

Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: June 7, 2022

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The Statewide Races

Vote for the Left Unity Slate

Across California, and across this country, we are in crisis. As we've noted, like our "direct political ancestors, the abolitionists of the mid-nineteenth 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 more ethical, more just, more equal, and more peaceful. It is important to always have this visionary perspective, but especially now as multiple crises face our country and our planet."

In response, members from the Green Party of California and the Peace and Freedom Party have joined together to create a Left Unity Slate of statewide candidates. This historic decision was based on the many shared values between the Green and Peace and Freedom parties. Among these values are guaranteed access to healthcare, also known as expanded and improved Medicare For All, truly affordable housing, union-wage jobs, public ownership of energy, ending wars for profit, and a comprehensive climate plan, including a just transition to one hundred percent renewables.

The Left Unity Slate candidates include four Green Party members and four Peace and Freedom Party members. The Greens are: Governor candidate Luis Javier Rodriguez, author of 16 books and the second Poet Laureate of Los Angeles; Secretary of State candidate Gary Blenner, who teaches social science and is a former elected school board member; Controller candidate Laura Wells, co-coordinator of the Green Party of California's state Coordinating Committee, who has worked for organizations such as Pesticide Action Network, Women's Economic Agenda Project, and SEIU United Healthcare Workers; and Attorney General candidate Dan Kapelovitz, a Certified Criminal Law Specialist, principal of the Radical Law Center, and former President of UCLA's Animal Law Society.

The Peace and Freedom Party members are: US Senator candidate John Thompson Parker, coordinator of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and a former leader in the campaign to increase the minimum wage; Lieutenant Governor candidate Mohammad Arif, an immigrant legal advocate who speaks English, Punjabi, Urdu, and Hindi; Treasurer candidate Meghann Adams, a writer for "Breaking the Chains" magazine and most recent past President of SMART 1741, a union which represents school bus drivers; and Insurance Commissioner candidate Nathalie Hrizi, a Vice-President with the United Educators of San Francisco, a mother of two, and the Peace and Freedom Party Insurance Commissioner candidate in 2014 and 2018.

Please see the individual articles in this Green Voter Guide for more details about each specific race. Please also note that other Greens who are not part of the Left Unity Slate will be listed on your ballot, as under state law, any registered voter who pays the filing fee can put whatever political party designation they want by their name. So please be sure to vote for the officially-endorsed Left Unity Slate candidates listed in this voter guide.

You can also visit the websites of the Left Unity Slate candidates via their official campaign website: <https://leftunityslate.org/candidates/>

To donate to individual candidate campaigns, or to all four Green Party candidates through the Green Party of California, see this page on the state party's website: <https://www.cagreens.org/endorsed-2022-statewide-candidates>

It's time for California to break with the corporate-controlled political parties. Vote for the 8 Left Unity Slate candidates. Vote for Luis Javier Rodriguez for Governor, Mohammad Arif for Lieutenant Governor, Gary Blenner for Secretary of State, Laura Wells for Controller, Meghann Adams for Treasurer, Dan Kapelovitz for Attorney General, Nathalie Hrizi for Insurance Commissioner, and John Thompson Parker for US Senator.



Governor Luis Javier Rodriguez

Gavin Newsom, incumbent: The political maxim "the personal is political" applies with special regressive force to the current Democratic Party Governor Gavin Newsom. From an early point in his life, Newsom's upper-class connections have been fundamental to his career success and have resulted in a politician who relentlessly serves the interests of the rapacious billionaire class instead of the interests of California's vast majority—working people.

The Personal: Gavin Newsom was not born into great wealth, rather he was born into a web of political and financial connections that helped make him, his family, and allied upper-class families rich and politically powerful. The financial center of this network was the obscenely wealthy billionaire Getty oil family. Why oil and gas that millions of years of natural processes left underground should be privately owned to enrich families like the Gettys and Rockefellers and make them politically powerful is a good question. But that is the status-quo reality in the USA.

When Gavin Newsom was born in 1967 there had already been a quarter century of alliances between the Newsom, Getty, Brown, and Pelosi families. During the early 1940s Pat Brown was running for office and hired his close friend, businessman William Newsom II, to manage one of his early political campaigns. Many years later Governor Pat Brown's administration awarded a winter sports concession in Squaw Valley to partners William Newsom II and John Pelosi. The Newsom and Pelosi families connected further when one of John Pelosi's sons married William Newsom's daughter Barbara. Another Pelosi son married Nancy D'Alesandro who went into San Francisco politics and is now speaker of the House of Representatives. Meanwhile William's son, William Newsom III, Gavin's father, became one of billionaire J. Paul Getty's attorneys. Pat Brown's son Jerry became governor of California and appointed William III to a judgeship. Justice Newsom then helped his long-time friend Gordon Getty, one of J. Paul Getty's sons, secure a change in state trust law that allowed him to claim his share of a multi-heir trust, making Gordon a billionaire.

Once William Newsom III retired from the bench he became administrator of Gordon Getty's trust. In 1991 money from this trust funded twenty-four year-old Gavin Newsom's startup company, Plumpjack wine stores. The company name came from an opera composed by Gordon Getty. The company now manages twenty-three businesses, employing hundreds of workers and includes wineries, restaurants, hotels and clothing stores. Gordon Getty has

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County Superintendent of Schools Alysse Castro

There are only two candidates in this race—LK Monroe, the incumbent, and Alysse Castro. Only Ms. Castro returned our questionnaire. She is currently Executive Director of County Schools and has taught courses at UC Berkeley, involving school finances.

The selection here is fairly clear. Our lack of enthusiasm for Ms. Monroe, despite her eight years of experience, is especially focused on her recent spearheading of threats aimed at the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) insisting on drastic cuts (linked to potential schools closures and/or sale of District property) or face state takeover.

In contrast, Ms. Castro is not only well versed in school finances but someone understanding her role in administering a \$25 million budget to support educators/Districts and operating the education program at juvenile hall. She also aims at encouraging county staff to be directly involved with students.

She is very insightful not only of the evolution of Senate Bill (SB) 1200 (passed in 1991), which laid the basis for FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team), the unelected financial oversight board, but the legal requirement for Districts to expend 55 percent of their budget for site/classroom needs.

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Sheriff-Coroner Yesenia Sanchez

The June 7th primary ballot will be the first competitive Alameda County election for sheriff in over three decades. Since 1986, thanks to the lobbying efforts of the California Deputy Sheriff's Association to make it difficult to be eligible to run for sheriff, the county has had only two sheriffs, and neither one ever faced a challenger in any election.

Incumbent Sheriff Gregory J. Ahern is seeking a fifth term to the office that he got in 2006 by the endorsement of the retiring previous sheriff, Charles Plummer, and to which he has held onto by continuously running unopposed. Until now. He faces two highly qualified veteran law enforcement officers—Alameda County Division Commander Yesenia Sanchez and San Francisco police Officer JoAnn Walker—who are competent, experienced, powerful, but also compassionate, women of color who care about others who can do nothing in return for them. Both are running because they have faith in their conviction that voters in Alameda County are ready for a change in how their communities are policed. If neither Sanchez, Walker, nor Ahern get 50 percent or more of the vote cast in the June primary, there will be a runoff election between the top two vote getters in November.

For the past 14 years East Bay progressives have been dismayed by Sheriff Ahern because of his cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and his support of Urban Shield technologies that promote police surveillance targeting the poor and people of color. They also disapprove of his inability to put a stop to the inhumane conditions in the massive Santa Rita Jail facility, one of the largest in the nation, and his failure to rein in the excessive tactics used by his deputies who patrol unincorporated parts of the county. A federal Department of Justice report released last year found that "there is reasonable cause to believe" that the sheriff's office violated constitutional and civil rights of people with mental health issues by putting them in jail without sufficiently treating them. As of 2020 Ahern's office led the Bay Area in wrongful death lawsuits and excessive force payouts amounting to \$27.6 million over 5 years. Ahern is currently facing two class action lawsuits brought by the jail's detainees, along with a separate federal civil rights investigation. In February of this year, a judge placed Santa Rita Jail under federal court supervision for at least until 2028.

