Bay Area, Albany is fortunate to have all of its candidates for City Council embodying progressive values and deep or deeper shades of Green. Ge'Nell Gary is a business woman of color who has served on Albany's Social and Economic Justice Commission and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women. Tod Abbott has been involved in the Albany Chamber of Commerce since 2003, has served on the Albany's Parks & Recreation Commission and the board of the Albany Community Foundation. Both Ms. Gary and Mr. Abbott wrote strong statements supporting affordable housing, commitment to address social and racial injustice, and support for measures to meet the goals of Albany's Climate Action Plan. However, neither supports Ranked Choice Voting, which promotes Grassroots Democracy and Diversity, two key Green Values. Either will be a good city council member, so we leave it to voters to pick.

Albany School Board No Endorsements

Three candidates are running for two open seats. We did not receive replies to our Green Party questionnaire from any of the three candidates. In light of that, we are not endorsing or advising against any of the candidates, and instead urge Albany voters to visit the City of Albany website > City Clerk > 2020 Election Information, and read each candidate's statement.

For Brian Beall:

<https://www.albanyca.org/home/showdocument?id=45408>

For Melissa Boyd:

<https://www.albanyca.org/home/showdocument?id=45410>

For Veronica Davidson:

<https://www.albanyca.org/home/showdocument?id=45412>

Albany Ballot Measures

Albany has four measures on the ballot, and the Green Party supports them all, though three with reservations, discussed below:

Measure BB - YES Ranked Choice Voting

This measure would change the current method of electing City Council and Board of Education Members from obtaining a plurality of votes to Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), in order to make Albany's elections more representative of the votes and preferences of its voters. RCV has been recognized as one means of bringing at-large (non-districted) elected councils such as Albany's into compliance with the California Voting Rights Act.

Albany is a small and diverse community, but the current voting system leaves out many of our voices. RCV lets one rank the candidate, ensuring the votes go to one's most preferred candidates still in the running. Adopting RCV will empower voters to vote their conscience, make it more likely that minority communities will have a voice, and ensure that all have fair and equal representation. We join the East Bay Times, Albany Democratic Club, League of Women Voters, and many Albany officials in endorsing Measure BB.

Measure CC - Yes, with Reservations Real Property Transfer Tax

Measure CC proposes to increase the real property transfer tax rate from \$11.50 to \$15.00 per \$1,000 purchased, proving an estimated \$392,000 annually to Albany's general services fund.

Supported by a broad spectrum of City leaders, this increase helps offset the drop of funding brought on by Covid-19, without directly affecting the majority of Albany residents and renters. It is one of many ways California cities have been forced to make up for revenues otherwise restricted with Proposition 13 limitations on tax basis, thus this committee's reservations in endorsing its approval.

Measure DD - Yes, with Reservations Utility Users' Tax

By applying an increase from 7.5 percent to 9.5 percent for gas and electric service, and applying a 7.5 percent tax to water service, passage of this measure will provide an additional \$675,000 annually, with a City stated goal of funding 'disaster and emergency preparedness, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, emergency response and environmental sustainability.' The measure adds an exemption for low-income households, a net effect of saving money for financially challenged households in Albany, advancing economic justice.

Proponents of Measure DD also note that the measure serves to incentivize reduced energy use, as those who use more pay more, and those who use less pay less. The increase is modest (about \$4 per month for the average household), but funds generated are aimed at helping households transition from gas to clean, renewably generated electricity, increasing the urban forest, and encouraging zero emission forms of transportation.

Our reservations in this case are first due to the measure not going far enough to disincentivize the use of fracked gas by taxing it at an even higher rate (as proponents wanted), and second due to its application to water, which even though an energy intensive resource, is also a basic human right to a public resource: clean fresh potable water. Nonetheless, while Measure DD misses the opportunity to launch with a higher rate on polluting gas, it would be a grave mistake to not bring this tool to bear towards reducing gas consumption and transitioning to all-electric households run on renewable energy.

Measure EE - Yes, with Reservations Paramedic Advanced Life Support, Fire Engines, and Ambulance Special Tax

In November 2010, the Albany voters approved this tax, authorized to remain in effect for ten years after it became operative, unless extended by the voters. Currently, the tax on assigned residential units in Albany is \$23.66 per year. If the proposed Ordinance is approved, the total tax rate will be raised to \$68 per assigned residential unit per year, exempting very low-income residents.

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

Berkeley City Offices and Measures

Berkeley City Council, District 2

continued from page 1

policies pushed by the City Manager, advocated for the homeless, fought for affordable housing, and denounced police militarization and police harassment of people of color, the homeless, and those in mental crises. Her voting record is exemplary—always choosing the moral position over pandering to the wealthy and developers. She has the strongest environmental voting record on the Council. Most recently, Cheryl pushed the Council to eliminate tear gas and other pain compliance devices from the police, and had the foresight to make the only “defunding police” proposal that didn’t just kick the can down the road. Cheryl has also shown the courage to stand up to the Mayor and other Council members who have regularly marginalized and disrespected her during Council meetings. Cheryl is by far the best candidate for Council in all districts and deserves a #1 ranking.

Terry Taplin appears to be the chosen candidate of the centrist and right-wing members of the Council. Some of his progressive positions mirror Davila’s, however, the sheer number of website campaign promises are totally unrealistic for anyone who has even an inkling of the limits to city government. This is especially true during a period of shrinking budgets in an economic downturn. In addition to the grandiose and sometimes disjointed campaign claims, there is one that is particularly concerning. His pledge “not to take contributions over \$200 from oil, gas, and coal industry executives, lobbyists and PACS” is rather bizarre in light of his public-financed campaign where the maximum allowed donation is \$50, and at a time when true progressives forgo all fossil fuel donations. For all his progressive claims there is no mention of his positions on rent control, Costa Hawkins, or market rate housing. It seems to be a campaign to draw off progressive voters from Davila without offering any real substance. The fact that the Mayor and some Council members favor Taplin seems more likely to result from their dislike of Davila whose moral positions on every issue have embarrassed them.

Timothy Carter’s campaign website offers little but vague references to cooperation and collaboration. We can read between the lines as it states “Councilmember Kesarwani has been carrying a heavy load in trying to address the needs of all her constituents, housed and unhoused. I look forward to collaborating with her bold leadership in finding a just and equitable solution for all our residents.” This seems to be a red flag since Kesarwani has never been an advocate for the homeless and instead is a proponent of gentrification. On housing Carter says he wants “to see the city focus on creating a path to homeownership for our Berkeley residents who want it ... expanding our tax base without increasing the taxes on existing homeowners.” This smacks of catering to developers and pandering to the rich (those who have housing or can afford to buy housing)—gentrification couched in terms of rugged individualism and meritocracy. On police, Carter states “Once we’ve clearly and completely answered this question, we can approach police funding and reform,” which sounds like more kick-the-can-down-the-road politics. Where has Carter been for the last five years as Black Lives Matter (BLM) has addressed police brutality and militarization? How can he not mention BLM on his campaign website? With an almost non-existent campaign, he appears to be in the race to draw off votes from Davila.

Alex Sharenko is the gentrification, pro-police candidate and we recommend SHARENKO NOT BE RANKED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. His campaign statement and website are mostly non-actionable statements and platitudes. A telling sign is that he is endorsed by the three most right-wing and pro-developer council members (Droste, Wengraf, Kesarwani) and endorsed by the perennial District 4 gentrification candidate Ben Gould. He fails to state his position on the police budget and instead punts with “re-evaluate how we allocate public safety resources.” He then goes further with “ensure that our first responders are participating in regional training” which sounds like support for a re-constituted Urban Shield. On housing and homelessness, he advocates for regional programs the Council has no control over rather than addressing what the Council can do. The website doesn’t talk about working with the homeless but rather takes a top-down approach to “follow the advice of homelessness experts” and “work to regulate RV parking”—which sounds suspiciously like the current City Manager’s plans, which have failed. There is no mention of rent control or Costa Hawkins—another developer/landlord red flag. His website advocates for “creation of more naturally affordable ‘missing middle’ type housing.” The ‘missing middle’ is a made-up term by developers advocating for more market-rate housing. We recommend not ranking this gentrification, pro-police candidate at all. Rank Cheryl Davila #1 – Don’t rank Sharenko!

Berkeley Mayor

continued from page 1

ladder? Can he raise money?

But the real reason we do not rank the mayor is his record. Over the last four years Arreguin has handed control of policy to the city manager, deferring to her on critical progressive issues surrounding police, development, the environment, housing and the homeless. Mayor Arreguin stripped off his progressive coating within days of being elected when he failed to direct the city manager and the police to end the raids on the homeless (allowing police harassment that continued until the coronavirus.) voted in favor of a police armored vehicle, and failed to press for divestment in Well Fargo for their role in supporting the Dakota Access Pipeline. The list of centrist positions is long even during his first year. Regarding police, he failed to cut Urban Areas Security Initiative ties to the Trump administration; he supported police participation in Urban Shield (even in the face of hundreds urging the Council to vote it down—then renewing participation in following years until the Alameda supervisors killed it); he failed to support the public protests against pro-Trump white supremacists, instead telling people to stay home; he wanted to classify Antifa as a gang; he led an emergency Council vote to allow police to pepper spray protestors; and he voted to give the city manager the power to make laws involving protests and demonstrations resulting in an unconstitutional ban on masks. All this in Arreguin’s first year. On fiscal issues, we saw increases in the bloated Center Street Parking Garage go unquestioned; an \$800,000 loan to the city manager whose annual salary was \$267,000; and support of new high-rise development. These centrist-right positions have basically continued throughout his tenure, with some shifts to the left after strong showings of public outrage.

Yet our primary criticisms of Arreguin are reserved for his efforts to disempower the public through changes in policy. This was accomplished through several mechanisms: 1) moved controversial items with large numbers of speakers to the end of the agenda, often making them wait till after 11PM to speak (with most people silenced since they were unable to stay that late), 2) eliminated the rule that allowed four members of the public to pull an item from consent (and later further changed it so that even a Council member could not remove an item from consent), 3) reduced public comment to a single minute if ten speakers were present (too short for a coherent argument), 4) sided with the city manager against numerous Commission policy recommendations, and 5) formed a complex set of “ad hoc” sub-committees to thwart the Brown Act and pre-determine most policy outside of Council meetings resulting in Council votes and public comment that are a mere pro-forma process. Jesse Arreguin seems to be on his way to being another cog in the neoliberal Democratic Party machine. Is former Councilmember extraordinaire, Dona Spring, turning over in her grave? She was the best! The Green Party is proud of her stellar legacy, as should be all of Berkeley. Arreguin has failed her.

Although Hsiung has a progressive platform, he also appears to be a controversial figure in the animal rights movement (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne_Hsiung), with accusations surrounding his behavior leading Direct Action Everywhere. He is also currently a co-defendant in a court case involving animal rescue. Because of the controversial nature of the accusations, we have decided not to rank him. We don’t recommend ranking Arreguin because of his failures to follow through on progressive campaign promises. As for the fourth candidate, Naomi Pete, she is running a very low key, symbolic campaign. She has worked on behalf of elders, disabled people, and people of color. Her heart seems to be in the right place, so you might consider ranking her #2. Rank #1 Aidan Hill. Do not rank Hsiung or Arreguin.

Berkeley City Council, District 3

**#1: Ben Bartlett
(ranked, but not endorsed)
Don’t rank the other candidates**

Ben Bartlett is clearly the most progressive of the three candidates. We recommend not ranking either of the other candidates—both represent extremely conservative values. Although Bartlett has been a mixed bag for District 3, he is clearly more progressive than the mayor and Council majority, although often votes with the mayor (or abstains) rather than showing the courage of Davila and Harrison to challenge the Party line, the Police, or the city manager. He has made some efforts to promote progressive action on

affordable housing, police reform, and the environment.

We recommend not ranking Orlando Martinez. He is a manager in a construction company, staking out a pro-business, pro-police position in this election. Although some of his answers were evasive (failed to address rent control), some answers clearly identify his policy positions. When asked about priorities he stated: “Our first priority must be to keep our local businesses going and get them back on their feet.” When asked about People’s Park and police raids on the homeless: “We need to work together to get homelessness under control ... We should raid those homeless encampments which do not want help. They must be relocated ...” On whether to tackle gentrification: Berkeley “doesn’t need to, people move to Berkeley for many reasons.” When asked to define what the movement to “defund the police” means, he replied, “the movement is using the wrong slogan ...” Regarding police, Martinez thinks “our Police Departments get it ... Urban Shield is not all bad”. And in response to a question about tear gas and other pain-inflicting police actions Martinez responded with “I sympathize with them [police].” Lastly, he failed to answer questions about police cooperation with ICE, UASI and NCRIC. Based on these answers, Martinez should not be ranked.

Deborah Matthews is a Real Estate Broker and former Planning Commissioner and Zoning Adjustment Board member with an extensive record. Her votes are consistently, nay always, on the side of property owners and developers, often arguing for more concessions for big projects. The thought of her serving on Berkeley’s City Council leaves us absolutely cold. Rank Ben Bartlett #1 and don’t rank the other candidates.

Berkeley City Council, District 5

**#1: Sophie Hahn
(ranked, but not endorsed)
#2: Paul Darwin
Picklesimer
(ranked, but not endorsed)
Don’t rank Todd Andrew!**

Councilmember Hahn has staked out a moderate position on the Council generally siding with the mayor to swing the vote to the right (with Wengraf, Droste, Kesarwani) or to the left with (Davila, Harrison, and Bartlett or Robinson). Sophie Hahn’s overall record is mixed on housing, police, and the homeless. Challenging Hahn is animal rights activist Paul Picklesimer, a relative newcomer to Berkeley (2016) and co-defendant in a court case with mayoral candidate Hsiung. His questionnaire indicates progressive policy positions similar to Hahn’s questionnaire, but he has no local track record in Berkeley politics. Hahn is also being challenged by Real Estate Salesperson Todd Andrew. Once again, the real estate and developer wing of the Democratic Party are trying to capture a seat traditionally held by moderate Democrats. The rather short list of Andrew’s conservative backers (including Capitelli, Murphy, Moore), and his lack of a campaign website (as of Sept. 1), suggests his campaign is half-hearted at best—likely conceding the election to Hahn. The Daily Cal quoted Andrew as saying “he would be open to public-private partnerships” to solve Berkeley’s problems, the neoliberal version of right-wing privatization, which would be a disaster. So, we recommend NOT ranking Andrew. No matter which of our ranked candidates wins, we hope to see a shift to the left with more courageous moral stances through teaming with Davila and Harrison rather than just supporting the mayor and the Democratic Party machine.

Berkeley City Council, District 6 Vote Richard Illgen Defeat Wengraf!