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The Green Party of Alameda County

The "GPAC" is one of the few County Councils that produce a Voter Guide for each election. We mail about 5,000 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:

acgreens1992@gmail.com

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, or online. (510) 644-2293 <http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com>

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 working on November candidate and ballot measure contests. 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 contact our office at acgreens1992@gmail.com.

Credits:

Kevin Akin, Peter Allen, Bill Balderston, Dale Baum, Gary Blenner, Paul Burton, Brian Good, Greg Jan, J.P. Massar, James McFadden, David Morrison, Kathy Park, Michael Rubin, Larry Shoup, Phoebe Thomas Sorgen, Pam Spevack, 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 funding includes bonds, parcel taxes, sales taxes, and other regressive taxes that tax the rich individuals and corporations at lower rates than the rest of us.

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

California budgeting took a turn for the worse in 1978 when Proposition 13 was approved by voters. The intention was to keep people, especially seniors on fixed incomes, from losing their homes due to escalating property taxes. Other less-understood parts of Prop 13 caused taxes overall to become less progressive and more regressive, damaging California's legacy of great schools, parks, highways, health care and quality of life.

In 1992, the Green Party achieved ballot status in California and we've been fighting for a fairer tax system ever since. California can keep the good and fix the bad in Prop 13, but unfortunately, neither supermajority Democrats nor minority Republicans have used their power to promote and enact real solutions.

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. The good news is that a few years ago 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 recently 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.

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, and at the same time we educate and organize for better ways of raising revenue in the future.

Support Your Green Party!

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

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

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

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 \$ _____

Federal Offices



US Senator (Full Term) John Thompson Parker US Senator (Partial/ Unexpired Term) John Thompson Parker (Write-in)

John Thompson Parker, a community organizer in Los Angeles, is endorsed for US Senator by both the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party of California. This year, Parker is running his third campaign for Senator, having received substantial Green Party support as well as Peace and Freedom Party support in previous elections.

To the confusion of some voters, the same Senate seat appears twice on the June primary election ballot. The full six-year term starting in January, 2023 has 23 candidates, and the short remnant of the present term (this July through the end of 2022) has eight candidates on the ballot. Parker appears on the ballot for the full term, and he is also asking that voters write in his name to vote for him for the partial (short) term as well.

John Parker is a longtime member of the Peace and Freedom Party, the coordinator of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, and a leading member of the Socialist Unity Party. He accompanied now deceased former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark on many anti-war delegations abroad. Parker was only eighteen when he organized his first union election—at a small steel plant in New Jersey. Parker sparked the minimum wage increase proposals in Los Angeles, being the first to author the Los Angeles \$15 minimum wage ballot initiative in 2013. Parker recently attended the inauguration of socialist President Xiomara Castro in Honduras at the invitation of her Libre Party, due to his solidarity work with Honduras.

Parker's campaign is grounded in the realization that our primary institutions are no longer capable of providing

for individuals or community, and that the current system will only change when corporate and financial monopoly ownership of the industries of production and finance are transferred to the majority—to those who it oppresses and exploits. This campaign is about building a movement to make that systemic change possible.

John Parker's basic campaign statement focuses on his opposition to capitalist exploitation and control of working people:

"It has become crystal clear that the institutions in this country, and those who support them and enable them, can no longer be trusted to provide even the most basic protections of life, and increasingly threaten the existence of others beyond its borders. It is therefore time to take a sober look at our world and the rapidly deteriorating effects this systemic incompetence is having on our communities, our workplaces and our families.

"In the two-party system in the US, Democrats and Republicans are two sides of the same coin, funded by and serving the same corporate masters. Their politicians, in general, will continue to make decisions of war, climate change, growing economic impoverishment and racist and sexist state repression based on the sole motivation of maximizing profits for their masters - who have ultimate control over the use of those profits. It's our work, day in and day out, that make those profits possible, yet this system does not allow us any real say in the consistent decision to spend trillions on war and relative pennies on social necessities. This will only change when corporate and financial monopoly ownership of the industries of production and finance are transferred to the majority—to those who it oppresses and exploits. This campaign is about building a movement to make that systemic change possible.

"Capitalism enables corporate masters to exacerbate crises of health, poverty, oppression, climate change and war in allegiance to profit. Ownership of production and finance must be controlled by the people. This Senate campaign is about building that socialist systemic change. Vote the Left Unity Slate!"

But in addition to focusing on the big picture, Parker has long worked on specific movements for improvements in the conditions of working people: in California, the United States, and abroad. He was a central leader in the first attempt to qualify for the ballot an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 in Los Angeles back in 2013, a cause that was taken up by others and which later succeeded. He strongly favors immediate further increases in the minimum wage today. His work in the Harriet Tubman Center has been a substantial influence in the movement against police brutality and violence against minorities.

Of course, the incumbent Democrat, Alex Padilla, is favored to get the most votes in the Primary election in June. Whoever comes in second will go on to the runoff in November with Padilla. But it is not at all clear who will come in second. There are five other Democrats on the ballot, and ten Republicans, along with four "no party preference" candidates. Depending on how things go, if the Republicans split their vote ten ways, an outsider from the Peace and Freedom Party with the endorsement of the Green Party could have a real chance.

While two candidates also appear on the ballot with "Green Party" under their names, voters should be clear that after more than six weeks of discussion, the Green Party of California decided to endorse John Thompson Parker by a large majority of over two-thirds of the voting delegates. The two candidates for US Senator who are registered with the Green Party are not endorsed and do NOT have the Green Party of California's support. John Parker is part of the Left Unity Slate of Green Party and Peace and Freedom Party candidates, he is endorsed by both parties, and he endorses the other members of that slate, including four Green Party candidates for statewide office.

Vote for John Thompson Parker for the full-term US Senator seat and write him in for the partial/unexpired term seat. See <https://JohnParkerForUsSenate.org/Meet/>.

US Representative, District 12 Glenn Kaplan, with reservations

Could change be possible in the District 12 US Congressional Representative race? Our choices are the incumbent, Barbara Lee, No Party Preference candidate Glenn Kaplan, or either of two Republicans whom we can dismiss from the get go. (Note: Democrat Eric Wilson informed us that he decided to drop out of the race, although his name will still appear on the ballot).

Glenn Kaplan grew up in Oakland, taught public school, and worked as a journalist for various outlets. Until Covid hit, he was a small business owner of a community hub in Oakland. He wrote that his primary reason for running for the US Representative seat is that our government is failing us. The constituency is not being listened to or heard. Glenn is especially disturbed at the federal bureaucracy's languishing response to small businesses during the pandemic. The infrastructure has deteriorated and we are in gridlock. He promises to listen to constituents, answer them, and effect real change.

Under the "positions" section of his website, he lists many goals that Green Party members agree with including fair taxation, funding for education and research, universal basic income (UBI), single payer healthcare, free contraception, immediate citizenship for "dreamers," green energy, peace, and support for neighborhood businesses. He goes on to give a long list of beliefs and positions, including a few that give us pause: "...the US should adopt policies to make Russia a pariah state like Iran or North Korea until it ceases its war of aggression and abides by international law." Another position is: "...we should enforce current immigration laws while also providing a clear, fair, legal path to citizenship." Lastly he says: "...push China to play by fair international economic rules." He has never held public office and does not mention diplomacy. Might these positions indicate naivety on some issues?

Overall, we still give him high marks because, as he says, "We can all see the system is broken." It's time to express our values and to pressure members of Congress who set the limits on what regular people can expect from Washington. We need to send Barbara Lee and the duopoly the message that we're fed up with their votes for military spending, their failures in helping the vast majority of us who are not wealthy, etc. We recommend voting for Glenn Kaplan, albeit with minor reservations.

Barbara Lee made her reputation as a progressive when she voted against the war in Afghanistan two decades ago. Now it's time for a realignment.