Richard Illgen, an experienced social justice attorney, is challenging incumbent Susan Wengraf in this most conservative of Berkeley districts. Illgen would be a breath of fresh air, bringing the Berkeley values of environmentalism and social responsibility to one of the wealthiest sections of the city. In these uncertain times of Trump, Illgen would bring

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continued from page 7

an activist's skills from his work "in a City Attorney's office holding people accountable to the public trust, including mandating fire safety, addressing human trafficking, illegal dumping, and housing issues ranging from foreclosed housing to affordable housing, rent control, substandard housing enforcement, historic preservation, and holding those who preyed on the vulnerable attempting to seek refuge in the United States to account." And with the other great threat being the coronavirus, Illgen brings expertise from drafting "COVID emergency residential and commercial tenant protections with local community stakeholders." In these dangerous times we need Illgen's fresh ideas. Please read his thoughtful responses to our questionnaire and peruse his website: <https://www.richardforcitycouncil.org/>. In contrast, Wengraf (who declined our questionnaire) has been the most pro-developer, pro-police, anti-homeless reactionary member of the Council. Furthermore, she is fond of stammering, "This is a complex issue," to cover for not having familiarized herself with the material provided in meeting packets. She dozes off during meetings, if she even stays until the end, and often ignores constituents' requests. It is time to defeat incompetence. We are grateful for a brilliant, ethical, and conscientious challenger. Vote only for Richard Illgen.

Berkeley School Board Ana Vasudeo and Laura Babitt

There are six candidates vying for two seats; in a rarity no incumbent is running. This will mean two entirely untried and untested candidates will decide issues before the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) for the next several years.

Mike Chang said that as a Federal employee he can't participate in our process. Laura Babitt, Jose Bedolla, Norma Harrison, Esfandiar Imani, and Ana Vasudeo returned our questionnaire more or less on time, except Babitt was a week late. All have at least some experience in our schools/communities, with varying degrees of involvement. All except Norma Harrison answered our questionnaire with direct responses to our questions.

Norma Harrison is a long time anti-capitalist activist well known in Berkeley political circles. Though her political point of view is commendable and elicits some sympathy from us, her refusal to address the real needs of our actual schools and physical students does not offer a blueprint for increased funding, enlarging our teachers' union and classified unions influence, nor does it address the on-going crisis of achievement, health, and access gaps. We appreciate her voice, but we cannot support her candidacy.

Jose Bedolla had generally thoughtful and forceful responses to our questionnaire. We have used the word generally deliberately; there was much rhetoric, but very little specific prescription. No real mention of historic school underfunding, no real answer to the question of teachers' unions (and other unions). In a word, he is perhaps not ready. Mr. Bedolla has three children, one has graduated from Berkeley High, the other two are currently enrolled in Berkeley public schools.

Esfandiar Imani gave very thoughtful responses to our questionnaire, and has quite extensive experience on site and district-level committees within BUSD. All three of his children matriculated through Berkeley public schools. Again, his responses are a bit short of specifics, and his repeated citing of his wife's work, though admirable, does not really address his work or positions.

Laura Babitt has experience in the District on budget development (and apparently in her work life, as well) and has been active and played a leadership role in Parents of Children of African Descent. She is committed to providing equity for our children of color and to ensure that the achievement and opportunity gaps are addressed. She also cited working to improve access and opportunities to our special ed. population, especially during this difficult Covid era. The Berkeley Federation of Teachers has endorsed Laura's candidacy. If you want to vote for two candidates we highly recommend that Laura be your second vote.

Ana Vasudeo had by far the most comprehensive and thoughtful responses to our questionnaire. She obviously took some time and pains with it. She currently works for San Francisco Unified as a Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, has held and holds leadership roles in both site and District PTAs, talks convincingly of the "opportunity gap" and ways to address it, and is the only candidate to talk at length about historical state and federal school underfunding. She has two children in the Berkeley public schools. Additionally, she is a union member herself, and strongly supports the Berkeley's teachers' union (BFT); in fact BFT has endorsed her candidacy. We like her responses enough

to encourage a vote for her, and a recommended endorsement.

Vote for Ana Vasudeo and Laura Babitt for Berkeley School Board.

Berkeley Rent Board Xavier Johnson, Dominique Walker, Mari Mendonca, Leah Simon-Weisberg, and Andy Kelley

These five pro-tenant finalists were interviewed by a panel representing 15 progressive organizations and unions, including the Green Party, DSA, Berkeley Tenants Union, and SEIU. They were the top vote getters in an unprecedented Rent Board convention, all on-line. Ballots were cast on-line and by paper ballots, and over 700 residents of Berkeley voted.

This is a well represented and diverse slate. There are community activists as well as tenant attorneys included. All five have impressive resumes, and will be assets to the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board.

Vote for these five candidates. There will be opposition from the landlord and BPOA (Berkeley Property Owners Association).

Measure FF – YES Fire, Emergency Services and Wildfire Prevention Tax

This measure creates a new parcel tax to fund fire and emergency services and requires a 2/3rd vote. This tax places an additional \$0.1047 per square foot of improved property in addition to the fire and emergency service taxes that Berkeley property owners already pay. In real dollars this is \$94.23 annually for a 900 sq. ft. property and is expected to generate \$8.5 million annually. The money will be placed in a special fund that can only be used for these services.

The Berkeley City Council placed this measure on the ballot to address a confluence of circumstances: aging and outdated systems and equipment, funding cuts by Alameda County and lost revenue due to COVID-19, and increased demand for services due to an aging population and climate change.

The opponents of this measure are anti-tax generalists and raise no credible arguments disputing the need to fund these challenges, claiming without evidence that the money will not be spent as intended. The needs are real, and the money has to come from somewhere. Until we have a federal government that is willing to invest in its citizens the burden will fall on state and local governments, and parcel taxes at least attempt to spread that burden somewhat equitably. Very low-income households are exempted from the tax.

Vote YES on FF.

Measure GG – YES Tax on Transportation Network Trips

This measure creates a new "Transportation Network User Tax" which places a fee per trip on users of app driven ride services like Uber and Lyft. The fee is modest, 50 cents for a single passenger trip and 25 cents for a multiple passenger ("pooled") trip. Medical related trips and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles are exempted from the fee. The purpose of the tax is to offset the increased costs that the additional vehicle trips generate, including wear and tear on our streets, increased pollution and greenhouse gases, and traffic congestion. Unlike Berkeley-based businesses, these companies pay no local taxes. The measure is estimated to generate over \$900,000 annually for the general fund.

The opponents of this measure are the same anti-tax generalists opposing Measure FF. While they are correct that the drivers are paying the gas tax, the companies they work for are not paying the local taxes that other companies, including taxis, are paying. And directing the money to the general fund allows our elected officials discretion to address the most urgent problems first. Berkeley is not breaking new ground here either—other cities are already doing this successfully.

The ride hailing gig economy benefits drivers and riders in many ways, but it shouldn't do so at the expense of our infrastructure and other local businesses. Unfortunately, this measure does not and cannot address all of the cracks in the fairness of our transportation system in this digital age. Vote YES on GG.

Measure HH – YES Utility Users Tax

This measure would increase the utility user taxes that appear on your PG&E bill for electricity and gas usage from 7.5 percent to 10 percent and would authorize the City Council to further increase the tax on gas by an additional 2.5 percent. Low-income households enrolled in the CARE or FERA programs would become exempt from the tax entirely. The measure also renames the existing Energy Commission "The Climate Action and Energy Commission" and creates a Climate Action Equity Fund into which the revenue generated could be placed. The Commission would make recommendations to the City Council on spending to address environmental justice, climate equity issues, and the impact on low-income and vulnerable citizens. The tax is projected to generate \$2.4 million annually.

The opponents of this measure are the same anti-tax generalists opposing FF and GG. While they are correct that the funds will be deposited into the City's General Fund and can be spent on any city purpose, our experience with the Soda Tax thus far (which uses the same tax collection mechanism) is that the revenue has been spent as intended on public health initiatives. Collecting the tax in this way avoids the need for the 2/3rd vote required for a new tax.

Berkeley has made strides in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but we have not achieved the 2020 33 percent reduction target. This is due in part to the fact that many of the existing programs are not accessible to people with limited resources. The Climate Action Equity Fund could start to address this disparity, at a minimal annual cost to most residents. Vote YES on HH.

Measure II - Yes, Yes, Yes! Police Accountability Charter Amendment

For nearly 50 years, progressive people in Berkeley have yearned for truly independent civilian oversight of the police. In November, we finally have the chance to take a step in that direction with Measure II.

This Charter Amendment will replace the Police Review Commission (PRC) with a new Police Accountability Board and Director that will have full access to internal Berkeley Police Department (BPD) records and data, allowing for better oversight of their practices and policies. The Amendment will also remove the Board from the control of the City Manager, resolving a long-time conflict of interest that curbed the PRC's independence of action.

Measure II is supported by stalwart progressives including former Mayor Gus Newport, former Councilmember Max Anderson, and Dr. Vicki Alexander. It also has support across the political spectrum including all nine members of the city council. The measure is in line with the Green Party-USA program that calls for the establishments of "elected or appointed independent civilian review boards with subpoena power to investigate complaints about prison guard and community police behavior."

While we strongly support II, it is not because we see it as a panacea. It does not directly cure the BPD's racial discrimination nor place management of the department under community control. The proposal must be read in the context of the popular movement to re-envision policing and overturn white supremacy across the country.

In Berkeley the city council, under great community pressure, has agreed to at least study cutting the police budget by 50 percent, establishing non-police responsibility for handling mental health and homeless-related encounters, and the same for non-criminal parking and traffic incidents. Like everywhere else, these moves are just the beginning of a probably titanic struggle with the police union and its supporters. The ability for a civilian body to look under the hood of the BPD and see how it really functions will be a great asset to the people's movement to transform public safety over the next several years.

The stakes are high. We need a landslide vote to force the city council to fully fund the new Board in these austere times. People should bear in mind that the pandemic has multiplied examples of guns drawn and "less-lethal" weapons used on Black people in Berkeley. The BPD's own data for the last five years show a clear pattern of racial discrimination in stops, searches, and use of force.

Berkeley Measures

Measure JJ – YES Charter Amendment, Mayor and City Council Compensation

This measure would significantly increase the Mayor and City Councilmembers' salaries and would tie any future changes to the area median income. In real numbers, the Mayor's salary would increase from \$61,304 to \$107,300, which is the current median income for a three-person household in Alameda County. Council salaries would be 63 percent of the Mayor's salary, increasing from \$38,695 to \$67,599. The total impact on the city budget would be \$280,000 a year.

As a matter of good government, citizens should want their elected officials to be compensated commensurate with the work expected of them and adequately enough to avoid corruption. If the Mayor and Council are expected to work full-time this compensation level is modest given what it costs to live in Berkeley. Long gone are the days when being a councilmember meant showing up to vote and ceremonial duties. Over the past few decades, most Councilmembers have argued that they do work full-time and those that don't say they can't because they can't afford to. To what degree this is true varies with the councilmember, and nothing in the measure requires or defines work full-time, other than attendance at council meetings. And while it is also true that the historically low compensation may have dissuaded some people from seeking office, most who choose to run and serve are motivated by things other than money.

Opponents of this measure argue that this is too much at the wrong time - in the midst of a pandemic, when so many are suffering economically. What we pay our elected officials should be based on what is fair and reasonable (and who is currently occupying the office shouldn't matter - that's what elections are for). As a point of reference, the pay scale for most entry level skilled city of Berkeley jobs starts in the \$45-65,000 range. And if city workers are ever asked to take a pay cut as a cost-saving measure the City's Personnel Board is required to adjust the Mayor and Council salaries accordingly. We recommend a YES vote on JJ.

Measure KK – YES Charter Amendment, Administrative Provision and City Attorney

This measure amends the City Charter in four distinct areas: it eliminates the requirement that sworn members of the fire department live within 40 miles of the city; changes the name of the Citizens Redistricting Commission to Independent Redistricting Commission and modifies the eligibility requirements to conform with state law allowing any resident over the age of 18 to serve, regardless of citizenship status; replaces gender-specific pronouns and nouns with gender neutral language; and it delineates the job and responsibilities of the City Attorney and changes the hiring and firing procedure.

The City Council placed this on the ballot and describes it as a "good government" measure - we largely agree. The most significant changes are with the City Attorney's position. Currently the City Attorney is hired by the City Manager and approved by the City Council, as with any other city department head. With this amendment the City Attorney will be hired and can be fired directly by the City Council. Changes to the job description also move the power to direct the work of the City Attorney to the City Council from the City Manager's office. What the City pursues - or does not pursue - legally is often a political decision that is more appropriately in the hands of officials directly answerable to the people.

Vote YES on KK.

Measure LL – YES Gann Limit Spending Authority

Every four years, the State of California requires cities to ask voters' permission to spend tax revenue it is already collecting. Funding for the City's libraries, parks and emergency medical services was approved decades ago by more than two-thirds of Berkeley voters. To continue collecting and spending these funds, we need to vote approve LL. This measure is not a new tax and does not increase taxes. If LL does not pass, the City will lose millions of already approved tax revenue - forcing drastic cuts in city services. Vote YES on LL!

Measure MM – YES Rent Stabilization Ordinance Amendment

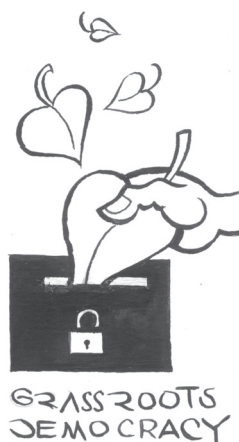
This measure amends the Rent Stabilization Ordinance in three ways: removes non-payment of rent as "good cause for eviction" during a declared emergency, such as the one in place for the COVID-19 pandemic; requires rent registration and fees for rental units that are exempt from the rent control provisions of the ordinance but not the "good cause for eviction" provisions; and clarifies when the exemption from the ordinance applies for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) - in-law or granny cottages - in response to changes in state law.

Non-payment of rent is one of the eleven reasons a landlord may evict a tenant in Berkeley. The COVID-19 lock down prevented many people from doing their jobs and consequently cost them the ability to pay rent. The rent ordinance as currently written does not protect tenants under extraordinary circumstances like this. The City had to declare an emergency and institute an eviction moratorium to prevent mass evictions. This amendment clarifies the law and codifies the tenant protections for this crisis and any declared emergencies in the future.

Not all rental properties are covered by all provisions of the Rent Ordinance because some units are partially exempt from rent controls, but all tenants and landlords are eligible to receive services. Landlords who are subject to the full ordinance - rent control and good cause for eviction provisions - pay an annual per unit registration fee that is (in most cases) passed on to tenants through the rent. Landlords who are only subject to the good cause for eviction provisions pay no fee. Rental units that fall into this category include new construction (anything built after 1980!), condos, and some single-family homes, among others. This measure will rectify that inequity by requiring registration of these units and establishing a fee commensurate with the partial services received. Homeowners who temporarily vacate and rent out their homes - for up to two years - will continue to be exempt.

Voters approved a measure two years ago that allowed newly constructed Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on owner occupied properties to be exempt from the Rent Ordinance, in an attempt to encourage the creation of new housing. At that time ADUs were only legal on properties with single-family homes. State law has changed to allow ADUs on multi-unit properties. The ordinance would be amended to conform with the original intent of the exemption: that it only applies to owner-occupied properties with a single ADU. Nothing will materially change for a homeowner currently contemplating adding an ADU, and potential confusion created by the change in state law is eliminated.

Opponents of this measure appear to be reflecting development interests that prefer as little regulation as possible. Much of what is in their ballot arguments is deceptive or just plain wrong, which is inexcusable since three are former members of the City Council and know better. The claim that there is "no oversight" for the fees is ridiculous - we have a nine-member elected Rent Board that sets fees based on a budget that is debated and voted on publicly. Vote YES on MM



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,
 5:00-6:30pm

Where:
 During the pandemic, we'll be on Zoom.

To receive our monthly notices, please subscribe to our Riseup list at:
greenpartyalamedacounty-subscribe@lists.riseup.net.



Emeryville City Council and School Board

Neither the city council nor school board elections in Emeryville will appear on the ballot this year. Both are uncontested in that just three candidates filed for the three city council seats and only two candidates filed for the three school board seats. Elections Code Section 10229 allows for a city council to take action, if it so chooses, to appoint the verified nominees when there are only as many candidates as there are seats with expiring terms. The Emeryville City Council voted to so resolve.

John Bauters, Ally Medina and Christian Patz, the incumbent councilmembers, will take office just as if the voters had elected them. Nonetheless, both John Bauters and Christian Patz, indicating their respect for the Green Party Voter Guide, submitted answers to our questionnaire. We wish to thank them for their responses, which appear on

our website. Both have progressive positions on supporting changing of policing priorities and making Emeryville more family friendly. Both have concerns with the budget shortfall that will result from the pandemic, and do not want to commit to how measure F funds will be spent until the amount of the budget shortfall is known. John Bauters is more specific in his vision, and shows a deeper understanding of government.

The candidates for the school board include John Van Geffen, who was appointed last year to replace a board member who moved out of the district, and Kimberly Solis, a current UC Berkeley student and graduate of Emery High School. Neither one responded to our questionnaire. The third open school board seat will be filled via appointment.

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).

Oakland City Offices and Measures

Oakland City Council

continued from page 1

in the streets for justice. Her five “primary legislative goals” dovetail nicely with the Green Party’s ten core values.

McElhaney has represented District 3 since 2013. Tragically, her son was murdered in Los Angeles in 2019. She offers an impressive list of accomplishments, including racial justice and racial equity programs, environmental initiatives (she describes herself as “shepherding” No Coal in Oakland), and defending City staff against layoffs and furloughs. Her detractors say that she barely lives in the district, that she has engaged in ethics violations (specifically getting free services from an architect whose city contract she supported), that she supports developers and business, and that her equity efforts are often window-dressing. In 2016, we said “McElhaney’s positions on issues indicate a strong predisposition toward her deep pocket donors and endorsers. Nonetheless, she is quite adept at politics. Therefore, with enough organized public influence, she adjusts her positions to avoid significant political backlash.” Her endorsers in 2020 represent a much wider range than four years ago, including also progressive luminaries such as Michael Tubbs (Mayor of Stockton) and Lateefah Simon (BART Board), very much the same list as Derreck Johnson, Mayor Libby Schaaf’s preferred candidate for the At Large seat. McElhaney also voted against the cuts to the Oakland Police Department in July 2020—she and her allies won the day, though it required a rare tie-breaking vote from the mayor to preserve the existing “public safety” budget.

Seneca Scott is a dedicated community gardener and food security activist in the district. He told us that killing over 300 rats in his gardens and seeing yet another threat to neighborhood food supply made him decide to run. He favors robust defunding of the police, with alternatives to policing; otherwise, he seems to be basically a single-issue community gardens candidate (a fine single issue).

Meron Semedar has an especially interesting and provocative history according to oneyoungworld.com, he spent 15 years as a stateless refugee and asylee, originally from Eritrea, and received US citizenship in late 2019. He has no public platform and did not answer our questionnaire, but One Young World (an organization which identifies him as an OYW “ambassador”) gives his primary values as affordable, available housing and “good policing.” His organizational affiliations brand him as another basically single-issue candidate, with his deeply personal focus on justice for refugees and asylees.

Alexus Taylor and Faye Taylor (presumably not related to one another) do not have websites or public platforms, have not appeared in candidate forums, and didn’t answer our questionnaire. They are unlikely to have a major effect on the results.

Vote for Carroll Fife for Council, and give the two younger single-issue candidates a boost and a chance to broaden their policy range with your #2 and #3 slots.

Oakland City Council, At Large Rebecca Kaplan

Rebecca Kaplan is running for a fourth four-year term as Oakland City Councilmember At Large, representing the entire city. She currently serves as Chair of the City Council. Kaplan’s opponents and critics describe her as unavailable and often not present for key votes; however, in her third term she has been more generally available, and her attendance at City Council meetings and committee meetings seems stable and reliable. In 2016, we endorsed her as our second choice, citing (among other things) her early support for No Coal in Oakland and a public bank, and her stellar performance on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board (BAAQMD), where she played an important role in climate justice for Oakland until she was removed by a bureaucratic technicality during her current City Council term. Oakland now has no representative on that board. Kaplan was a sponsor of the People’s Budget in 2018, voted for the defunding police budget in 2020, and has generally been a reliable progressive voice on the City Council.

The animosity between Kaplan and Mayor Libby Schaaf is no secret to Oaklanders; Schaaf has reliably championed a contender to Kaplan in each election. This year the mayor’s candidate is Derreck Johnson, who did not respond to our questionnaire. Johnson owns the iconic House of Chicken and Waffles in Jack London Square, through a holding company of which he is on record as the 100 percent owner. His website offers a robust and admirable platform for Black Oakland’s future, and a politically diverse set of endorsers almost identical to those of Lynette Gibson McElhaney, running for re-election in District 3 (which raises questions about endorsement slates for Oakland races). Johnson is a leading fundraiser among Oakland City Council candidates. Aside from his close ties to the mayor, who tends towards admirable public statements and corporate-oriented political actions, the biggest strike against Johnson is that the holding company for his restaurant was sued for nonpayment of workers’ compensation premiums in 2019, and paid five-figure fine to State Farm. Failure to pay workers’ compensation insurance is not only illegal; it does not bode well for Johnson’s commitment to his own employees, most of whom are Black.

The third contender in this race is Nancy Sidebotham, a perennial Oakland candidate for various offices. Sidebotham ran in this race in 2016, when we said she “would better represent the business interests in Oakland rather than the majority of people dealing with the housing and jobs crises affecting our city.” In her 2020 responses to our questionnaire, she strongly defended the Oakland Police Department, saying “For the most part [the relationship between OPD and the police is] very respectful and appreciated on all sides.” She also supports the Peace Officer’s Bill of Rights “with updating.”

We think Kaplan is the clear first choice; so we definitely recommend ranking her #1, whether you rank any other candidates or just leave the #2 and #3 slots empty.

Oakland City Council, District 1 #1: Tri Ngo #2: Dan Kalb, with reservations Do NOT vote for Walton

There are three candidates in this race: incumbent Dan Kalb and challengers Steph Dominguez Walton and Tri Ngo. Although there are a multitude of complex issues in this election, three stand out. First, how should political leaders respond to the current housing and homelessness crisis which pits a wealthy landlord class of owners versus mostly working class tenants over laws and rules on rents and protections? Second, what environmental policies should local government follow? Third, what changes are needed to improve our system of governance to make it more democratic and participatory and more able to successfully confront ongoing crises? Evaluating the three candidates in this race in light of these key issues helps understand them, our current politics and society and how to use our existing electoral democracy for the welfare of the people as a whole.

Oakland is a progressive place and Dan Kalb is one of this city’s most progressive politicians. A member of the Wellstone Democratic Club, he has been endorsed by the mayor, a number of other city council members, and other leading Democratic Party politicians like Supervisor Keith Carson. The Sierra Club, Oakland Tenants Union, Sunflower Alliance and progressive unions like California Nurses and Unite HERE also endorse Kalb. His legislative achievements focus on defensive actions, stopping things that cause harm, including authoring the ordinance to ban the storage and handling of coal in Oakland, a tenant protection act to limit landlord harassment, and co-authoring a ballot measure to create a Civilian Police Commission. His top campaign donors are mostly a group of the more progressive unions, but he did accept a large donation from the California Association of Realtors. This is typical of a privately funded political system where varied interests attempt to buy influence.

Steph Dominguez Walton, also a member of the Wellstone Democratic Club, represents the more middle-of-the-road to conservative strain of this party. An examination of her funding and endorsements reveals that she is a protégé of Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks and is part of an attempt to build a political machine with Wicks and her big donors in charge. Walton has a fundraising, endorsement and political profile similar to Wicks. Buffy Wicks arrived from the East Coast without a record in Oakland but with an outside money machine behind her. In her last election, Wicks raised and spent well over a million dollars, sending out many slick mailers to gain her assembly seat. A significant portion of that fund came from the landlord class, and in return, Wicks has refused to consider the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins statewide anti-tenant law passed in 1995. We can see Walton’s similar landlord support: among her major donors (each giving the maximum \$900) are no less than four directors of the East Bay Rental Housing Association, including its President Wayne Rowland, and 1st Vice President Luke Blackridge. A large number of other landlords have also donated to Walton. This follows the model in places like Oakland where Republicans have no chance to win, and so back middle-of-the-road or conservative Democrats to limit the power and influence of progressives. Walton also shuns class issues, openly playing the identity politics card, stating that she is a “woman of color” and “proud Latina,” leaving out the fact that most Oaklanders from Latin America are working class renters exploited by the wealthy landlords that are key funders of Walton’s campaign.

In terms of policies Walton advocates for, we have only rhetoric; she has no actual record to consider. There are, however, red flags. In her answers to the Green Party candidate questionnaire she said that she does NOT support ranked choice voting or proportional representation. In regard to coal in Oakland she states that the city is “in a bad negotiating position and should reach a settlement.” How this compromise, sellout position would keep the coal poison out of Oakland is left unexplained. She did not answer questions on budget issues or ending corporate constitutional rights.

The idealistic, even utopian candidate in this race is the well-educated Tri Ngo, who holds a PhD from Johns Hopkins. His campaign is built around improving our system of governance, which he correctly states “does not represent

Understanding and using “Ranked Choice Voting” (RCV)

Understanding and using “Ranked Choice Voting” (RCV) RCV allows you to “rank” three candidates, rather than being forced to choose just one. Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) is more descriptive: when a candidate is eliminated, it’s as if there is a run-off between the remaining candidates.

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

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

IRV invites strategies like:

- Only ranking sincere choices, people with political ideals you believe in, even if they can’t win.
- Saving the last vote for the “least disliked front-runner” in case your sincere choices are eliminated. Use your last place vote strategically. It may be the only one that counts.
- Make a statement by ranking a candidate you want to appear in the vote counting until they are eliminated, even if they’re not a sincere choice, as long as they have no chance of winning.

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

continued on next page

Oakland City Offices and Measures

Oakland City Council

continued from page 10

every resident.” He wants to create a government that is responsive through participatory budgeting and an “online voting system that enable all residents to vote on what the council is voting on.” He believes that this would ensure accountability and effective actions on the tough issues facing Oakland. He also favors converting vacant properties by “heavily fining” property owners who allow their properties to remain vacant. He also advocates for taxing luxury property to build affordable housing and suggests that affordable housing should also be created by obtaining “rights to all vacant land, empty buildings and warehouses.” He is against allowing newer built buildings to be excluded from rent control, as the Costa-Hawkins state law does. Finally, he critiques the existing campaign fundraising limits, arguing that “the limit of \$900 is not representative of what the average Oaklanders can contribute, thus allowing a wealthy subset of residents to influence campaigns.” Accordingly, he limits donations to his campaign to \$35 a person. Consequently, he has raised only \$3900 dollars, compared to nearly \$100,000 for Kalb and almost \$150,000 for Walton (as we go to press).

In sum, Kalb represents the best of the progressive establishment sector of the local Democratic Party. Walton represents an attempted power grab by Buffy Wicks and her wealthy donors and thus some of the worst aspects of that often sellout party. Ngo provides new ideas to try to serve the people and renew the system. The Green Party recommends NOT voting for Walton at all. Since we need a council person who wants to shakeup the status quo with advanced proposals for an expanded democracy, we endorse Ngo and recommend ranking him number 1 on your ballot. He is the visionary in this race, out in front with new ideas that can change everything through increased rank and file participation. We also endorse Kalb with reservations and favor ranking him number 2. Our reservations include these facts; although he is a progressive, he is also part of the political establishment of Oakland, accepting large donations from vested interests and taking a defensive, not proactive stance on key issues

Oakland City Council, District 5

#1: Richard Raya

#2: Zoe Lopez-Meraz

The choice in this race is between a centrist career politician and two progressive young challengers who are part of a new generation of leaders. Anyone backing the Green Party or hoping to reform the Democratic Party should support Richard Raya.

Raya is a law school graduate and movement-supported activist raised in Oakland, with likely the most detailed, progressive platform ever written by an Oakland City Council candidate. He has a sharp vision, keen intelligence, youthful energy, community values, personal history, and understanding of local issues. Raya has the endorsement of community-based groups such as the Wellstone Democratic Club, East Bay Young Democrats, Oakland Rising, Block by Block Organizing Network, and SEIU 1021 (#2 ranking).

It is evident who has the most political experience, establishment Democratic endorsements, and name recognition. Noel Gallo is a proud supporter of charter school privatization, and he helped establish one of the most charter heavy districts in the country during his 20 years on the Oakland School Board. He calls GO Public Schools and their corporate-backed power brokers “key partners.” In Gallo’s 7.5 years on the City Council, he has shown little ability to articulate policy, initiate needed legislative changes, or advocate for his constituents most needing City support. His vague, minimalist platform reflects a politician who cannot be held to a specific stand on any issue, is out to please everyone and repeatedly changes his position for no clear reason. When he’s voted the right way, like on establishing and strengthening the community oversight Police Commission, he was part of a unanimous vote.

Gallo developed the misnamed “Equity Caucus” that has held back needed social and economic justice efforts. He recently was the swing vote to stop the Progressive Business Tax from being placed on the November ballot, supporting the most profitable big businesses, and forestalling tens of millions of dollars of needed City revenue in this time of crisis. His failure to allow voters to bring Oakland in line with tax policies of other Bay Area cities will negatively impact struggling small businesses, low-income residents, tenants, the unsheltered, struggling homeowners, and “mom & pop” landlords throughout the city.

Another example: when the Greens invited the can-

didates to discuss the Oakland Police Department (OPD) relationship with the community and what changes are needed, Raya wrote a detailed, clear and thoughtful OPD reform statement that the Coalition for Police Accountability could fully support, while Gallo issued a vague one-sentence answer.

Zoe Lopez-Meraz also is a young challenger with a progressive vision, but lacks the detailed program, campaign structure, local issue understanding, and broad support needed to challenge an entrenched incumbent. Perhaps those ranking Raya 1 and Lopez-Meraz 2 can accumulate enough votes to challenge Gallo in this election; or shore them up for the next.

We strongly recommend Richard Raya to represent District 5.

Oakland City Council, District 7

#1: Aaron Clay

#2: Marchon Tatmon

District 7 covers East Oakland from Hegenberger Road to the San Leandro border. For the November 3 election, its residents will peruse for the first time since 1996 a ballot that does not include Councilmember Larry Reid’s name. Although the longest-serving member of the city council announced his retirement last year, he hopes to keep the seat in the family. His daughter, Treva Reid, is a frontrunner in the race that includes evangelical minister Bishop Bob Jackson, and former mayoral and council candidate Marcie Hodge. Rounding out the five-person race are Aaron Clay—an attorney, high school teacher, and CEO of an Oakland-based green energy company—who has received considerable attention in progressive quarters for his vision for a revitalized East Oakland economy; and Marchon Tatmon, a former football player who made a positive impression on many Oakland politicians as a mayoral candidate in 2018.