Follow the money and her voting record. Whether Republicans or Democrats are in office, our schools, healthcare, justice, environment, and democracy decline. To affect the system, we must stop perpetuating the system. Barbara Lee's votes do not align with her constituents who are far more progressive than she is. This is where corporate money plays out, especially military spending. In the current election cycle, Lee has taken money from Amazon, Pfizer, Blue Shield, FedEx, Clorox, Toyota, Home Depot, and Wells Fargo, plus the National Association of Realtors. (see: https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/?data_type=processed&committee_id=C00331769&two_year_transaction_period=2022&min_date=01%2F01%2F2021&max_date=12%2F31%2F2022.)

On page 3 of our June, 2018 article about this Congressional seat (then District 13), online at <https://acgreens.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/gpac-vg-0618-web.pdf>, we listed the specific amounts that Lee had taken from dozens of nefarious corporations including the world's largest weapons manufacturer, Lockheed Martin, Bayer (now merged with Monsanto but previously already producing poisons including a gas Nazis used at Auschwitz!), Microsoft, PG&E, and T-Mobile. We also explained in detail about Lee's failure to endorse the best candidates for local office, her "sitting on the sidelines" in the 2016 Presidential Primary by refusing to endorse Bernie Sanders, and many other examples which show that she hasn't actually been a very progressive leader over the past two decades since the start of the Afghanistan War. Given her constituency, her seat is totally safe, so she should fiercely represent the people, not her donors. Thus, please consider voting for Glenn Kaplan.



HELP WANTED ...to build the Green Party!

FOR OUR FALL VOTER GUIDE

- Writing Election Analysis
- Phone Calls Distribution

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

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

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

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

Governor

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invested in many of these businesses. But that is only part of the story, since Gordon and other Getty family members have contributed at least \$516,925 to Gavin Newsom's political campaigns (L.A. Times 9/7/2018.) Gordon, who once stated that he considers Gavin as a son, also loaned Newsom \$1,000,000 to help him purchase a home in Pacific Heights. The Gettys are also close to Nancy Pelosi. When Gordon's granddaughter Ivy married in 2021 at San Francisco City Hall, Nancy officiated.

Besides the Gettys, Gavin Newsom has a number of other billionaire families contributing to his political campaigns. A 2018 Los Angeles Times article identified seven other wealthy families who collectively donated over \$2 million to Newsom's political campaigns, including Republican families like the Fishers. Former San Francisco mayor Willie Brown, stated that the city's "first families" settled on Gavin Newsom as their favored candidate over twenty years ago. Besides the Gettys and Fishers, other rich families giving large donations to Newsom include the Pritzker, Wilsey/Traina, Marcus, Swig, Buell and Guggenheim families (see L.A. Times 9/7/2018.)

The Political: Given Newsom's connections to the billionaire class and their central role in both his rise and continuing key role in the state's power structure, it should not be a surprise that his policies favor a for-profit health care system rather than a universal, free, single-payer system funded by taxes based on ability to pay. For Newsom, profits and capital accumulation for the rich always trump life-saving measures for the working class. Obviously, his view must be that the poor can suffer because of a lack of ability to pay the high cost of quality health care.

For Newsom, the purpose of campaign rhetoric is to get elected; once in power only those measures that do not impact the ability of his rich friends to get richer will count. Identity politics measures like gay marriage or affirmative action are positive steps often taken by Newsom, but are no substitute for a class-based politics that serve the interests of the vast majority. Similarly, Newsom talks a lot about the existential problem of climate chaos, yet his measures to put serious controls on a central source of the problem—the production of fossil fuels—have been very weak. According to the Center for Biological Diversity,

California regulators have approved over 5,000 new oil and gas wells since Newsom took office a few years ago, the vast majority in poorer communities already burdened with the worst pollution. The heat and poisons produced by the resulting millions of tons of carbon pollution blasted into our atmosphere will likely cause thousands of deaths and aggravate the dangerous existing trends toward increased drought, fires, floods and general climate catastrophe. Again, Governor Newsom refuses to enact policies that would decrease the profits of his super-rich friends despite the importance of such policies to the vast majority—and to the livability of our planet.

The Green Alternative: Luis J. Rodriguez is the 2022 endorsed Green Party candidate for Governor. The author of 15 books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, Luis is recognized as a major figure in contemporary Chicano literature. He is a poet, novelist, journalist, columnist and critic. He was named the Poet Laureate of Los Angeles in 2014. His entire life has been in sharp contrast to the privileged existence of Gavin Newsom. Luis's life story is in accordance with his Green values and our Green program. He is an authentic leader of the multinational California working class: he is of the people and for the people. He would make an excellent and inspirational governor.

Luis Rodriguez was born in El Paso, Texas of a Mexican father and an indigenous mother from the Raramuir/Tarahumara native group. Luis became a Chicano activist as a teen, and was arrested and brutalized with other peaceful protestors in the well-known 1970 Chicano Moratorium protest against the U.S. war in Vietnam. Released after unjust charges were dropped, Luis left high school and was for years employed in a series of working class jobs, including as a truck driver, carpenter, welder, and millwright as well as work in a paper mill, lead foundry, and chemical refinery. Later he went to night school to work on developing his full potential as a human being—and gradually became the inspirational writer and poet he is today. He has done successful work with youth and indigenous peoples and these community efforts together with his writing has resulted in a number of awards, including the Hispanic Heritage Award for Literature.

Luis points out that there have always been two states of

California, one for Newsom and his allies: the corporations, robber barons, developers and billionaires and another different state for the multinational working class and the poor. These are facts that we should not push aside and ignore. Luis has a vision "towards beauty, truth and good" that offers wisdom for members of the working class: "engage in what speaks deeply and singularly to you...this is how you access vitality for the physical world with all its hardships... find your art, your passions, your innate purpose – to live out the story written on your soul the day you were born... find a cause bigger than yourself...learn to own your life... once you take back responsibility, with codes and propriety tied to your own interests you become liberated."

As expected, Luis J. Rodriguez is not connected to and close friends with the super-rich. He does not receive large campaign contributions from the billionaire class or, for that matter, from corporations. His funding plan is to aim for a million one-dollar donations from California citizens. He stands for single-payer universal healthcare, renewable clean energy and an end to the fossil fuel economy. A large-scale Green New Deal to confront climate chaos is what he favors. His entire program is fully Green: affordable safe housing, free quality education, an end to mass incarceration, a universal basic income, and fair and equal elections through proportional representation. Human development and shared wellbeing for all is his goal, which includes his vision of a cooperative healing world, free of the injustice of capitalist private property relations.

The Republicans: The major news among Republicans is that the most prominent among those who lost to Newsom in the 2021 recall attempt are not running this year. Instead, as of early 2022, there are no less than thirteen declared Republican candidates for California governor. None of them are well known and are not worth covering in this Green Voter Guide.

The Choice: As a Left Unity Slate candidate, Luis Rodriguez (<https://www.luis4governor.org/>) has been endorsed by both the Green Party of California and the Peace and Freedom Party. It's time to break with the plutocratic, pro-corporate duopoly.

Vote for Luis Javier Rodriguez for Governor.



Lieutenant Governor Mohammad Arif

Eight candidates will appear on the June primary ballot for Lieutenant Governor. The incumbent, Eleni Kounalakis, is listed with two other Democrats, three Republicans, one person with no party, and the Peace and Freedom Party candidate, Mohammad Arif.

Kounalakis for years headed AKT Development Corporation, founded by her father Angelo Tsakopoulos, until she became active in politics to serve her family's interests in Sacramento. Despite the rhetoric of some Democrats about affordable housing, her family's company is not believed to have ever built a house affordable to working people. Her role in Sacramento is to make sure they never are required to do so.

Mohammad Arif, though not allowed to mention another candidate in his statement in the Secretary of State's Voter Information Guide, managed to work in a mention of the real role of Kounalakis in Sacramento. "California's economy and government should serve working people, not just the wealthy. Electing rich developers and their supporters brings profits for the wealthy, not housing for ordinary people. Peace, justice, human rights. I support the Left Unity Slate. People are power." (A short statement, though longer than some; the brevity forced by the high cost of each word in the statement. Rich and poor candidates alike are charged \$25 per word.)

Mohammad Arif, 53, is the Kern County Chair of the Peace and Freedom Party. He and his wife are immigrants from the Punjab, in India. They have four children born in California. He earned a bachelor's degree from Hailey College and a master's degree in economics from Punjab University. After coming to California in 1991, he attended Abraham Lincoln Law College in Los Angeles. He has worked as a legal administrator for law firms to handle the legal needs of immigrants for many years. He speaks English, Punjabi, Urdu, and Hindi, plus some Arabic. He was the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for State Senate in the 2013 16th district special election.

His occupation is oddly listed on the ballot as "businessman"—a default designation used after the Secretary of State rejected his chosen occupational description of "immigrant legal advocate." In fact, he earns his living by working for law firms, interviewing and filling out forms for immigrants seeking legal status in the United States. Some of his strongest supporters are new citizens, grateful for his assistance in winning that status. His basic campaign poster features the slogan "Immigrant Rights" in English, Spanish, Chinese, Punjabi, and Urdu.

But his interests and issues are much broader than that. His basic campaign leaflet spells out his stands on about two dozen issues.

"Lieutenant Governor is a powerful office, which comes with membership or leadership on various committees and commissions, many with an economic role. California's economy needs to serve our working people, not just the wealthy.

"California's working class is largely left behind when the economy improves, and first to hurt when there is a downturn. Both the parties of the billionaires reject any real challenges to the power of their patrons.

"What I really seek is an end to the power of the wealthy over the lives of working people. As we work to put workers in power, there are many specific ways we can make large and small improvements for ordinary people. We can tax the rich, whose wealth is entirely created by workers, to pay for society's needs.

"Among the goals we need to push for are:

- Decent jobs and labor rights for all.
- Free education for all, from preschool through university.
- Free high-quality universal health care.
- End all discrimination.

- Full rights for immigrants.
- Restore and protect the environment.
- Solar and wind power need to be implemented in environmentally responsible ways to replace fossil fuels.
- Public transportation with free or nominal fares can greatly reduce the need for automobile use.

"Decent housing at low cost needs to be a state priority. Wealthy developers, like the incumbent Lieutenant Governor, put profit first. While environmentally unsound housing developments for the wealthy go unfilled, hundreds of thousands have no housing at all.

"I ask for your support in my campaign. I reject all corporate contributions, and seek the support of workers and small business people to defend them from the predatory power of the billionaires. People are power!"

Arif (<https://mohammad4california.com/>) is endorsed by the Peace and Freedom Party, and by the Green Parties of several counties, including Alameda County. He supports the Left Unity Slate of three other Peace and Freedom Party candidates and four Green Party candidates for statewide office. If he is able to gather sufficient support, he has a chance (if in traditional terms a slim chance) of making it into the November election. If the three Republicans divide their party's vote, and Mohammad Arif gets the votes of enough Democrats disgusted by Kounalakis's big-money self-interested politics, he could come in second on June 7, and thus qualify for the November runoff election. He certainly will draw votes from communities that no Green or Peace and Freedom candidate has been able to reach directly before, with his contacts and support in the South Asian and Muslim communities up and down California. And win or lose, he will push his issues tirelessly until the day of the primary election.

We strongly endorse and recommend a vote for Mohammad Arif for Lieutenant Governor.



State Offices • Vote for the Unity Slate



Secretary of State Gary N. Blenner

Gary Blenner is on a crusade. A Sacramento area high school social science teacher for 28 years, Blenner is not someone who believes in being a bystander to history or politics. “Activism is the key for change. Silence is equal to acceptance,” Blenner often tells his students. Whether it is requiring his students to volunteer with a political campaign, or participate in a community service project through Civitas (his school’s political science academy) Blenner has often been at the forefront of encouraging others to engage. But this isn’t some empty rhetoric on his part. Blenner is a strong believer in modeling behavior for his students to follow. “I would be a hypocrite if I just said to my students ‘become more active in your community’ while I just stood by and did nothing.” Rather than just talking about politics and the lack of change in our society, Blenner is doing something about it.

Blenner comes from a long family tree of activism and alternative party politics. His great-grandfather was a union organizer for the CPUSA in the 1920s & 1930s. His grandparents were active in the American Labor Party of New York and in the 1948 campaign of former Vice-President Henry A. Wallace. A great uncle was a union organizer and active in the Brotherhood Party of New York. “I guess you could say trade unionism and activism is in my blood.” That might explain his passion for progressive politics and involvement in the Green Party. Blenner describes his politics as democratic socialist. “I think democratic socialism has been misinterpreted as mild socialism. In fact, I am as socialistic as they come these days. I believe in workers controlling the means of production through democratic means, and the elimination of profit. I just believe it should be done through the electoral process.” To Blenner, the Green Party’s vision of grassroots government fits in exactly with his vision of a cooperative, decentralized, democratic society.

Blenner is no newcomer to electoral politics. He got elected (as a registered Green) to the Center Joint Unified School District school board in 2006. He has run unsuccessfully for the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and 2016, challenging the developer-controlled money interests in the county. This time, Blenner has his sights on becoming California Secretary of State. “I’m not just running as a protest candidate. I’m in it to win it.”

What is it that Blenner wants to change? And why is it that the current incumbent (Dr. Shirley Weber) is the wrong candidate for that position? “I think Dr. Weber is an amazing woman, and her achievements and life story should be celebrated by everyone. However, she is no friend to progressives, and is another corporate stooge like practically every other mainstream Democrat.” Blenner points out that Weber opposes ranked choice voting and a single payer health care system. And we also note that her current campaign contributors include the likes of Chevron, Phillips 66, Facebook, Nike, Anheuser Busch, Lyft, Eli Lilly, Mercury General, and AT&T.

Blenner’s platform boils down to four major points: 1) Passing “The Representation of the People’s Act” ballot initiative in November 2024, which will bring proportional representation to the State Assembly by political party, 2) Implementing Ranked Choice Voting for all other single-member races throughout the State of California, 3) Public financing of campaigns, and removing corporate “dark money” from politics and 4) A statewide constitutional amendment (followed by a federal constitutional amendment) to end corporate personhood. “As it stands right now, our democracy is a sham” he argues. “It supports only two large political corporate factions, controlled by monied special interests, who put forth policies for their own selfish greed. The reason why this nation can’t get anything done

is because their corporate overlords control the agenda.”

Blenner goes on to argue that real, substantive, progressive change will never come unless we fix our election system, open up the political process, and get private money out of politics. “The Democrats talk about trying to maintain voting rights and preserve democracy. They ought to practice what they preach and open up the process, not try to shut it down and keep power for themselves.” Blenner is referring to AB 2808 which, if passed, would outlaw ranked choice voting in the State of California.

While the position of California Secretary of State has a reputation for being the non-consequential “business manager” for record keeping and elections, Blenner wants to turn the office into a position of advocacy for change. “I want the office to be a voice for a fairer, more transparent, and inclusive elections process in California.” He goes on to state that “Either we will gain an election and transform politics in California, or we will expose its two party hypocrisy. Either way, we will win.”

As part of the Left Unity Slate, Blenner has been endorsed by both the Green Party of California and the Peace and Freedom Party. We endorse Blenner as well—it’s time to vote for genuinely progressive, corporate-free candidates, so Gary N. Blenner is clearly the choice for Secretary of State. (<https://leftunityslate.org/candidates/>)



Controller Laura Wells

The California State Controller race has six candidates running for the position of California’s Chief Financial Officer. The Controller oversees the receipt and disbursement of billions of taxpayer dollars, performs audits, and is a member of many important state boards where she can advocate for solutions.

Solutions include implementing public banking at local and state levels to save money on interest and to invest in California, not Wall Street. She would tax the super-rich the way they were taxed decades ago, when California had greater opportunity and quality of life for everyone, and even the rich could still get richer. She would push for an oil severance tax which every oil-producing state except California already has, and push to use water wisely, and never for fracking.

Audits she would oversee and then report to the boss—the public—include the big audits of education and healthcare. She would do an audit to ask, what happened to California’s great public school system, and to California’s world-class university system? What happened to all the affordable housing requirements? What about the cost-effectiveness of prisons versus schools, and of a Universal Basic Income?