Our highest ranking goes to Clay. He not only proposes a post-pandemic environmentally Green vision for East Oakland’s economic renaissance, but he also presents a detailed blueprint for how to achieve it. His entire career has centered on developing and providing resources for underserved communities. His background, as a pro-bono real estate attorney and global and national award winner for his work creating community-based business models, uniquely prepares him to transform his district into a hub for clean technology. He would accomplish this by creating strategic partnerships with the tech and related industries in the Bay Area, using the land and assets already in existence. In order to provide a supply chain of diverse products for the hundreds of Silicon Valley companies that require manufacturing suppliers, Clay would convert warehouses into suitable venues for light industrial manufacturing and use land currently zoned for industrial purposes to create a pipeline of clean energy jobs. He is confident, especially with next year’s new national administration, that making the investment in sustainable industry sectors that are destined to undergo massive growth and that will provide living wages and union jobs for local residents will become a top priority for the entire City of Oakland. For those who see the fight for well-paying jobs and affordable housing as part of an innovative Green vision for the economic revitalization of East Oakland, Aaron Clay is the perfect choice.

We applaud Tatmon for his many laudable efforts over the years creating strong community support programs and services for black, brown, and poor people. While working to complete his doctorate in public administration, he currently serves as a Government Affairs Manager advocating for unhoused and underserved people with the SF/Marin County Food Bank’s Policy and Advocacy Division. To initiate East Oakland’s economic revival, he supports building a Hegenberger Tourist Zone (HTZ) that would promote roughly 300 businesses to attract tourists from around the world. The HTZ would be open twenty-four hours a day, have a direct tram from the Oakland Airport, and check bags for free – all with the goal of allowing tourists to safely enjoy spending their money in Oakland along with their visits to San Francisco. If the voters elect Tatmon, he will move Oakland forward socially, economically and politically. For this reason, he merits our second place endorsement.

We find Hodge’s Green questionnaire disappointing for the following reasons: her support for the California Peace Officers Bill of Rights; her opposition to ranked-choice voting; and her unwillingness to support amending the U.S. Constitution to end corporate personhood and get corporate money out of politics. Hodge unsuccessfully challenged Councilmember Reid in 2016. Before that, she served two undistinguished terms from 2004 to 2012 as a Trustee on the Peralta Community Colleges Board.

Candidates Jackson and Reid declined to submit their

questionnaires, and Green Party practice is to rule them out of consideration for an endorsement, although both candidates may have suspected their lack of appeal to registered Green voters. Jackson is the pastor of Acts Full Gospel Church who, in the midst of “sheltering-in-place” orders, held a rally in the parking lot of his church near the Coliseum BART to argue for reopening houses of worship – an action against the advice of state and local health officers who proclaimed that such group activities would be recklessly unsafe. Reid, a lobbyist for Pacific Gas & Electric, is running primarily on her advantage as the daughter of retiring councilmember Larry Reid.

Oakland City Attorney Eli Ferran, with reservations

The two candidates for Oakland City Attorney are Barbara Parker (the incumbent) and Eli Ferran, an Oakland Deputy City Attorney. Both candidates responded to our questionnaire, and both generally provided thoughtful and detailed answers. Parker has significantly more experience, both in breadth and duration, than Ferran, whose only significant legal experience has been with the Oakland City Attorney’s office. While this relative lack of experience causes us some reservations, we nevertheless endorse Ferran.

The main reason for this is Parker’s long-term and ongoing inaction on police misconduct. Four years ago we noted that “she’s been very weak on police accountability,” and that a report commissioned by federal Judge Thelton Henderson “particularly criticized the City Attorney’s office on the issue.” We have not seen anything since then to change our opinion, and Parker’s campaign website is inexplicably silent on police misconduct and accountability – she simply does not address it. This apparently intentional omission prevents us from endorsing Barbara Parker.

By contrast, Ferran does address the issue (albeit not in great detail), which is a plus. In general, Ferran’s positions on his website and his answers in response to our questionnaire were a bit more thoughtful than Parker’s, and he seems more focused on nuts-and-bolts issues affecting Oakland residents, rather than the more headline-grabbing cases that Parker has pursued.

Neither candidate is horrible, but likewise neither is scintillating. On balance, particularly given Parker’s failure to address police accountability, we encourage you to vote for Ferran.

Oakland Measures

Measure Y - Yes, with bond reservations

Oakland School Bond

In late June, the Oakland School Board voted unanimously to place a bond issue on the November ballot to raise \$735 million for capital improvements. To pass, a 55 percent yes vote is required.

This amount is the upper limit for such a local bond issue. The District projects that \$3.5 billion is what is actually required for capital improvements. Part of the problem was the failure of the (new) Prop 13 for such expenditures last year, which we opposed because of major benefits for developers contained in it.

This initiative would provide \$200 million for system-wide spending. In addition to general repairs, this would include development of infrastructure for virtual learning. It is important to note that because of Prop 39, none of these funds would go to charter schools.

Of the more targeted monies, \$75 million would be used for McClymonds High School. This school, constructed in 1915, has the smallest enrollment (350) of any Oakland comprehensive high school. Yet it has some of the greatest needs, including the discovery late last year of contaminated groundwater on site. This led to the closing of the school in February, preceding the District closure in March of all campuses, due to the virus.

Six other sites (elementary through high school) are prioritized.

These funds could contribute to the relocation of the District offices, currently located at 1000 Broadway (the lease is up in 2022). The new location could be the old Cole middle school in west Oakland, ironically the former location of the Oakland School Police office, now eliminated.

While we continue to oppose bonds as a form of funding, we realize that Oakland schools are in desperate need of infrastructure repairs, and recommend a yes vote for this only partially sufficient amount.

Measure QQ - YES Youth Vote in Oakland School Board Elections

Measure QQ gives Oakland youth, ages sixteen and seventeen, the right to vote in Oakland School District Board elections beginning in November of 2022; specifically, sixteen and seventeen year olds would join other voters in electing the School Board Director in their specific district. OUSD has seven districts that correspond with the seven City Council districts.

Measure QQ follows a wave of youth suffrage initiatives, locally, nationally, and internationally, as a way to bring young people into democratic processes, as well as honor their social, economic, and political contributions to society. The logic behind having youth voters participate in school board elections is that it fosters civic engagement and prepares youth for full voting rights at the age of eighteen. The Oakland Youth Vote Coalition points out that the state of California recognizes that sixteen and seventeen year olds have enough maturity to be granted driver's licenses, and that they legally work and pay taxes and, therefore, should be allowed to vote for school board directors, whose decisions directly impact their daily lives. The city of Berkeley gave sixteen and seventeen year olds the right to vote in school board elections in 2016, and the current California Proposition 18 proposes that seventeen year olds be allowed to vote in primary elections if they will be 18 (and therefore able to vote) by election day.

Measure QQ has strong support within the city of Oakland, including support by James Harris, School Board Director OUSD, Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland City Councilmember, ACLU of Northern California, Oakland Kids First, and Oakland Educational Association. Alameda County Greens support measure QQ for the reasons stated above, and because many Oakland youth are deeply engaged in community organizations, social justice activities, and deserve an avenue to be formally part of school system decisions. There is no registered opposition to measure QQ.

Measure QQ has no immediate fiscal impact for the city of Oakland, but has modest fiscal impact during election years when youth go to the polls to vote. The increased cost is estimated at \$7,000-\$10,000 during election years.

Measure RR - No position Allows for new misdemeanor fine limit after public hearing

Measure RR would remove the current misdemeanor fine limit of \$1,000 for ordinance and code violations. The amount hasn't been changed since 1968. By removing the maximum fine amount, the Oakland City Council would have leverage and make decisions based on the specific offense. A public hearing would first be necessary and give the incidences exposure while also extending the decision-making process.

Proponents say it needs an increase because of the overall cost of doing business and to address such ordinances as illegal dumping or some such "blight" that exists on public as well as private property. Opponents believe the city already charges too much for expired parking meters and will use it to fine homeowners for clunker cars or broken windows. They say a specific plan to concentrate on illegal dumping is more viable.

We can understand the reason for the increase, also knowing that judges will likely use discretion and probably won't charge the maximum amount. And we further note that 4 of the 6 signers in favor of Measure RR are leaders of local civic organizations, including the League of Women Voters, while the only organizational affiliation for any of the opponents is the far right Alameda County Taxpayers Association.

Nevertheless, we think a better solution would have been to clearly propose different fine limits for different types of misdemeanors. For example, does the maximum fine for sitting or lying on the sidewalk (Oakland Municipal Code 9.08.160) or for wearing a mask that conceals your identity (OMC 9.08.070) really need to be more than \$1,000? But we also acknowledge that assessing a proper maximum fine amount for each of the many hundreds of different misdemeanor violations would have taken a good deal of time to have figured out. So therefore, we're not supporting either a "Yes" or a "No" vote on this measure.

Measure S1 - YES Strengthens the Police Commission

By way of background, in 2016, Measure LL passed with 83 percent of the votes, establishing a Police Commission to oversee Oakland Police Department's (OPD) policies and procedures and creating a Community Police Review Agency (CPRA) to investigate complaints of misconduct and to recommend discipline.

In the past three years, the Police Commission and CPRA have made great strides in bringing accountability and transparency to OPD. Among their many accomplishments are:

- Institution of a landmark police stop and search policy to safeguard against unfair treatment of parolees and probationers
- Swift passage of a comprehensive policy banning the use of all neck holds and protecting people from asphyxia in the aftermath of the George Floyd killing by police in Minneapolis
- Decisive firing of police officers who killed a sleeping man, reversing the Chief of Police's determination
- Causing the firing of the police chief by the mayor for allowing the OPD to slide backwards into non-compliance with federal orders regarding racial discrimination by the police.

It is indisputable that none of these accomplishments would have happened without the Police Commission and CPRA. For the Police Commission and CPRA to function with greater independence, efficiency, and speed, Measure S1 amends the current City Charter in the following key areas:

1. Improves ability to monitor the police by assigning the Inspector General to report to the Police Commission instead of the Police Chief
2. Ensures expedient and informed policy making and officer discipline by granting Police Commission access to all OPD documents and files
3. Ensures unbiased legal advice by providing counsel that is independent of the City Attorney who represents OPD in misconduct cases
4. Allows disciplinary action by the Police Commission if investigation of misconduct is unnecessarily prolonged or body worn camera footage is not available.

We recommend a strong YES vote for Measure S1 as it does nothing but to improve on an already successful Police Commission in Oakland that is serving as a model for many cities around the country.

Oakland School Board

continued from page 1

Sheila Pope-Lawrence came to the race late. She also has a history in OUSD as a teacher, counselor and administrator. She says the Oakland Education Association (OEA) has not been strong enough, but crossed the picket line during the 2019 strike, "supporting the students and teachers." She claims she would not take corporate money. She has little understanding of many underlying District issues around finances, co-location and other central concerns.

Finally, Leroy Gaines has a long, and more impressive record than the previous two. He was a principal at Acorn Woodland for nine years, with positive parental reviews. He was involved with UAOS, the administrators' union. He resigned as executive director of New Leaders, linked to GO Public Schools (and funded by the Walton Foundation amongst others). He does not differentiate between charters and public schools or recognize the ill effects of charters. While he doesn't address closures, the Blueprint, or the more general matter of privatization, it is easy to understand why he is endorsed by GO. He may be their most formidable candidate and the greatest competitor Hutchinson faces.

Hutchinson is born and bred (and educated) in Oakland; he also worked in student support at Santa Fe School. He is an outspoken opponent of charters and collocations. He is active in education policy at the national level (through Journey for Justice) fighting the privatization agenda. His knowledge of school board policy and history as well as Education Code and other legal education matters is unparalleled. He not only will not take money from the privatizers but is an active opponent of GO and the California Charter School Association.

He continually monitors the Board of Education meetings and expenditures. He was involved in the Police Out of the Schools campaign and is an advocate for a Sustainable Community School model. The most common criticism of Hutchinson is his adversarial approach to politics as well as his tendency to personalize differences. Despite this critique, Hutchinson is certainly a formidable candidate. He is

endorsed by virtually every labor and progressive grouping (OEA, Action 2020, EDS/ Wellstone, DSA and many others). No other candidate is close to him in capability and potential.

Oakland School Board

This is an exceptional set of Oakland School Board races. Beyond the limitations of the virus on political campaigning, not a single incumbent is running. Moreover, the ongoing struggles around charter schools and site closures/cohabitation have been intensified by the recent teachers' strike. The debate over the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) budget deficit, which many education activists were dubious about, now has a certain reality in the face of the current economic collapse. Added to all this, the major concerns around school reopenings and the incompetence of the current Board make these races even more critical. While there is not great unanimity of left and progressive forces around a slate, pro-corporate forces are largely unified around the candidates backed by GO Public Schools.

School Board, District 1

#1: Stacy Thomas

#2: Sam Davis

**Do not vote for Austin
Dannhaus**

District 1 is generally referred to as north Oakland; while it is often considered rather affluent (and has the highest voter turnout), it includes a number of pockets of poverty and homelessness. It is currently represented on the School Board by Jody London, who has been there since 2009 and is currently Board president.

Three candidates are running to replace London: Stacy Thomas, Sam Davis and Austin Dannhaus.

Stacy Thomas has lived in Oakland for twenty years and has worked in restorative justice programs for youth. Over time, she has become increasingly concerned with the financial woes of OUSD and how it was placed in receivership. Stacy became involved more recently in Action 2020, a coalition seeking to replace the current school board with candidates opposing the pro-charter, pro-austerity politics which dominated the policy conversation. When two other candidates dropped out, Thomas stepped up to run for the seat.

Her experience in accounting, she feels, would give insights into the OUSD budget management. She also feels strongly about the state's Financial Crisis and Management Team which still oversees most of the District's fiscal policy. She believes they must be fought. She wishes to create greater accountability for department managers and see the board take a more aggressive stance on the budget. Thomas has been critical of school closures, especially Kaiser Elementary (to be consolidated with Sankofa Academy- both in her district). She also supports a moratorium on new charter schools.

Sam Davis also supports a moratorium on charters. He is particularly concerned about the sale of district property, which he believes can be better used. His general approach to District finances is to not carry over old budget items but begin from scratch. He is especially concerned with segregation in D1 schools. Even in this more upscale area, only 10 percent of the public school students are white, and the white students are concentrated in schools like Chabot and Peralta. Sam wishes to see economic status as a criterion for parents selecting schools in the district.

Davis also arrived in Oakland at the start of this century. He served as a teacher and was an Oakland Education Association (OEA) union member. Both he and Thomas actively supported the 2019 teachers' strike. Some activists are concerned by Davis' long involvement with the community network 'Faith in Action' (formerly OCO), which has had inconsistent stands on charters and has tried to dominate education policy debates. He also has worked with current Board members London, Shanthi Gonzales and Rosie Torres: despite a liberal veneer, all three have helped maintain the neoliberal agenda of the District.