She would also research what happened to CalCare? A state Medicare for All system would save both money and lives, as it does in other industrialized nation/states. Critical elements are now in place that should make it a priority for Sacramento to implement a great healthcare system—including campaign promises, a budget surplus, a pandemic, a bill to implement and a funding bill, and a Democratic Party “super-trifecta” with the governorship and super-majorities in both houses of the legislature. Still, Sacramento refused to bring CalCare to a vote. Voters could not see who supported it and who did not. The audit would point out that during the seven years of Republican Schwarzenegger the Democratic legislature put it on his desk twice, knowing he would veto it, and that the number of times they put it on the desk in 12 years of Democratic governors Jerry Brown and Gavin Newsom was zero.

Green Party candidate Laura Wells is a strong supporter and member of the Left Unity Slate made up of Green Party and Peace and Freedom candidates running for partisan statewide office. She sees the June “top two” primary, which only allows two partisan candidates to appear on the November ballot, as an ideal opportunity to cast votes

for progressive candidates other than the highly promoted candidates with loyalties toward their campaign contributors.

Laura graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wayne State University in Detroit, and earned a Masters degree from Antioch University. She worked in information technology in the financial industry for twenty years. She then served in a range of volunteer and professional capacities for community and labor organizations, including Pesticide Action Network, Women’s Economic Agenda Project, and SEIU United Healthcare Workers.

Other candidates in the race are one Republican, Lanhee Chen (whose endorsers include nationally-known conservatives Marco Rubio and Paul Ryan), and four Democrats, Malia Cohen, Ron Galperin, Steve Glazer, and Yvonne Yiu. As a Green Party candidate, Laura Wells does not take corporate money. Available research on some of the other candidates (Ron Galperin did not have a filing as we go to press) shows the following:

Malia Cohen has taken corporate donations from Clear Channel, Liberty Mutual, Union Pacific Railroad, Comcast, California Cattlemen’s Assoc. PAC, Blue Shield, and the Real Estate Law Group, LLP.

Steve Glazer didn’t have an electronic copy of his Controller report on the Secretary of State’s website, but his “Glazer for Senate 2020” did file for the current election cycle. As of 12/31/21 it had over \$2 million in the account, with donations from many corporations, including: JP Morgan Chase, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Phillips 66, PG&E, Amazon, Walmart, Home Depot, Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T, Albertsons, Safeway, Clorox, Ford Motor Co., General Motors, Zenith Insurance, Aetna, Facebook, Dupont, Pfizer, Bayer, Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Honeywell, Boeing, and Uber.

Yvonne Yiu made personal donations to her campaign which totaled \$1.5 million, in addition to a few corporate donations, such as Optometric Alliance, Inc. and H & H Drug Store, Inc., DBA Western Drug.

We recommend and endorse Left Unity Slate candidate Laura Wells for Controller. For more information, please see: <https://laurawells.org/controller-2022>.



Treasurer Meghann Adams

There are only four candidates for State Treasurer on the June primary ballot, fewer than for any other statewide office. One is incumbent Fiona Ma, a business Democrat. There are two Republicans and only one candidate with any left or progressive credentials, Meghann Adams of the Peace and Freedom Party.

Meghann Adams has been a tireless organizer of anti-war and anti-racist actions in the San Francisco area for fifteen years. She has been a school bus driver for seven years, active in SMART 1741, the union representing school bus drivers in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. She was elected president of the union last year. Active in many community organizations over the years, she has served as treasurer of campaigns, and now is running for California Treasurer to represent working people.

Her campaign slogan, “End Poverty in California,” harkens back to the Upton Sinclair campaign of 1934. Sadly, the slogan is as appropriate today as it was 88 years ago. A socialist, Meghann Adams considers capitalism the reason why poverty is still so common today.

Her initial request for endorsement from the Green Party and the Peace and Freedom Party lays out her basic issues:

“I am running for California State Treasurer in the primary election of June, 2022. I am a long-time community activist and the president of the school bus drivers union in San Francisco.

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State Offices • Vote for the Unity Slate!

Treasurer

continued from page 5

“I am running to represent the working-class majority of Californians, not the wealthy who typically bankroll (and largely control) elected officials. My standard for judging all political questions is ‘what is good for the working class and the population as a whole?’ Racism, war, poverty, sexism, homophobia, homelessness, transphobia, and environmental destruction grow out of the system of predatory capitalism. This system of profit at any cost to the people or planet must be replaced by one dedicated to meeting people’s needs—socialism.

“Working people do all the labor, but billionaires own what we make. The ultra-wealthy dominate our economic and political system, keeping major-party politicians from doing anything that will benefit workers if it’s to the detriment of the billionaires. I have no intention of representing ‘all Californians’ in Sacramento. I will only represent 99 percent of them. The 1 percent has plenty of representation in Sacramento already.

“The Treasurer selects the strategic ‘Housing, Economic Development, Jobs and Opportunity Zone Ad Hoc Committee,’ which is presently dominated by millionaires, billionaires and other corporate executives. I would replace them with labor and community activists who would design plans to meet the urgent need to create truly affordable housing and union-wage jobs for all, in a long-term sustainable way.

“My first priority would be overcoming the state’s housing crisis. All the resources presently exist to solve this deepening crisis. As Treasurer I would call on the people across the state to demand that urgent action be taken now by the legislature and governor to block all evictions and foreclosures. Especially in the midst of the COVID-19 public health crisis, throwing people out of their homes is cruel, criminal, and extremely dangerous to the entire community. I also urge eviction defense: direct action to block evictions and keep people in their homes.

“The Treasurer manages bonds issued by the state, generally for infrastructure projects. I will call for doing away with bonds, which are another source of great wealth for the parasitic banks and investors through interest paid over twenty or thirty years. Bonds are another way the people end up subsidizing the rich. Instead of bonds, I call for taxing the wealth of the banks, corporations and the super-rich.

“Urgent action must also be taken to address the rapidly accelerating climate crisis. The state must move quickly to eliminate the exploitation, refining, and use of fossil fuels. As the horrifying ‘fire season’—which now lasts most of the year—has shown, there is no time to lose.”

Last fall, Meghann Adams was endorsed at the state level by both the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party. She is a member of the Left Unity Slate backed by both parties. She has since developed several additional program issues, many of which are beyond the powers of the office she seeks, but can be accomplished by the people of California with mobilization and left leadership. Examples include reducing incarceration, improving worker pensions, demilitarizing the police, and fully funding a universal healthcare program.

Meghann Adams (<https://adams4treasurer.com/>) demonstrates one of the few ways working people can rise to leadership positions in our society: through the union movement. She has also shown her activism and developed her leadership skills in the ANSWER Coalition, as a writer for “Breaking the Chains” magazine, and recently through the Cancel the Rents campaign and the No Cuts to the Classroom campaign. She is a member of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, one of the several socialist organizations that act electorally through the Peace and Freedom Party in California. She has twice served as a Peace and Freedom Party candidate for Presidential Elector, and is an elected member of the Peace and Freedom Party California State Central Committee, as well as the State Executive Committee. Like the other Peace and Freedom candidates, she is endorsing the four Left Unity Slate Green Party candidates for statewide office.

Vote for Meghann Adams for Treasurer.



Attorney General Dan Kapelovitz

Five lawyers – two Republicans, a Democrat, a No Party Preference (NPP) candidate, and a Green—are running for Attorney General.

Probably most familiar to northern Alameda county voters is the Democratic Party incumbent, Rob Bonta. He served on the Alameda City Council and in the State Assembly from 2012 to 2021 before his appointment as Attorney General by Governor Newsom last year. He must have impressed people in high places, because as of December 31, 2021, he had \$5 million in his campaign war chest—over 4000 donations, 200 of which were over \$8,000. General Motors PAC made 4 donations totaling \$8100. Anheuser Busch gave \$16,200. AirBnB made seven donations (including employees) totaling \$5,500. Also conspicuous on Mr. Bonta’s donors list are a number of casinos and gaming establishments. Sports betting is an upcoming issue in California.

Another veteran of elected office is former Republican (and now NPP candidate) Anne Marie Schubert, a thirty-year District Attorney. She promises to “stop the chaos” of crime and homelessness, she supports the recall of San Francisco’s progressive District Attorney Chesa Boudin, and she enjoys the endorsement and funding of a variety of law enforcement organizations. She raised \$1.6 million in 2021 and as of December 31, 2021, had over a million dollars remaining.