Austin Dannhaus was a teacher on the east coast, and is a more recent migrant to Oakland. He now runs a business consulting firm. While he advocates more equitable funding amongst the schools, he favors school closures and consolidations, which he feels will create more efficiency. He states that the debates on charters and closures have overshadowed "more important issues." While he, as everyone else, seeks more funds for the District, his vision for funding priorities is close to that of the current Board (such as the 'Blueprint master plan for closures').

continued on next page

Oakland School Board

continued from page 12

The biggest criticism of Dannhaus is his links to GO Public Schools, the pro charter alliance which has been the main conduit for major corporate spending on school board races, including massive funds from the likes of Eli Broad and Michael Bloomberg.

Davis is the candidate with the broadest support, backed by key unions including OEA and SEIU 1021 (which represents most of the classified workers in the District). In addition, he is supported by groups such as Educators for Democratic Schools, the Wellstone Club, Block by Block and the Peace and Freedom Party and by the majority of mainstream politicians, including Shanthi Gonzales.

In addition to Action 2020, Thomas is supported by Oakland Not for Sale, Oakland Rising and candidate Mike Hutchinson, and is ranked second by the Wellstone Democratic Club.

Dannhaus is backed by GO and its slate, as well as Jody London.

School Board, District 3 Sharing #1 and #2: Cherisse Gash and VanCedric Williams Do NOT vote for Maiya Edgerly or Mark Hurty

There are five candidates in this race. The district covers much of what is considered West Oakland. It has been represented by Jumoke Hodge, long disliked by progressives as a pro charter, pro corporate spokesperson, dismissive of union and community activists fighting to defend and expand resources, especially for flatland schools.

The candidate not mentioned above is Maximo Santana, who entered the race at the last minute. His candidacy is easy to dismiss.

GO Public Schools has two contenders in the field, unlike other districts where it is fielding a single candidate. Mark Hurty is a product of the Oakland schools and sends his children to school in the District; he also briefly taught here. He currently is a product manager for a private education consulting firm. While he has useful knowledge of District history and is an advocate for better pay for teachers as a stabilizing factor, he generally follows the GO privatization program. He will accept money from pro-corporate groups. He is not knowledgeable about matters like school police and he does not have a game plan to win.

Maiya Edgerly, though she comes from a prominent African-American political family, has little awareness around District issues, such as closures and public/charter collocations. She is an Executive Director of a college readiness program for the underserved, especially focusing students to succeed in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). While she has done admirable in this project and is likely sincere, she seems to be more similar to the Hodge model of Board member this district is trying to leave behind.

Our two endorsed candidates have many similar views but also distinct differences. Both strongly oppose charters, closures and collocations. Both would refuse monies from privatizers like GO and the California Charter School Association. Both emphasize racial and social justice; while Williams emphasizes more long term planning, Gash is more focused on immediate struggles such as the closure of Kaiser Elementary.

Though a resident of Oakland for a decade, and very well-versed in public education policy and organizing issues, Williams' experience is largely in San Francisco, where he teaches and is heavily involved in UESF (the city teachers' union) and its parent union, CTA. He will need to ground himself better in the particulars of Oakland and especially the District 3 schools.

Gash lacks experience in education policy such as charters and their evolution in the Oakland Unified School District. However, she has an impressive track record in West Oakland as a community activist and has been involved in battling the current school board. She is closely associated with Oakland Not for Sale and is endorsed by Action 2020 and ranked second by EDS and the Wellstone Democratic Club. Williams is endorsed by the Oakland Education Association and EDS/ Wellstone and ranked second by Action 2020.

Considering their strengths and complementary differences, a dual endorsement is in order.

School Board, District 7 "Coach" Ben Tapscott Do NOT vote for Clifford Thompson

District Seven is the section of the city commonly referred to as deep east Oakland. Though covering a large geographic area, it usually has a low voting density. It also contains the largest number of "flatlands" schools, includ-

ing Castlemont High School, the sites in greatest need of resources and support.

This race has the largest number of candidates: Bronche Jerard Taylor, Kristina Molina, Victor Valerio, Clifford Thompson and "Coach" Ben Tapscott.

There is little to say about Taylor. He is an energetic person and has worked with theater programs in the schools; however, he has little to say about key issues such as charters, closures, the Blueprint, privatization, et al. The two themes he discusses in general terms are equity and transparency.

Molina and Valerio are more substantial candidates. Molina seems opposed to charters and school closures and generally critical of privatization; she has reasonable support in the Latino community. Her main focus is on special education programs, as she has a child in enrolled in Oakland Unified School District special ed. Beyond that, her depth of policy issues appears limited. Moreover, she raises concerns about vaccinations and does not think government should interfere with parents' decisions on health issues. While Valerio opposes further school closures and consolidations, and wants fewer charters, he seems to be largely unaware aware of organizations such as GO Public Schools and generally does not show an in-depth understanding of education policy. He means well, wishing to focus resources to school sites and away from central office and to stress equity issues. Nonetheless, his inexperience keeps him from being a strong candidate.

Clifford Thompson, the GO candidate, is more substantial. As is true in the District 5 school board election, GO's voice in this race has extensive experience in public education (both as a teacher and administrator), especially on African-American learning issues. Much of his education experience is with charter schools, including some of the most dubious (COVA and American Indian Charter), both of which the District did not renew. He is also experienced with the Hundred Black Men Charter. Thompson did not make a clear stand on corporate funding/ money from GO and CCSA. He tries to avoid controversial questions, despite aligning with privatizers.

"Coach" Ben Tapscott has the most progressive views of any candidate in the race, especially resisting privatization and charters. He has spoken at School Board meetings for many years, opposing District malfeasance, especially as regards the West Oakland/ McClymonds community. The problem he faces is that he is running in east Oakland, an area with which he is much less identified. Nonetheless, his views are applicable to the whole District. He is far and away the best candidate in D7.

Union City Offices and Measures

Union City Mayor Sarabjit Kaur Cheema

We received just one questionnaire back from the three candidates in this race, but it was thoroughly answered and indicated a strong consistency with Green Party values. Therefore, we have no hesitation in endorsing Sarabjit Kaur Cheema for Union City Mayor. She has the right perspective on regional transportation issues in the area. She understands that we cannot build our way out of gridlock by just paving more highways, but instead we must encourage efficient public transit and alternative modes of moving around the region. This is in direct contradistinction to the positions of both of her opponents, namely Carol Dutra-Vernaci and Jaime Patino. (See more detail in the discussion of this issue under the Alameda County Supervisor race.) Cheema also places a high priority on having a realistic Climate Action Plan for the city, which is a requirement of California law, and also on keeping racial justice issues in focus as far as policing of the community goes. In 2018 we gave Cheema a strong endorsement for being re-elected to the New Haven Unified School District board because of the many successes she had demonstrated at that point in the school system. She has continued since then to expand those efforts. With no reservations, we fully back Cheema for Union City Mayor.

City Council, District 1 Sandra Holder-Grayson (Preferred, but not endorsed)

While neither candidate returned a questionnaire, Singh is the incumbent and has really done very little for the city during his tenure. While we don't believe that Holder-Grayson is significantly more progressive, there is at least a chance that being new blood on the Council from this district, she will be amenable to listening to constituents on important issues.

We will say here: Holder-Grayson is preferred, but not endorsed.

New Haven Unified School District School Board, Area 1 Jatinder Sahi

Both candidates responded to our questionnaires; Lance Nishihira is the incumbent. Briefly -- Nishihira has valuable things to say about the environment and green values such as his past activities in feeding the hungry, diverting waste, supporting diversity. Sahi does as well, having worked on projects to protect wetlands, valuing environmental education, and community gardens. However -- the critical issue is the recent history of the 2019 teachers strike which pitted teachers unions versus the Board, and there is some residual feeling in the community that the most of the Boardmembers should have been more supportive of the unions. For this reason we have to give Sahi the nod here, and endorse her in this district.

School Board, Area 2 Melissa Shuen-Mallory

Two candidates are running, Michelle Parnala and Melissa Shuen-Mallory. Only Shuen-Mallory returned the questionnaire in this district, and it was thoroughly done showing clear alignment with green values. We endorse her in this district.

School Board, Area 3 Michael Gonzales

Sharan Takhar Kaur is the incumbent in this district, and suffers from some of the same history mentioned in the District 1 race. Only Gonzales returned a questionnaire. Again it was thoroughly done with strong alignment with green values and we are very happy to endorse him in this district.

Measure WW - NO Utility Users Tax

Union City taxpayers have voted against the last two tax measures that the city government has tried to impose upon them. Clearly, this is not the right time to increase taxes. The core issue is that the city is not willing to address the pension problem, but would rather continue to cut city services for residents instead of implementing all the actionable money-saving recommendations provided in the excellent April 2019 audit report done for Union City by Management Partners.

We urge a "No" vote on Measure WW.

A.C. Transit, At-Large Chris Peeples

There are two at-large representatives on the AC Transit Board of Directors. They cover the entire district, which spans from Richmond to Fremont. This is in addition to five directors who represent geographical wards. This year's election covers only one of the at-large positions.

Incumbent Chris Peeples has served on the AC Transit board for the past twenty-two years. He has been elected five times as board president. Peeples is among the most respected and highly regarded transit board members in the Bay Area, acting somewhat as a “dean” for younger and less experienced transit leaders. He may well be the most thorough, fair, and committed transit board member across the Bay Area.

Peeples is also respected by organized labor and by the disabled community, because he honestly listens to, considers, and acts upon their concerns. He has not owned a car since he joined the AC Transit board two decades ago, and recently he has been using a wheelchair when he rides both fixed-route transit and ADA paratransit services, such as East Bay Paratransit that is sponsored jointly by AC Transit and BART.

Peeples keeps current and gains innovative knowledge in new industry developments through his participation with the Transportation Research Board (a unit of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine) and Institutes for Transportation Studies at UC-Berkeley and UC-Davis. He has been closely following current research on bus ventilation methods and standards that can be maximized to address virus control.

He has been a key supporter of AC Transit's zero-emissions pilot programs, which has resulted in AC Transit becoming the national industry leader in hydrogen fuel cell-driven battery/electric propulsion technology and usage. He was the only one of eight candidates for AC board positions in this election who gave facts, industry experiences, and sound rationale for AC Transit to continue in this and other potential directions for pollution-free bus service. Peeples has also amassed an astounding array of endorsements, including over fifty from elected officials, in addition to those of labor, political, and conservation organizations.

Newcomer Victoria Fierce is director of operations for the California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund. She is a regular bus rider and was among the first to ride AC's new “Tempo” bus rapid transit (BRT) line. Fierce believes that AC Transit has some catching up to do with BART concerning effective outreach and marketing to younger adults, especially those who do not embrace bus transit the way they support rail transit. She also understands the importance of developing higher-density housing along transit lines, which will both address the housing shortage and bolster transit ridership. While she may not yet be ready for “prime time,” she is a potential future leader who bears watching. Fierce has received endorsements from several local government and civic leaders.

Dollene Jones, who is a retired bus operator, seems to mean well and to have a good heart, but she has little of substance to say about AC Transit or public transportation in general.

Vote for Chis Peeples for at-large representative on the AC Transit board.

A.C. Transit Board, Ward 1 Jovanka Beckles

Ward 1 covers Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, El Sobrante, Kensington, North Richmond, and most of Berkeley, excluding the Elmwood and UC-Berkeley areas. Challenging the incumbent Joe Wallace, who is the current President of the AC Transit Board of Directors, are Ben Fong, a UC-Berkeley and Stanford-educated transportation professional and former Berkeley Planning Commissioner, and Jovanka Beckles, a former two-term Richmond City Councilmember and California State Assembly candidate. All three have diverse backgrounds, skills, and experiences that more than qualify them for the duties of an AC Transit board director. Wallace, elected five times to the AC Board, has focused on equitable service to working class, low income, and minority communities. He is running for re-election on his decades of working with members of neighborhood groups to improve their transit services and on the strength of his status on the board and advantage of his incumbency. Fong, while he has some good qualifications, has never before held elected office.

In sharp contrast to Wallace and Fong, Beckles has endorsed elimination of fares and a Green New Deal for East Bay public bus transit. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens the future of public transit, she

has launched a strong campaign on a far-reaching platform of fare-free and zero-emission public bus service that would be environmentally sustainable and safe for transit workers and passengers who are disproportionately people of color. Her advocacy for free, clean, accessible and dependable transportation, funded primarily by taxing the ultra-wealthy, would play a vital role in furthering racial, economic, and environmental justice—goals that have guided her entire tenure in public service.

Because AC Transit will face an economic and budgetary crisis once management uses up the \$780 million in the federal CARES Act, Beckles's visionary leadership will be necessary to confront the current economic system that has taken wealth and power from the many to further enrich the few. Service cuts, layoffs, austerity measures, and a return to rising fares or previous privatization, would be devastating to the most vulnerable members of the working class who depend on bus routes to get to workplaces, grocery stores, and medical appointments. With climate change looming down on us, public transportation must become the main form of transit for us all – not only for the current hundreds of thousands who rely on its network of buses, but also for the millions of others who benefit from less crowded streets and clearer skies.

Beckles is keenly aware of the concerns of front-line “essential” transit workers, especially their urgent needs during this period of uncertain health and economic risks. She has won the endorsement of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 192 that is fighting to prevent the firing of sick workers during the pandemic. In addition, Service Employees 1021, United Teachers of Richmond, Teamsters 856 and 70, and the National Union of Healthcare Workers have all endorsed her. We are proud to join with the broad coalitions of unions and progressive policymakers and organizations in endorsing her for AC Transit Board Director. For those who see the fight for preserving and expanding public transit in the East Bay as part of larger struggles for racial equality, working-class power, and action against climate change, Jovanka Beckles is the clear choice.

A.C. Transit, Ward 2 No Endorsement

Ward 2 covers the northern half of Oakland, Piedmont, Emeryville, and portions of Berkeley, including the Elmwood and UC Berkeley areas. Incumbent Greg Harper has served on the AC Transit Board of Directors for the past twenty years. Being an engineer by education, he understands many of the technical challenges AC Transit faces. He advocates for better use of new technologies to manage bus movements -- an area that has been “hit-or-miss” by using the ineffective old methods of radio control and direct supervision due to the amount of emergencies to which road supervisors must respond.

Harper's past political experience is quite solid, having served on the Emeryville City Council and on the boards of Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Alameda County Housing Authority. He was also AC Transit's representative to the board of the Transbay Joint Powers Agency, where he helped guide the development of what is now the Salesforce Transit Center, which includes an intermodal bus transfer center that speeds AC's Transbay bus service, and hopefully will host a future regional intercity rail terminal.

Another technology Harper emphasizes is better use of the regional Bay Area “Clipper” payment card. He would phase out cash fares and work with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and sponsoring social service agencies to get free Clipper cards into the hands of low-income bus riders. Harper understands the need to monitor the new “Tempo” bus rapid transit (BRT) service on International Boulevard to adjust parallel and feeder bus lines using accurate data analysis to support efficient and effective routing and scheduling. However, privacy concerns with the cards would still need to be addressed. Finally, Harper has a reputation as a no-nonsense transit leader who likes to get things done—a highly desirable attribute in today's “talk-talk-talk” world.

Challenger Jean Walsh is a newcomer to electoral politics. She has past experience doing community relations and public outreach for the San Francisco PUC and the city's Department of the Environment (“SF Environment”). Walsh has also worked to expand bike and scooter share programs in the Bay Area, improving connections to transit and enrolling participants in discounted low income programs.

While Walsh has not worked directly with public transportation issues, she monitors the field by attending meetings of the AC Transit board, Metropolitan Transportation Commission Transit Recovery Task Force, Alameda

County Transportation Commission, and BART/AC Transit Interagency Liaison Committee. She advocates for shifting funds away from road and highway widening to bus services, and for exploring raising the gas tax and taxing transportation network companies (TNCs) to acknowledge the true costs of driving. She is the sort of interested and involved community leader who will be an ongoing asset to our civic and transportation landscape, whether she sits on an elected body or not. She currently has endorsements for this race from three Emeryville City Council members and a few other civic leaders from across the Bay.

Walsh has gained significant labor and environmental endorsements, but she lacks experience as an elected official and is not as technically knowledgeable as Harper. Conversely, while Harper has a great deal of experience as an elected official and possesses technological acumen, he did not list any significant endorsements in his questionnaire and, as we go to press, he does not have a webpage to inform the public about either his campaign or where he stands on the issues. Therefore, we are deadlocked between the candidates and have decided not to endorse either of them.

BART Board of Directors

Until a few elections ago, the BART Board of Directors elections didn't receive nearly as much attention as they deserved. Of the twenty-six or so transit agencies receiving public funds in the Bay Area, BART is definitely the big kid on the block. What happens with BART affects not only the rest of public transit in the Bay Area, but as we saw in 2013, the Board's decisions affected the whole Bay Area – public transit-dependent or not. In 2013, BART management worked in conjunction with a number of other local agencies and the Bay Area Council to attempt to break the unions representing their employees. Management, with Board approval, hired the same public relations firm to bash their own workers that they hired after a BART police officer killed Oscar Grant in 2009. They also hired someone with the intent of putting workers out on strike, shut down the system twice, and ended up tragically killing two people. Since then, BART has had a hard time staying out of the news, and voters have realized the impact BART has on the Bay Area, and that elections matter. Voters have since elected a couple strong progressives to the Board, but the current Board, along with those elected this November, will be making policy decisions in the context of a national Black Lives Matter movement and a national pandemic and economic crisis. This broader picture is especially important as we consider the current candidates.

BART Board, District 7 Lateefah Simon

The importance of the races is in reverse order, so we'll start with District 7. Vote for Lateefah Simon! This race provides a clear choice, despite attempts to muddy the waters.

In the middle of a nationwide movement focusing on police violence, BART police are weighing in heavily against Board president Lateefah Simon (as well as against progressive challenger Jamie Salcido in Contra Costa County's District 1).

Lateefah Simon has been a strong leader on social justice and racial justice for years. After being a client of a program for young women in San Francisco, Lateefah organized for improvements in the program and ended up getting hired and promoted to leadership in the Young Women's Development Center, for which she became the youngest woman to win a MacArthur Fellowship. After exposure to the criminal justice system, she ended up working with Kamala Harris founding San Francisco's Re-Entry Division. While not a lawyer herself, her strengths were recognized and she was hired as Executive Director for Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. None of these are small feats, and show a powerful advocate for social justice and racial justice who successfully challenges the status quo. That's not to leave out Lateefah's positions as president of the Akonadi Foundation (focus on ending criminalization of Black youth and youth of color) and the fact that Governor Newsom appointed her to chair a statewide committee to address police reform. Lateefah is no pushover, and despite standing up for challenging positions, she manages to push through positive reforms. The same applies at BART. Rather than getting marginalized, her colleagues elected her as president this year. BART police, however, have apparently also recognized her leadership, and are doing what they can to support Lateefah's opponent – Sharon Kidd.

Sharon Kidd did not return our questionnaire, despite

continued on next page

Special District Offices

continued from page 14

multiple attempts and deadlines. In doing a search for more information on Ms. Kidd, we found an article in the *SF Chronicle* highlighting this race as being tied to police reform, and pointing out Ms. Kidd's connection to BART police. After failing to get reappointed to BART's Police Citizen Review Board, Ms. Kidd went to work for BART police and volunteered for other BART police jobs (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Policing-debates-could-shape-upcoming-BART-board-15483037.php>). Her original ballot designation was successfully challenged for not being accurate, but she had police reform listed as the alternative, so that's what will end up on the ballot. She's backed by the BART Police Officers Association.

BART Board, District 5 John McPartland

The District 5 race has three candidates, all of whom answered our questionnaire.

John McPartland is the incumbent—a former firefighter, a veteran, and the one Board member who was an employee of BART. John worked in the Safety Department, and when he didn't feel management was taking his concerns seriously, he ran for and won election as director. He doesn't come across as a clear progressive, and sometimes needs education on progressive perspectives on issues, but votes with the progressive wing of the Board. He's also open and honest in his answers. According to employees and progressives, he seeks out input from frontline workers and their representatives and is willing to push for issues that management doesn't necessarily want to address. On the issue of public sector strikes, he strongly supports it, though as a former fire fighter and Battalion Chief, defers to an exception for disaster response. As an incumbent, he has a record, which includes some fumbles, but those who count on his vote say they want to keep him.

Mike Wallace technically responded, but didn't say much in his responses. We checked his web site, but it says nothing. Of the twenty questions we asked, his answers were generic, didn't show depth of knowledge or experience with BART, Bay Area public transit or its funding, and didn't indicate he put much thought toward the issues addressed in the questions. In these times of Covid, his response regarding our question for Covid-related safety for workers and passengers said it's safe, without addressing any concerns either the public or frontline workers may have.

Steven Dunbar is a Systems Engineer for Gillig bus manufacturing. He's an advocate for public transit in Tri-Valley and on the Board of Directors of Bike East Bay. He shows an interest and knowledge of transit issues in the area. Without a record to supplement his questionnaire answers, it's hard to know where he'll end up when key questions get put to the test. On a key contentious issue regarding two-tier systems for labor, he says he's opposed, but there's a "but..." On the question of strikes, he says he believes some change is needed. On the question of the ability to demonstrate independence from management, he didn't have an example. His answers are generally positive, but again, written answers can best be clarified by seeing concretely how someone votes when the situation arises.

The strengths and weaknesses of the candidates put McPartland and Dunbar clearly out front. Focusing on the whole picture, we're going with McPartland, though Dunbar is also a strong candidate. Given BART's history, its importance for labor relations issues, social justice issues, and others, in addition to transit issues; along with our current political situation and the fact that we can look at McPartland's record, whereas we can't do the same with Steven Dunbar, we're endorsing McPartland.

BART Board, District 3 Rebecca Saltzman (Unopposed, not on the ballot)

Rebecca Saltzman is running unopposed for District 3, so therefore this race won't be on the ballot, but she still took the time to provide specific answers to our questionnaire. Rebecca is an incumbent with 8 years on the Board, along with involvement in other local political issues outside of BART. She sits on a number of the BART Board committees, has detailed knowledge of the issues, and has taken leadership on some of the challenging issues facing BART. She was formerly active with the Oakland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Rebecca has joined with the progressives on the Board to advance a number of issues, including low-income housing requirements and an ambassador program at BART to provide an alternative to BART police for some of the more minor issues.

EBMUD Board (Not on the ballot)

In Alameda county, only the incumbents filed to run for the two available seats on the East Bay Municipal Utilities District Board, so neither of the races will be listed on the ballot, per a decision by the Board. So therefore the voters won't have any choices as to who represents them; you won't even be able to write-in a candidate. If you want to contact the EBMUD Board about their decision to remove these races from the ballot, their phone numbers are: 1-866-403-2683 or 510-287-0404.

East Bay Regional Park District Board, Ward 1 Norman LaForce

Elizabeth Echols is the incumbent, having been appointed to the seat January 2020 when Whitney Dotson became sick in December. Her EBRPD experience is extensive, dating back to her childhood as a Junior Ranger and up to the present working as a Director of the State's Public Advocates Office, appointed by Gov. Brown in 2016 and reappointed by Gavin Newsom. Adminstrating a \$46 million budget adds expertise to her role in the park. Well-connected politically, she is supported by a wealth of Democratic heavy hitters.

Her response to the questionnaire contains some strong and not-so-strong answers. As a budget manager she is watching the stable EBRPD budget in the face of changes due to property tax declines and little service fees from park amenities. Her year has seen the advent of COVID-19 and she has helped shape the EBRPD response with the recognition that the taxpayers need open spaces to maintain a sense of mental health. She advocates for making parks more accessible. Balancing needs for wildlife and people can be fraught with potential conflicts, she says, and dogs have the right to enjoy the parks but should be kept from sensitive habitats. Does that mean she supports a leash law? Echols states cows and goats have an important role to play in vegetation management while she also supports managing invasive species and pests with the use of herbicides and toxicants.

Norman LaForce is challenging the incumbent political appointee with his 38 years of experience conserving park lands, with 30 of those years as an advisor to the Sierra Club in a legal capacity. No stranger to East Bay parks land issues, LaForce has been directly involved with several important EBRPD initiatives, such as the campaigns that created the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, Tom Bates Sports Fields and Point Isabel Dog Park. He co-chaired the Park District's tax measures that doubled the size of the Park District and provided the operating funds for the parks. Perhaps one issue on which LaForce stands out is Richmond's controversial Point Molate. The possibility to beat back private development of the large North Bay shoreline property to create a new park is a goal of his and not mentioned by Echols.

Yet how will new parks and services be funded? Both candidates foresee the impending fiscal crisis tied to a lack of property tax dollars to the support the EBRPD. How to expand while maintaining access is a challenge any director will face. LaForce brings considerable knowledge of wildlife and vegetation management issues, having offered a long list of species demanding attention, unlike Echols whose answers on the topic were vague. LaForce approaches the dog issue by asking for an analysis of their impacts, while Echols says dogs have rights. Finally, LaForce presented an eight-point plan on what future priorities should be, while Echols did not.

We also note that Echols, as we go to press, has not received any endorsements from environmental groups, while LaForce is backed by the Sierra Club, Save Our Point Molate, and many individual environmentalists such as Andres Soto, Bob Cheasty, and Arthur Feinstein. In addition, Echols is supported by the most conservative Berkeley City Council members (Droste, Kesarwani, and Wengraf), while LaForce is supported by Davila, Hahn, Harrison, and former Councilmember Kriss Worthington, along with the Richmond Progressive Alliance, plus individual endorsements from Gayle McLaughlin, Jovanka Beckles, and Eduardo Martinez. We endorse Norman LaForce in this race.

HARD Board Peter Rosen and Josh Kelton; Rick Hatcher, with reservations

There are three positions open on the five person Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Board in this election, and four candidates running.

Three of them sent us back responses, the only one who did not was the incumbent, Louis Andrade.

Thus, just by default we could simply endorse these three, but the fact is that they gave very thorough and reasoned responses to our questions which is what convinced us that they are the candidates to support. Further, because of what we know historically of Andrade's positions on the critical questions that were asked in the questionnaire on Rowell Ranch Rodeo events (see more detail in the discussion under the County Supervisor District 1 race), versus the answers the other three candidates gave us back, we know we cannot support Andrade. For those interested in details, it is worth reading the full questionnaire responses to see the positions of the candidates who replied on multiple other green issues such as minimization of waste, electrification of fleet vehicles, alternative uses of the Rowell Ranch Arena etc.

Historically, we must note that despite his good words, Hatcher has not actually been a dependable vote or voice on the board when the rodeo issue has come up, so we will endorse him only with reservations.

In summary, we wholeheartedly endorse Peter Rosen and Josh Kelton, and with reservations, Rick Hatcher, for these seats.

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Alameda County Measures

County Measure V - Yes, with reservations Extends unincorporated area's 6.5 percent Utility Users Tax

This measure does not increase taxes but keeps a 6.5 percent use tax in place but only from residents of unincorporated areas of the county (e.g., Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, San Lorenzo, Sunol) even though all county voters vote on this measure.

This measure has been voted on numerous times and repeatedly passed by the voters. It was initially proposed and passed in 1992 and has been extended three times by majority votes in 1996, 2000, and 2008. If passed in November 2020, taxes will be collected for 12 more years, until 2033. If not passed, this tax will expire on June 30, 2021.

This measure has no effect on utility users' taxes that may have been, or will be, enacted by individual cities within the County and does not apply in the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, or Union City. Residents living in an incorporated city within Alameda County will not pay the tax that would be extended by passing Measure V.

The revenues raised by these taxes are intended for public safety, libraries, school violence programs, drug abuse

education, land use planning, and code enforcement within the county's unincorporated areas. The measure continues ongoing exemptions and exclusions including those for low income or lifeline utility users and persons on life support systems.

The Green Party of Alameda County recognizes these needs so we endorse a "Yes" vote for Measure V, but with the reservation that all such general use taxes are regressive, hitting poorer users the hardest.

Various office holders in unincorporated areas of the county have endorsed this measure while the Alameda County Taxpayers Association opposes the measure since it is a tax which they say will be used corruptly to bailout the County's "unsustainable" pension debt.

County Measure W Yes, with sales tax reservations Half cent sales tax increase for homeless services, etc.

This measure proposes a county wide 1/2 cent sales tax lasting for ten years (2021-2031) to raise approximately \$150 million per year for needed social services. If passed by a majority vote the funds raised will go into the general

fund for housing for the houseless, and for mental health, job training and social safety net services.

If passed, the Board of Supervisors will appoint an oversight committee to recommend allocations of the funds raised to the various needs. In the past the county has been reasonably efficient in allocating such funds for their intended purposes.

However such a tax disproportionately hits poorer residents who spend more of their money on items with sales taxes. This is why the Green Party of Alameda has reservations on this measure.

Many progressive organizations and labor unions, including East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO), SEIU 1021, and the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, united at: <http://www.HomeTogether2020.org> support this measure. They see the needs to be addressed as urgent during the pandemic and economic downturn. However their advertising for this measure downplays the regressive nature of the tax.

Meanwhile the Alameda County Taxpayers Association opposes Measure W since it is a tax, which they say will be used corruptly to bailout the County's "unsustainable" pension debt.

State Propositions

Proposition 15

continued from page 1

Big Money, however, has already come out with all guns blazing to retain their corporate property tax loopholes and is already using misrepresentations and downright lies to try to stoke fear in the hearts of voters who say, "I love Prop 13. Prop 13 kept me in my home." That love has been unrequited: the totals paid in property tax used to be roughly 50/50 between residential and commercial, and now residential pays a whopping 72 percent of property taxes while commercial properties only pay 28 percent.

All residential properties are exempted, along with agricultural land and commercial and industrial properties worth under \$3 million.

Big business will claim as usual that this will hurt small business when in fact Proposition 15 cuts small business taxes! Two full signature drives were successfully completed, and the second version helped small businesses even more, which prompted some criticism from progressives who wanted the taxes to be more broadly applied not less. The target was clearly the huge corporations that had reaped most of the benefits of 1978's Prop 13.

Small and home-based businesses will be better off than before. California's "business personal property tax" requires, for example, a local restaurant to pay taxes on everything it owns, from tables, chairs, and office equipment to saucepans and stoves. Proposition 15 helps small businesses by eliminating the tax on the first \$500,000 of personal property, which will entirely eliminate this tax for 90 percent of California's small businesses, saving them thousands each year.