Rounding out the field are three candidates who have never held public office. Republican Eric Early promises to protect California from “the growing Socialist/Communist threat” and to fight to stop schools from “teaching kids to hate America.” He raised \$400,000 in 2021, and as of December 31, 2021, had about \$140,000 remaining. Most of his 500 donors are retired or self-employed.

Republican Nathan Hochman served as Assistant US Attorney for the Central District of California, and was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as United States Assistant Attorney General. He has clerked with a federal judge. He raised \$1.3 million in 2021. His more than 500 contributors are mostly individuals; almost 100 gave \$8,000 or more. Mr. Hochman describes his “criminal justice” practice as “defending the constitutional rights of individuals against government overreach.” Quite notably he does not have the police groups’ support enjoyed by Ms. Schubert.

Green Party member Dan Kapelovitz appeared earlier this year at an event opposing the recall effort against progressive San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin. As Mr. Hochman has, Mr. Kapelovitz clerked for a federal judge, and has a background in criminal defense. Unlike Mr. Hochman, Kapelovitz has chosen to “help those who have found themselves caught up in the criminal justice system, including animal rights protestors whose First Amendment rights have been violated.” He calls for an end to mass incarceration, and proposes that the death penalty should be restricted to “incorrigible corporations who are legally deemed ‘persons.’” He denounces the current bail system, saying innocents are “coerced to plead guilty to crimes they did not commit just to get out of jail with a time-served sentence – which happens often, every working day.” He calls for an end to “racist gang enhancements” and the Three Strikes laws. “Stop trying children as adults. Make the jails and prisons safer. Focus on restorative justice and preventing crime in the first place.” As a Green Party member, Mr. Kapelovitz does not take campaign donations from corporations. As of December 31, 2021, he did not meet the fundraising threshold that requires filing a financial report with the Secretary of State.

Dan Kapelovitz (<https://kapelovitz.com/>) has been endorsed at the state level by both the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party, and is a member of the Left Unity Slate comprised of candidates from both parties. Mr. Kapelovitz is the only candidate for Attorney General who will fight for justice for the 99 percent of us and be independent of big-money donors.

Vote for Dan Kapelovitz for Attorney General.



Insurance Commissioner Nathalie Hrizi

Nine candidates appear on the ballot for Insurance Commissioner, a reflection of concern that Democratic incumbent Ricardo Lara is entirely too cozy with some insurance companies. There are three other Democrats, one no-party-preference candidate, two Republicans, one maverick Green who is not supported by the state Green Party, and Nathalie Hrizi, San Francisco teacher and mother of two who has been the Peace and Freedom Party’s candidate in 2014, 2018, and now in 2022. Hrizi is the recently-elected head of the substitute teacher’s unit within the teacher’s union in San Francisco. She has been a very busy activist in San Francisco for years, and is the only candidate who proclaims that the insurance companies are parasites, health-care should be provided to all through a universal healthcare system, and the insurance companies should be removed entirely from health care. Both the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party of California have endorsed Nathalie Hrizi as a member of the Left Unity Slate.

When the Green Party and Peace and Freedom Party were considering endorsements late last summer, the Hrizi campaign provided this statement:

“Nathalie Hrizi, a San Francisco elected union vice-president and community activist is running for California state Insurance Commissioner, the office in charge of setting rates and regulating the huge insurance business. Nathalie’s top priority would be to make sure that everyone has access to health care regardless of their ability to pay.

“Quality health care should be a right, not a commodity to make the insurance companies and other healthcare corporations even richer. Instead of health care for all, we are being offered healthcare for some in order to assure the huge profits of the insurance, pharmaceutical, medical equipment and hospital corporations.

“The insurance market is a \$123 billion business in California alone. Those billions are being left in the control of the owners of insurance companies, which are nothing but parasites that exist solely to profit. The insurance companies provide zero health services. They’re happy to take our monthly premiums but spend enormous amounts of time and money to avoiding paying for services when we need care.

“The California Department of Insurance prides itself on being the largest consumer protection agency in the state. But it’s not doing enough. We need a people’s insurance department that prioritizes the needs, health and well-being of the people of California—not the profits of insurance companies. As a first step, our campaign calls for a single-payer healthcare system that removes the insurance companies altogether. A state single payer system would guarantee health care for all people, with the state government paying all medical bills. It would be like Medicare for all. Contrary to right-wing propaganda, Medicare is far more efficient than private insurers.

“No one should be denied access to healthcare—or any other form of insurance—because they are immigrants. No truly universal health care would exclude the people who do some of the hardest work for the lowest wages, few benefits and little job security because they were born on the other side of a border.

“The Hrizi campaign demands an immediate moratorium on all insurance rate and premium hikes. All mandated insurance, like car insurance, should be offered to people through the state government at much lower rates. Health Care is a Right! Abolish the Insurance Companies!”

Ms. Hrizi (<https://hrizi4commissioner.com/>) has appeared at public forums, and will campaign virtually up and down the state until June 7. She had substantial Green support in previous elections—receiving over 316,000 votes in 2018. She enthusiastically endorses the Green statewide candidates on the Left Unity Slate, with some joint campaign appearances planned. Every vote that Nathalie Hrizi receives is a clear statement of support for universal health-care, and the abolition of the parasitic corporate profiteers who have been able to prevent it so far.

Vote for the Left Unity Slate candidates—vote for Nathalie Hrizi for Insurance Commissioner.

State Offices



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Marco Amaral

It is a rare opportunity when people can vote for a genuine radical for statewide office such as Marco Amaral, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Marco is a working teacher and currently President of the South Bay Union School District. The district is south of San Diego with about 6,000 students. He holds a degree from U.C. Berkeley and a graduate degree from the University of San Diego. He was born in Escondido, California. His family background is working class and Latinx.

When asked about his campaign issues, he talks about making systemic changes in our schools, especially for Latinx students. He also prioritizes holding politicians accountable for the serious problems in our schools. He wants to spend more money in our schools and favors raising teacher salaries to retain teachers and to attract good students to teaching careers. Regarding accountability, he blames both the Democratic and Republican parties for the state of our schools. He also sees the Superintendent position as a bully pulpit to promote the ideals of public education.

When asked about books that influenced him, he mentioned three authors, Paulo Freire, the Brazilian whose radical education theories are well known. He also mentioned bell hooks, the African American feminist, and Frantz Fanon whose criticism of western imperialism is also well known.

Marco's main opponent in the race is the "liberal Democrat" Tony Thurmond, the current Superintendent. Thurmond can talk a good game, but is often missing in action. For example, when the OUSD, (the School Board in Oakland) passed a motion to stop more school closures, they came under attack from the County Superintendent and the County Board of Education. Oakland appealed to Thurmond for help and was turned down. Marco's opposition to school closures stand in sharp contrast to Thurmond.

The Green Party of Alameda County has endorsed Marco Amaral. Please see his website to support his campaign: <https://www.amaral4sup2022.com/>.

Join us in voting for Marco Amaral.

Board of Equalization, District 2 Sally Lieber

(Preferred, but not endorsed)

The State Board of Equalization was created in 1879 to ensure that county property tax assessors made honest, fully-valued assessments and avoided the temptation to cut the tax burden in their own counties. A few short years ago it was responsible for collecting \$60 billion in taxes a year, but corruption scandals arose and the state legislature restructured it such that whereby it once had almost 5,000 employees, it now has just 400. Now it still retains its original power to review property tax assessments and also insurer tax assessments. In addition, the Board maintains its role in the collection of alcohol, excise and pipeline taxes.

Three candidates are running for the seat in the second district, which includes all of the coastal northern and central California counties, and all of the Bay Area counties. One Republican and two Democrats will be on the ballot, but none of them were apparently able to raise enough money during 2021 to be required to file reports with the Secretary of State on their campaign contributions by the January 31, 2022 deadline, which was the last filing deadline prior to this voter guide going to press.

The Republican, Peter Verbica, is a poet with professional licenses from the California departments of Insurance and Real Estate. He is also a Certified Financial Planner,

and has achieved impressive scores on the Adult Corrections Officer Examination and the Law Enforcement Test Battery. He has done a lot of volunteer work in politics and public service, but has never held elected office.

Michela Alioto-Pier is a former San Francisco Supervisor who represented the tony Marina/Pacific Heights district. Her campaign statement describes her both as a small-business owner, and a Napa Valley grape grower. She is endorsed by Senator Diane Feinstein.

Sally Lieber is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, and has been a member of the state Assembly and the Mayor of Mountain View. She describes herself as "a corporate-free candidate" in her campaign statement, and seems to be well-regarded by a number of Greens in northern Santa Clara County, the general area in which she has previously won office. Nevertheless, she remains registered with one of the two major corporate-dominated political parties, so therefore we cannot endorse her. However, since Lieber is a "corporate-free candidate," we prefer for her to win the seat, rather than either of the other two candidates.

State Senate, District 10 Aisha Wahab

(recommended, but not endorsed)

Runner-up: Jamal Khan

(not endorsed)

Don't vote for Paul Pimentel

California's 10th State Senate district represents Hayward, Fremont, North San Jose, and Sunnyvale. It is currently represented by Democrat Bob Wieckowski, who is termed out of office. Six candidates are vying for his seat including: At-Large Hayward City Councilmember Aisha Wahab (D), San Jose City Council candidate Jamal Khan (D), and Engineer Raymond Liu (D). Three other candidates: Fremont Mayor Lily Mei (D), Santa Clara Unified School Board Member Jim Canova (D), and Paul Pimentel (R) did not return our questionnaire.

Aisha Wahab is the at-large member of the Hayward City Council, elected in 2018. Wahab's campaign website states that every person deserves a "roof over our heads, food on the table, a job with benefits, affordable education and healthcare, internet access, and clean air." Councilmember Wahab was a member of the Alameda County Human Relations Commission and Public Health Commission and the Homeless and Housing Task Force in Hayward. As a council member, Wahab pushed for permanent affordable rental units and obtained grant funding for students and small businesses in Hayward. As a senator, Wahab will propose legislation for tuition-free education and a public bank in California. She states that "every student deserves the opportunity for free, accessible, quality higher education." The Green Party of Alameda County recommends Aisha Wahab for State Senate District 10, but because she is registered with the problematic Democratic Party, we are not able to endorse her.

Candidate Jamal Khan has worked at the national and state level of governance and advocated for increasing the minimum wage, paid family, sick leave, and universal access to childhood education. Khan is the only candidate who has mentioned policies to protect the rights of children. As a senator, Khan would outlaw child marriage, which is still legal in California. However, Khan supports increasing police presence within California by increasing neighborhood watch groups and police presence on social media. But overall, we rate Khan after Wahab, and give him a "runner-up" designation (but again, not an endorsement, as he too is a registered Democrat).

Candidate Lily Mei's platform addresses homelessness, wildfire preparedness, and social equity. Mayor Mei's website states that she will "champion" the right for families to "have the housing, mental health, and job placement services they need." She prioritized transitional housing and sanitation for unhoused people during the Covid-19 pandemic and developed low-income senior housing in Fremont. She is a former Fremont Unified School Board Trustee, and under her mayoral tenure Fremont received the #1 Happiest City in the United States designation. As a Senator, Mei will protect neighborhood open spaces and increase funding for students.

Candidate Jim Canova has spent 27 years as a Santa Clara Unified School Board member and states he has attended over 590 meetings. He co-designed and funded the Don Callejon School and passed many bonds over his tenure to support student access to education. Board Member Canova's priority is affordable housing and he will sup-

port the development of a state-wide housing voucher and make accessory dwelling units more accessible. Candidate Raymond Liu only accepts donations from residents living in District 10. Liu, however, does not support a California Medicare-for-All initiative. As a senator, he will regulate the price of insulin. And Republican candidate Paul Pimentel seems to be scapegoating when he writes about "keeping criminals in jail, ending illegal immigration, and ridding our streets of gangs."

To summarize, we are not making any endorsements in this race because all of the candidates are registered with one of the two major pro-corporate parties. However, we recommend Aisha Wahab, with Jamal Khan as runner-up.

State Assembly, District 14 Don't vote for Buffy Wicks

We sometimes want to believe that we live in a representative democracy. But how can it be "representative" when there is no choice between candidates, and when the Democratic Party machine candidate, Buffy Wicks, raises over 90 percent of her campaign war chest from outside the district? Assembly District (AD) 14 is a non-race and microcosm of the corporate takeover. It is about one-party politics and politics controlled by big money interests: developers, real estate, tech, finance and other groups feeding at the Democratic Party trough. Buffy Wicks is a cog in the Clinton-Obama Democratic Party Corporate Machine, a machine no longer interested in the public good but instead only interested in campaign donations to maintain power. Buffy made her debut in the East Bay moving into our district (then it was AD15) at the beginning of the election season accompanied by \$1.2 million in spending on her behalf for the 2018 primary, a record amount.

It has been said that political donations by corporations provide the highest return on investments, and that appears to be the case with Buffy. Those investments by developers and real estate resulted in her co-sponsoring SB9 and SB10, which gutted local control over zoning and planning, opening the gates for East Bay gentrification. Those bills have created a housing boom (and bubble) benefiting the financial sector (loans), and a tech industry unwilling to house its employees in the South Bay. Neoliberal free-market (monopoly market) politics has ruled the day with their passage, removing the ability of communities to demand affordable housing.

Now that Buffy is an incumbent apparatchik in a Democratic Party controlled state, no other Democrats are willing to challenge her. And no Republicans even bother to primary her. She was easily re-elected in 2020 garnering nearly 85 percent of the vote against her Independent challenger while spending less than \$2500 in the election run-up of her nearly \$230,000 campaign war chest. Buffy's campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about \$270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of that money came from outside the district. This appears to be a corporate investment in her future—as long as she sticks to the neoliberal policy of privatizing control and gutting public control, as she did with SB9 and SB10.

We recommend AGAINST voting for Buffy Wicks since that concedes consent to be ruled by a corporate controlled party that offers no choice of candidates or policy positions. We instead recommend a protest vote. Write in the name of your dog, cat, or favorite pet as a protest. Or if you don't have a pet, perhaps list a neighbor's pet. Send a message that the corporate controlled machine candidates are unacceptable. Don't provide consent to being ruled by a neoliberal Party that discounts the public welfare in favor of its corporate donors.



GRASSROOTS
DEMOCRACY

State Assembly, District 18 No endorsement

This district encompasses Alameda, San Leandro and most of Oakland, except for the northern portion. Unlike the special election last year for this seat, where there were numerous candidates (three of whom we preferred but did not endorse), there is only a single candidate on the ballot, the incumbent, Mia Bonta, who did not return our questionnaire despite initially saying she would do so. Nonetheless, there is reason to have an assessment of this race, for several reasons.

First, it is an area in which many Green Party and other progressive activists reside and is seen as a bedrock of left of center political activism in the region, if not the whole state.

Second, and related, the incumbent, Ms Bonta, reflects the contradictions this situation represents in terms of the Democratic Party. On a range of issues, we have a degree of common ground. These include Medicare for All, progressive taxation, expansion of union rights, defense of LGBTQ rights, repeal of the Ellis Act and Costa-Hawkins, public banking, free tuition for community colleges, and others. On two critical local questions—first, she opposes school closures, but second, in line with her close connection to the Alameda Labor Council, she unfortunately supports the Howard Terminal/stadium project (unlike her previous runoff opponent, Janani Ramachandran). For more information on why this project is a bad idea, see: www.indybay.org/newsitems/2022/03/07/18848467.php and www.eastoaklandstadiumalliance.com/.

This being a partisan race, her role in supporting the Democratic Party apparatus and leadership will most often override her personal positions, if they conflict. In addition, her funding from corporate sources, especially the gambling/casino industry (which will be much involved in this year's state referenda), from hi tech, such as Google, and from the beer baron Anheuser Busch again land her in the category of a corporate Democrat, so we definitely will not be giving her an endorsement.