Opponents say corporations will pass their increased costs on, and consumers will end up paying for it. In fact, prices are based on what the market will bear. Gas stations that pay very different property taxes than neighboring stations don't pass along either their savings or their extra costs to their customers. As to property owners passing along the costs to small business tenants, they already raised the rents as high as possible, even when the owners were paying rock-bottom property taxes for decades.

California is the only state in the country that does not regularly reassess commercial property, and most states tax commercial property at a higher percentage than residential property. Texas, for instance, taxes their commercial property at 2.5 percent of fair market value while California is capped at 1 percent.

Only a handful of statewide and federal elected officials have endorsed Proposition 15 as of early August, rationalizing their non-support with the same arguments used by big business. However, many mayors across the state have endorsed it. In this time of the COVID crisis, local officials see first-hand the devastating effects of the pandemic on municipal budgets.

A good reference is:

<https://www.evolve-ca.org/scf-facts>

We strongly recommend a YES vote on Proposition 15. This is a needed step in the right direction of taxing the super-rich—starting with wealthy corporations—and restoring billions to our schools and communities.

Proposition 14 - NO \$5.5 Billion in Bonds for Stem Cell Research Institute

Proposition 14 authorizes \$5.5 billion in extremely wasteful, high cost, interest-based, public bond financing, for both public and private colleges, and private medical corporations, to subsidize stem cell research. The medical and pharmaceutical industries have a long history of leveraging such government funding for private research that they should instead be paying for themselves. These private industries all too often retain private monopoly ownership of important medical advances, forcing patients in the U.S. and California to pay extremely high and debilitating costs for life-saving medicine, that should instead be provided at low cost to the public, especially when those treatments were developed with public funds. Even medical advances created through public university research are often transferred at little public gain to private corporate ownership.

There is nothing in the language of this proposition to ensure that profits generated from the research will be fully returned to the public, which will actually be obligated to pay \$7.8 billion for Proposition 14's bonds once the interest charges are included -- if we allow this measure to be approved. In addition, there are no longer federal limits on stem cell funding; indeed, the National Institutes of Health is now providing \$1.5 billion per year for similar research, which further demonstrates that Prop. 14 is simply a very expensive boondoggle.

The U.S. is in a decades-long crisis of corporations hoarding billions in profits for medical products developed with public dollars. This private capture of the public good is unacceptable and must be ended. The Covid-19 virus crisis has shown clearly that the corporate capture of health care must end, and that medical advances developed with public funds must be available freely and at low cost to the public which funded those advances. Vote NO on Proposition 14.

Proposition 16 - Yes, yes, yes! Allows Diversity and Affirmative Action

Recent events have renewed the call for action against persistent racial injustice in this country. Proposition 16 serves as a sign of hope as it would repeal Proposition 209, passed in 1996, which prohibits the state of California from considering "race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting."

Known popularly as "affirmative action," Proposition 16 would allow California to make great strides once again towards equality in the workplace and higher education,

which have suffered greatly from decreased opportunity for people of color and women since the passage of Prop. 209.

Inaccurately caricatured as "reverse discrimination," affirmative action instead amounts to institutional commitments that serve as one significant action (amongst many that must be taken) to counteract hundreds of years of structural oppression against racial and ethnic minorities as well as women.

By passing Proposition 16, Californians can:

- Remove barriers to equal opportunity in the workplace. A conservative estimate from a 2016 study holds that the passage of Prop. 209 has cost women and people of color \$1,000,000,000 annually in lost contract awards.

- Remove barriers to equal opportunity in higher education. Prop. 209 has prohibited California universities from active recruitment and support for high-performing minority students, leading to a decreased likelihood of matriculation within six years. Thus, enrollment for underrepresented minorities at the University of California has fallen by at least 12 percent, with Berkeley and LA's falling by more than 60 percent.

- Fight wage discrimination. White women continue to be paid 80 cents and Black women 60 cents for every dollar paid to white men doing the same work.

- Give women, including women of color, an equal shot at job promotions and leadership positions, and expand career and educational opportunities for women and girls in science, technology, and the trades, where they remain underrepresented.

Proposition 16 would not require racial quotas, which the Supreme Court banned in 1978 for use in college admissions. Neither would it allow the selection of unqualified candidates, which is not permitted under federal law. Instead, Prop. 16 would allow for a range of potential policy measures such as training programs and outreach efforts to recruit and retain qualified individuals from underrepresented groups.

A persistent racial wealth gap, rooted in income inequality, cannot be overcome by color-blind policies which posit that institutional racism, which has persisted since the time of slavery, will disappear through mere awareness of the problem. Likewise, sex-blind policies will not eliminate institutional sexism, which is deeply imbedded in our society.

For all these reasons, the Green Party unequivocally supports the passage of Prop. 16, as an initial step towards undoing the damage wrought by Prop. 209 and addressing the systemic racism and sexism in our society. Vote yes, yes, yes!

The statistics noted in this article can be found here: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ballot-measures/pdf/aca-5.pdf>

This webpage helps debunk 10 common myths surrounding affirmative action: <https://www.usf.edu/diversity/equal-opportunity/ten-myths-about-affirmative-action.aspx>

State Propositions

Proposition 17 – YES Restores Right to Vote after Completion of Prison Term

Proposition 17 would restore voting rights to prisoners who have completed their prison sentence during their period of parole. Current law restores these rights at the end of the parole period, which is generally about three years. While on parole, parolees are living in the community, finding housing, looking for work, and paying taxes if they find work. Because of existing California law, under this new framework, parolees would also be allowed to run for public office (unless they had violated other rules such as being arrested for bribery or perjury). The legislative analysis predicts both county and state costs, each in the range of “hundreds of thousands of dollars” to alter systems and register newly eligible voters.

Proponents of Proposition 17 argue that restoring these rights during the parole period encourages parolees to have a stake in the community. They point to a Florida study (sample size not provided) which found that, during the years 2007 to 2011, parolees whose voting rights were restored were 2/3 less likely to return to prison for the commission of new crimes than parolees without voting rights.

The opponents of the proposition rely on the allegation that 50 percent of parolees commit new crimes and return to prison, though they provide no pointers to data to that effect. Existing statistics are mixed, and generally do not distinguish between parole violations (such as missing appointments or phone calls) and new crimes. Opponents also cite the pain and suffering of victims, and allege that giving the offenders “social equality with them [the victims] before they [the parolees] [have been fully rehabilitated simply adds to their [the victims’] lifelong pain and misery.”

Relying on the Green Party core value of grassroots democracy, the increasingly indisputable need to defend voting rights against a Republican assault, and the fact that the penalties of prison disproportionately affect Black and Brown people, we recommend that you vote YES on Proposition 17. Voting rights are rights, not rewards to be arbitrarily taken away.

Proposition 18 - YES Primary voting for 17-year-olds who will be 18 for the general election

Proposition 18 proposes allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections if they will be 18 by the date of the general election. Varying sources state that between 18-23 states presently allow 17-year-olds who are US citizens, and not felons, to participate in primaries if they will be 18 by the general election. The argument against Prop. 18 is primarily that propositions in California are on the primary ballot, which is not the case in most other states. Because taxes and bonds for school funding may appear on the ballot, and as 17-year-olds are likely to be in high school, the argument is that they will be unduly influenced by teachers and schools to vote in favor of these propositions, and lack the life experience to make an independent decision. One of the three signatories to No on 18 is the president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. It would appear that fear of increases in education funding underlies their argument. The other arguments against the proposition cite the many ways in which 17-year-olds are not legally adults.

The Yes on 18 arguments include that as 17-year-olds are allowed to join the military, and therefore are allowed to risk their lives for the country, they should be allowed to vote. It makes sense to us that if 17-year-olds will be voting in the general election, they should have the opportunity to choose the candidates they will be voting for, and that surely experiences in higher education, workplaces, and community participation will continue to influence young voters after their 18th birthday. Voting is a lifetime habit, and if young people can be encouraged to begin voting while in high school they are more likely to continue voting throughout their lives. A small percentage of voters under 25 vote. Only 108,000 17-year-olds in California are registered to vote when they are 18. The cost for the state to update voter registration systems would be a one-time hundreds of thousands dollars, less than 1 percent of the General fund. It could be hundreds of thousands of dollars for counties to send these additional voters election materials in each two year cycle depending on how many 17-year-olds register. This would be a small price to pay to encourage the life-long active citizenship of more of California’s citizens.

Proposition 19 - Neutral (No position) Changes Certain Property Tax Rules

Proposition 19 is a convoluted tax law that provides tax relief for some elderly and disabled homeowners, and wildfire victims who are forced to relocate, and provides some tightening of tax loopholes, but at the same time it relaxes other property tax rules. This year’s proposition is roughly similar to Prop. 5, which the real estate industry put on the November, 2018 ballot. Prop. 5, however, would have significantly cut government revenues, including funds for education, so it generated widespread opposition, including unions representing teachers (both the CTA and the CFT), firefighters, and other government employees (SEIU and AFSCME). Consequently, Prop. 5 was soundly defeated, by over 19 percent of the vote.

But this year’s proposition (#19), includes a source of funds to counterbalance the flaw of loss of government revenue in Prop. 5. This revenue would come from reassessing property that is inherited from one’s parents (or in some cases, one’s grandparents), except for the first \$1 million of value, or unless it’s one’s primary residence. So that particular “unfair tax loophole” which benefits the wealthy would be closed by Prop. 19 -- but how about wealthy seniors who move to other \$5 million or \$10 million dollar residences? They would still benefit, under Prop. 19, from their current low assessment rates, so that huge “loophole” would not in fact be closed here.

Therefore, on the one hand, Prop. 19 does benefit some seniors and others who aren’t wealthy, but on the other hand, it also benefits the very wealthy too -- along with the real estate industry, who will profit from the significant increase in property transfers which this measure will produce. You could say that this measure merely “shifts around the deck chairs of the failed Titanic that is the California property tax system” -- and that ultimately, we really need a comprehensive overhaul of the state’s property tax laws to make wealthy individuals, corporations, and real estate speculators pay their fair share of taxes.

Consequently, we’re going to remain neutral on Prop. 19, since it helps some who aren’t wealthy, while at the same time it benefits others who are in fact very wealthy, along with the real estate industry itself.

Proposition 20 - NO Restricts Parole for Non-Violent Offenders and Authorizes Felonies for Some Current Misdemeanors

Proposition 20 has four parts: first, it would increase criminal penalties for some “theft-related crimes”; second, it would change how people released from prison are supervised; third, it would modify the process through which prison inmates are considered for release; and fourth, it would increase required DNA testing to a wider group of prisoners and parolees. The legislative analysis predicts that the new law would cost tens of millions of dollars in state and county funds.

Proponents of the measure focus primarily on its extension of California’s “violent felony” crimes list, which almost all stakeholders find problematic and in many circumstances insufficient. A 2017 Los Angeles Times article describes this list as stemming from “piecemeal legislation and voter initiatives.” According to the legislative analysis, all changes in how violent felonies are handled by the proposition come play in parole hearings and community supervision practices; the crimes being elevated from misdemeanor to felony status are nonviolent crimes against property: theft of (some) items that cost between \$250 and \$950. Proponents also claim that no new criminals will be sent to prison under this bill, that the initiative requires rehabilitation programs, and that the legislative analysts’ budget estimates are seriously incorrect. Proponents also claim that increased DNA collection will help with criminal investigations in the future.

Opponents focus on the increased number of imprisoned people. They also note the very significant increased costs of the legislation. Proposition supporters deny both of these claims, which are supported by theoretically nonpartisan legislative analysis. Opponents then make the jump to claiming that these expenditures will reduce available funds for mental health programs, drug addiction rehab, and

other initiatives that mitigate prison time. This claim seems probable, but is not within the four corners of the proposed legislation.

The proposition actually qualified for the ballot back in 2018, long before the COVID-19 pandemic and the uprising following the police-involved deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and others. However, it seems certain that in 2021 there will be no way to find tens of millions of dollars to implement these stronger prison policies anyway. The programs which opponents are afraid will be slashed if this becomes law are in dire straits under existing circumstances. Finally, increased DNA testing raises privacy concerns which no one seems to be addressing head-on.

With the understanding that a full revision of California’s treatment of violent crimes might be a useful task for the legislature, we recommend a NO vote on this patchwork, disorganized initiative. The legislature should do its own heavy lifting here. In the interim, Proposition 20, if approved, would certainly increase felony convictions for minor crimes against property and threaten individual privacy, if it does nothing else.

Proposition 21 - YES Expands Local Governments’ Authority to Enact Rent Control

Proposition 21 would allow local municipalities to add buildings/units over 15 years old to rent-controlled status. In this regard it is a modest improvement to Costa-Hawkins, the statewide act that freezes rent-control in Cities that have enacted it to the date of that city’s rent-control ordinance.

Proposition 21, unlike Proposition 10 two years ago, exempts homeowners with up to two residences from rent-control. It also sets some modest limits on vacancy decontrol, the mechanism in Costa-Hawkins that allows property owners to charge market rate (or higher) once a rent-controlled unit is vacant.

Proposition 21 has been endorsed by Housing Now! California, Eviction Defense Network, DSA, UC Student Association, Bernie Sanders, SEIU California, ACCE Action, and a wide array of other housing and progressive organizations.

Vote YES on Proposition 21.

Proposition 22 - No, no, no! Exempts Some App-Based Companies from Providing Employee Benefits

This is a ‘no brainer.’ If ever there was a measure of corporate greed and exploitation, here is a clear example, one that requires our active opposition.

Current law embodied by AB5 requires Uber, Lyft and Door Dash to provide their drivers with a minimum wage, health care options, paid sick leave, and unemployment and worker compensation coverage just like every other California businesses. Now these profit-obsessed firms have spent millions on lawyers and operatives to put Prop. 22 on the ballot. It ONLY applies to Uber, Lyft, Door Dash and other app-based delivery and transportation companies and only they would profit from it. The operative word here is PROFIT!

While there are still issues on the application of AB5, there’s NO doubt that the drivers referenced here are paid workers, not subcontractors. This initiative would undermine their protections and rights; if any change is to come, it should be to expand them.

While the language in the initiative discusses “earning guarantee” and “health care subsidy.” “they are below that in state labor law. It references “driver protections,” but state law already requires background checks; Prop. 22 would eliminate requirements around harassment training and obligations to investigate harassment claims for both drivers and passengers. The corporate backers claim to be concerned with “flexibility” for “part-time” drivers, while a recent UC study notes that over 70 percent of Uber and Lyft drivers work 30 or more hours per week. Moreover, 78 percent of drivers are people of color, and many critics, including The NY Times editorial board, identify these companies as not providing sufficient PPE (personal protective equipment) resources or guidance for safety during the pandemic.

Community groups and labor, including tens of thousands of drivers, say NO to 22. So should we!

State Propositions

Proposition 23 - YES Establishes Requirements for Kidney Dialysis Clinics

How should progressives and radicals be voting until we can either replace capitalism, or massively reform it? THAT is the context in which we ought to be viewing Proposition 23, given that there are several details “underneath the surface” of this proposal. In particular, this is clearly a struggle between the for-profit kidney dialysis industry (which in California is dominated by just two large companies), and the effort to unionize the dialysis workers, led by SEIU-UHW West. While we’re working against neoliberal capitalism’s war on healthcare, the Green Party will continue, in general, to support unionization efforts. To be sure, there will always be “exceptions to the rule,” but that doesn’t appear to be the case here. Therefore, we endorse Prop. 23, especially as part of our collective struggle against the capitalist plutocracy. Here are some specifics about the measure:

Prop. 23 is an initiative that would require the following of dialysis clinics: (1) not discriminate on the quality of care on the basis of who is responsible for paying for the treatment, (2) not refuse to provide care on the basis of who is responsible for paying for the treatment (for example discriminate on the basis that one patient’s treatment is paid for by private insurance and another’s by Medi-Cal), (3) have a licensed physician at the clinic when patients are being treated, unless there’s a shortage of physicians in which case there has to be a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, (4) submit quarterly reports of any infections resulting from dialysis treatments, and (5) get the consent of the California Department of Public Health to either close a dialysis clinic or reduce services of a clinic.

The fight between the Yes on Prop. 23 supporters (“Yes”) and the No on Prop. 23 group (“No”) is round two of the battle between SEIU-UHW West and the state’s two largest dialysis companies, DaVita and Fresenius Medical Care, which own about three fourths of the 600 clinics in the state, that serve about 75,000 patients. Round 1 was 2018’s defeated Prop. 8, which sought to have the clinics refund profits in excess of 115 percent of patient care and healthcare improvements. The \$130 million spent on Prop. 8 was the third largest amount spent on a California ballot measure since 1999.

“No” argues that the passage of Prop. 23 would increase clinic costs—for example it would cost more to have physicians onsite for each treatment. On the other hand, through the findings cited in the text of Prop. 23, and the testimonies of dialysis patients on “Yes”’s website, one concludes that more clinic staff really is needed. Furthermore, “Yes” says the two big companies earn more than \$350 million a year in California, so the industry can afford to hire the additional staff.

In and of itself, Prop. 23 will likely bring relatively modest benefits to dialysis patients, but it will definitely cut into the big profits that the dialysis companies have recently been raking in. And in the bigger picture, the passage of Prop. 23 will be a win in our struggle against the tyranny of capitalism, and for unionization as a stepping stone within the urgently needed transformation of society. Vote YES on Proposition 23.

Proposition 24 - NO Consumer Privacy, and Privacy Protection Agency

Proposition 24, the California Consumer Privacy Act, is a sprawling 53-page set of amendments to the California Privacy Rights Act, which went into effect on July 1, 2020. According to its supporters, its goal is to give California consumers the “power to stop businesses tracking you [...] without your knowledge and permission”.

At first glance, it seems hard to object to that. A deeper look, however, exposes some significant problems with the proposition as written. Here are some of the most serious weaknesses:

- It takes privacy rule-making out of the hands of the state Department of Justice, instead creating a new state agency. Not only will this agency likely be underfunded by the initiative, it will be much more vulnerable to influence by the deep-pocket tech giants.
- It continues the “pay-for privacy” provisions of the existing law, under which tech companies can demand payment or reduced services for increased privacy rights.
- It delays for several years the rights of workers and job applicants to know what personal data of theirs has been sold.
- It allows the tech companies to access one’s personal data once they travel outside of California with a cell phone or laptop.
- It allows tech companies to ignore a universal do-not-sell signal that can be set once in a browser. Instead, one will need to opt out from each site separately.

Prop. 24 is the product of a multimillionaire real estate developer and landlord who worked behind closed doors with the very tech companies who profit over the sharing and selling of personal data, according to opponents of the proposition in the Official Ballot Argument Against Prop. 24, while rejecting 38 suggested changes from 11 privacy advocacy groups.

These are some of the reasons why groups like to American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Color of Change, Californians for Real Privacy, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and others oppose Prop. 24. We join with them in calling for a NO vote on Prop. 24.

Proposition 25 - NO Approves Replacing Money Bail with Algorithm-Based System

This proposition is a veto referendum that will determine whether the 2018 law SB-10 will go into effect. A “Yes” vote affirms SB-10, while a “No” vote will repeal SB-10.

Prop 25 would replace the cash bail system with algorithm-based risk assessments to determine whether a person would be released from jail prior to their trial. Risk assessments use data such as prior conviction history, age, employment status, and neighborhood of residence to estimate the likelihood that a given person would fail to appear in court or be arrested for another crime. People determined to be “low risk” would generally be released from jail, “medium risk” individuals would be released in some cases, while “high risk” individuals would not have any opportunity to be released.

The cash bail system is deeply unjust, burdening poor families who are forced to pay non-refundable fees to bail bond businesses to get a loved one released from jail. Communities of color suffer the most because of deep racial wealth gaps and it is wrong that bail businesses are profiting off them. And in fact, the bail bond industry is the primary funder of this ballot initiative because a “No” vote will preserve their industry for the time-being.

However, algorithm-based risk assessments are racially-biased because the data they rely on are driven by racist systems of over-policing, mass incarceration, and residential segregation, among others. Groups such as Human Rights Watch also argue that a risk assessment system will allow judges to detain more people in jail prior to their trial with no possibility of release. This proposition would also increase funding to local courts to oversee the risk assessment process and those dollars would be better used elsewhere.

Understanding the history of SB-10 is critical. For years, a broad coalition fought for legislation that would curtail or eliminate the use of cash bail. They championed and supported SB-10 until, inexplicably, legislators worked out a backroom deal with judges and law enforcement unions that completely gutted the text of SB-10 without input from the coalition. For the reasons outlined above, the vast majority of the organizations in this coalition reversed their support of the bill and began to actively campaign against it, although most then switched to “neutral” once it became Prop 25. The system of cash bail needs to be eliminated, but SB-10 / Proposition 25 is not the answer. Vote No.



Rosa Clemente When An Afro-Latina Woman Ran For Vice- President And Nobody Knew Her Name

Presented by the Oakland Greens

Sunday, October 25, 2020, at 6 p.m

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oakland-greens-present-an-evening-with-rosa-clemente-tickets-117812844389>
or: <https://tinyurl.com/yxug8s8e>

The time is now and—in fact, long past—for the people to really take control over the systems that affect them. Our current political system excludes any voices that would challenge the status quo. In 2008 the Green Party of the “Un-United States” nominated a powerful ticket headed by McKinney/Clemente and still received no love from even the so-called progressive media.

Rosa Clemente will join us over ZOOM for their presentation, “When An Afro-Latina Woman Ran For Vice-President And Nobody Knew Her Name,” on Sunday, October 25, 2020, at 6 p.m. with a Q & A to follow.

The Oakland Greens are excited about this event and have worked for some time to be able to host this dynamic speaker, educator, and activist to discuss why “Nobody Knew her Name” with questions and answers on where we go from here.

- Vicente Cruz , Oakland Greens Event/Fundraising Coordinator

“For me it’s not only about holding the President, the House of Representatives, or the United States Senate accountable. Holding public officials accountable is important, but building a multiracial social justice movement is a necessity for our very existence.”

– Rosa Clemente

Register Green by November 30

If you are not already a registered Green, or if perchance 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 the end of November. 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.

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 over three 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.

You can register online at:

<https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

In addition, postage-paid voter registration cards are available at most post offices, for free. Please remember to register Green as soon as you can, or at least by November 30!

Green Voter Card

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

Federal Offices

President and Vice-President – Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker
U.S. House of Representatives, District 13 – Boycott: please see write-up

State Offices

State Senate, District 9 – Boycott: please see write-up
State Assembly, District 15 – Sara Brink, with qualifications
State Assembly, District 18 – Boycott: please see write-up

Superior Court Judge

Office #2 – Elena Condes

Special School Districts

Peralta Community College, Area 1 – Jeffrey Heyman

County Supervisor

District 1 – Vinnie Bacon

City Offices

Alameda

City Council – Trish Spencer, Gig Codiga, and Amos White;
Don't vote for Oddie or Vella
City Auditor – Kevin Kearney
City Treasurer – Kevin Kennedy
School Board – Jennifer Williams

Albany

City Council – Preston Jordan and Aaron Tiedemann
School Board – No Endorsements, please see write-up

Berkeley

Mayor – Aidan Hill; Don't rank Arreguin or Hsiung
City Council, District 2 – Cheryl Davila; Don't rank Sharenko!
City Council, District 3 – Ben Bartlett*; Don't rank the other candidates
City Council, District 5 – #1: Sophie Hahn*, #2: Paul Picklesimer*;
Don't rank Todd Andrew!
City Council, District 6 – Richard Illgen; Defeat Wengraf!
School Board – Ana Vasudeo and Laura Babitt
Rent Board – Dominique Walker, Xavier Johnson, Mari Mendonca,
Leah Simon-Weisberg, and Andy Kelley
* = Ranked, but not endorsed

Emeryville

City Council and School Board – Not on ballot, please see write-up

Oakland

City Council, At Large -- Rebecca Kaplan
City Council, District 1 – #1: Tri Ngo, #2: Dan Kalb, with reservations;
Do NOT vote for Walton
City Council, District 3 – #1: Carroll Fife;
Sharing #2 & #3: Seneca Scott* and Meron Semedar*
City Council, District 5 – #1: Richard Raya, #2: Zoe Lopez-Meraz
City Council, District 7 – #1: Aaron Clay, #2: Marchon Tatmon
City Attorney – Eli Ferran, with reservations
School Board, District 1 – #1: Stacy Thomas, #2: Sam Davis*;
Do NOT vote for Austin Dannhaus
School Board, District 3 – Sharing #1 & #2: Cherisse Gash and VanCedric Williams;
Do NOT vote for Maiya Edgerly or Mark Hurty
School Board, District 5 – Mike Hutchinson;
Do NOT vote for Leroy Gaines
School Board, District 7 – “Coach” Ben Tapscott;
Do NOT vote for Clifford Thompson
* = Ranked, but not endorsed

Union City

Mayor – Sarabjit Cheema
City Council, District 1 – Sandra Holder-Grayson*
New Haven School Board, Area 1 – Jatinder Sahi
New Haven School Board, Area 2 – Melissa Shuen-Mallory
New Haven School Board, Area 3 – Michael Gonzales
* = Preferred, but not endorsed

Special Districts

A.C. Transit, At-Large – Chris Peeples
A.C. Transit, Ward 1 – Jovanka Beckles
A.C. Transit, Ward 2 – No Endorsement, please see write-up
BART, District 3 – Rebecca Saltzman
(Unopposed, not on ballot; please see article)
BART, District 5 – John McPartland
BART, District 7 – Lateefah Simon
EBMUD – Not on ballot, please see write-up
EBRPD, Ward 1 – Norman LaForce
HARD – Peter Rosen and Josh Kelton; Rick Hatcher, with reservations

Local Measures

V - Extends unincorporated area's 6.5 percent Utility Users Tax - Yes,
with reservations
W - Countywide half cent sales tax increase for homeless services, etc. - Yes,
with sales tax reservations
Y - Oakland School Bond - Yes, with bond reservations
Z - Alameda - Repeals Measure A (Article 26), for multi-unit housing - No,
with reservations
AA - Alameda - Clarifies prohibition against meddling by city council members - Yes
BB - Albany - Ranked Choice Voting - Yes
CC - Albany - Real Property Transfer Tax - Yes, with reservations
DD - Albany - Utility Users' Tax - Yes, with reservations
EE - Albany - Paramedic, Fire Engines, & Ambulance Special Tax - Yes, with reservations
FF - Berkeley - Fire, Emergency Services and Wildfire Prevention Tax - Yes
GG - Berkeley - Tax on Transportation Network Trips - Yes
HH - Berkeley - Utility Users Tax - Yes
II - Berkeley - Police Accountability Charter Amendment - Yes, Yes, Yes!
JJ - Berkeley - Mayor and City Council Compensation - Yes
KK - Berkeley - Administrative Provision and City Attorney - Yes
LL - Berkeley - Gann Limit Spending Authority - Yes
MM - Berkeley - Rent Stabilization Ordinance Amendment - Yes
QQ - Oakland - Allows 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections - Yes
RR - Oakland - Allows for new misdemeanor fine limit after public hearing - No
position, please see write-up
SI - Oakland - Strengthens the Police Commission - Yes
WW - Union City - Utility Users Tax - No

State Propositions

14 - \$5.5 Billion in Bonds for Stem Cell Research Institute - No
15 - Funding for Schools and Local Governments by Fairly Taxing Large Commercial
Properties - Yes, Yes, Yes!
16 - Allows Diversity and Affirmative Action - Yes, Yes, Yes!
17 - Restores Right to Vote after Completion of Prison Term - Yes
18 - Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds who will be 18 for the General Election - Yes
19 - Changes Certain Property Tax Rules - Neutral, please see write-up
20 - Restricts Parole for Non-Violent Offenders and Authorizes Felonies for Some
Current Misdemeanors - No
21 - Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control - Yes
22 - Exempts Some App-Based Companies from Providing Employee Benefits - No,
No, No!
23 - Establishes Requirements for Kidney Dialysis Clinics - Yes
24 - Amends Privacy Laws and Establishes Privacy Protection Agency - No
25 - Approves Replacing Money Bail with Algorithm-Based System - No

Translated Green Voter Cards are at: <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/translations>

Do you have QUESTIONS about Registration, your Ballot, or Voting?

Please call the Registrar of Voters at (510) 272-6973 or the
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights at 1-866-OURVOTE
or check the Secretary of State's website:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

Read the CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRES Online

Most of the candidates returned our questionnaires, for most of
the local races. You'll find lots of additional info in the candidates'
completed questionnaires, so we strongly encourage you to read them
on our website:
<http://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires/>.

Or, you can simply go to: <http://acgreens.org>, and then click on
the “Candidate Questionnaires” tab near the top of the page.

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Green Voter Card

Please see page 19 for the Full Voter Card!

- Federal Offices**
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Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker
- Special School Districts**
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 * = Ranked, but not endorsed
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 Mayor - Sarabjit Cheema
- Special Districts**
 BART, District 7 - Lateefah Simon
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 BB - Albany: Ranked Choice Voting - Yes
 II - Berkeley: Police Accountability Charter Amendment - Yes, Yes, Yes!
 S1 - Oakland: Strengthens the Police Commission - Yes
- State Propositions**
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 16 - Allows Diversity and Affirmative Action - Yes, Yes, Yes!
 22 - Exempts Some App-Based Companies from Providing Employee Benefits - No, No, No!



Rosa Clemente

When An Afro-Latina Woman Ran For Vice-President

And Nobody Knew Her Name

Sunday, October 25, at 6 p.m via ZOOM • Please see page 18

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한국어로 번역 된 "녹색당 추천 후보자 안내서"는 <https://acgreens.wordpress.com/translations> 에서 찾으실 수 있습니다.
 Bản dịch "The cử tri xanh" có tại:
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 Union City

Federal Offices	1, 3
State Senate and Assembly	4
State Propositions	1, 16 17, 18
Superior Court Judge	5
County Supervisor	5
Peralta Colleges	5
City of Alameda	5, 6
City of Albany	6
City of Berkeley	1, 7, 8, 9
City of Emeryville	9
City of Oakland	1, 10, 11, 12, 13
City of Union City	13
Special Districts.....	14, 15
County Measures.....	16
Voter Card	19, Back page

November 3, 2020

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**VOTER
 CARD**
 on Back Cover
 & Page 19

for the thinking voter