But there is an added matter. Ms Bonta not only faces pressure from the Democratic Party establishment, she is at the center of what now is a more recent “machine” that is trying to concentrate and centralize power, focused around herself and her husband (who was appointed to become State Attorney General last year), other left centrist elected leaders and the labor establishment, especially the Labor Council and CTA. So this not only has county, but also state implications.

State Assembly, District 20 Jennifer Esteen

(Preferred, but not endorsed)

This is an important race on several levels. The 20th AD covers Dublin, Castro Valley, Hayward, Union City, San Leandro and west Pleasanton. There are four candidates, two of whom did not return our questionnaire: Joel Grcar, a retired lab scientist, whose main focus is sticking to local issues, and Shawn Kumagai, a Dublin city councilmember, running more on identity issues (being LGBTQ and AAPI as well as a veteran) who also references affordable housing and transit equity issues. These two represent little of importance in this race.

The other two make this a major battle, involving major segments of the labor movement in Alameda County. One is Liz Ortega Toro, secretary treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council, who also represents the major powers in the Democratic Party, locally and statewide, including the Bonta

‘machine’ and a range of unions, beginning with CTA, as well as CNA, AFSCME (in which she was a major leader at UC Berkeley), UNITE-Here, et al. The final candidate is Jennifer Esteen, a registered nurse and an organizing director with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1021, the most powerful local in the Bay Area.

Ms. Esteen’s and Ms. Ortega’s programmatic agreements are numerous: for Medicare for All and statewide single payer, legalization of varied drugs including psychedelics, prison and police reform, strong rent control (and repeal of the Ellis Act and Costa Hawkins), free higher education, and support for public banks. Both are for aggressive defense of public education, with Ms. Esteen calling for a moratorium on school closures. Both are for public financing of elections and against the impact of Prop. 14 (2010) on limiting access to the November elections.

There are two differences of import. The first is that Ms. Esteen seems to have developed a much more extensive program around affordable housing and transportation. Even more critical, and the biggest issue divide, is that Ms. Ortega, in line with the Alameda Labor Council majority, strongly supports the Howard Terminal/stadium project at the Port of Oakland, whereas Ms. Esteen opposes it.

For info on why this project is a bad idea, see: www.indybay.org/newsitems/2022/03/07/18848467.php and www.eastoaklandstadiumalliance.com/.

This race is important for moving on key issues, but it is equally about the political power structure in the County (as well as the 20th AD). While not endorsing any of the four candidates because of their affiliations with pro-corporate political parties, we can state a preference for Ms Esteen, not only because of our firm opposition to the stadium project, but as a statement about our independence from the major oligarchic bastions of the Democratic Party.

Superior Court Judge Office #1: Tamiza Hockenhull Office #12: Pelayo Llamas Office #21: No Endorsement

There are three candidates running for three openings on the Alameda County Superior Court: Tamiza Hockenhull, Pelayo Llamas and Michael Bishay. Hockenhull responded to our questionnaire, while Llamas and Bishay did not. Hockenhull and Llamas both have campaign websites; Bishay does not. Given the minimal information available about Bishay, and his apparent distaste for providing public information, we cannot endorse Michael Bishay. And if you prefer not to leave the Office #21 space blank, consider writing in the name of your favorite supreme court justice or lawyer, whether current or historical.

Both Hockenhull and Llamas have significant legal experience, and both have been working as Court Commissioners, performing duties similar to those of regular judges. Both Hockenhull (a woman of color) and Llamas (a child of immigrants) would contribute to the diversity of the court. Because both Hockenhull and Llamas are careful in their statements to avoid an appearance of bias, it is not clear how progressive they may be, but none of the information they presented raised any red flags, and their efforts to present themselves as fair rather than partisan or ideological is appropriate. Hockenhull and Llamas both received endorsements from numerous Alameda County Superior Court Judges, which is a good sign, showing that they are respected by those already doing that job. While we don’t have a complete picture of either candidate, based on the information available we endorse both Tamiza Hockenhull and Pelayo Llamas for Alameda County Superior Court.

County Sheriff

continued from page 1

This race will attract considerable attention because of the extensive powers that the sheriff has, such as operating the county jails, providing security at the courthouse, conducting policing services in county areas where there are no city police departments, and enforcing orders of the court, such as serving eviction notices. Sheriff commanders, who work under the sheriff’s direction, run search-and-rescue and dive teams, animal services, the crime laboratory, the gun range, and a regional training center. The sheriff is the director of emergency services in the event of a major earthquake and supervises the coroner’s bureau that conducts autopsies of people whose deaths were caused by shootings, stabbings, blunt force trauma, drug overdoses, and other suspicious or accidental circumstances. A significant share of the sheriff’s work occurs in Oakland where the sheriff has direct jurisdiction, such as patrolling and protecting the Oakland International Airport, county hospitals such as Highland, and responding to 911 calls involving AC Transit buses. In addition, the sheriff’s deputies are often brought in by a mutual agreement to assist Oakland police during large demonstrations and protests.

This race will also have far-ranging implications because whoever next manages the Alameda County Sheriff Office (ACSO) will oversee implementing the requirements of a federal consent decree (*Babu v. County of Alameda*) that requires both structural and staffing changes at the Santa Rita Jail with the primary goal that it not be the county’s primary mental health care facility. The settlement places implementation power in the hands of Alameda County, particularly ACSO and Alameda County Behavioral Healthcare. Because of the lack of any evidence that county officials are willing or able to hold Sheriff Ahern accountable to produce even a yearly itemized budget or a routine transparent audit, let alone take action to stop the constitutional violations of the rights of those incarcerated, two things must occur for genuine police reform efforts to be successful in remodeling the culture of the sheriff’s office.

First, the current grassroots community advocacy to establish an independent oversight of the Sheriff’s department authorized in state law (AB 1185) must set up both an Oversight Board and an Inspector General with their own legal counsel separate from the Alameda County Counsel that also represents the county jails. Only then will it be possible, by expanding community-based services that do not depend on incarceration, to prevent so many unnecessary cruelties and deaths in the jails, and improve access of inmates to health care, especially mental health care. Sheriff Ahern’s answer to our query whether he supports the creation of one or both boards was telling for its unenthusiastic agreement: “Alameda County Supervisors have already indicated we will have an oversight board. I will work with this board to better the agency and promote transparency. I hope the board comes with an open mind and will not exist to be hostile and only critical of our work.”

Oaklanders can list many unpleasant issues that Sheriff Ahern does not want to hear or discuss. For example, they would question his response to the “Moms 4 Housing” incident in which an armed military vehicle showed up to take on 4 mothers with their children who had occupied a vacant house in West Oakland and who were later removed during an early morning eviction. Hope of future swift and effective de-militarization of the sheriff’s policing strategies, along with implementation of training in de-escalation tactics and even allowing over-policed communities to have assurances that the sheriff is accountable to them by listening to their concerns, depends on the election of either Sanchez or Walker. Their motivation to run for sheriff is their sensitivity and understanding of the disappointment and uneasiness of those in the county’s Black and Latino communities about the way they are treated in the current conditions of policing. Sanchez and Walker have the lived experiences to identify bias and how it can evolve into undesired outcomes in the county’s criminal justice system. However, as Oakland-based advocacy group Secure Justice Executive Director Brian Hofer has stated, the power that Sheriff Ahern has enjoyed means that attempts at change will be met with his firm resistance: “[Ahern] is not in tune with Alameda County as a whole and certainly not California politics as they are today.”

The Green Party is proud and enthusiastic to endorse Yesenia Sanchez for Alameda County Sheriff. She is the sole candidate opposing Ahern who is in the thick of things within the ACSO—where she has worked and excelled through the ranks over the course of 25 years.

continued on next page

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).

Alameda County Offices

County Supervisor

continued from page 9

Surlene Grant: Expanding access to housing of all types; Innovative approaches to climate change, renewable energy and land conservation; More effective mental health services—non-police responses while ensuring public safety.

David Kakishiba: Homelessness; Community Safety; Public Health.

Lena Tam (The website has no 'Priorities' tab, this is taken from the 'Issues' tab): Safe and Sustainable Transportation; Environmental Protection; Public Safety; Poverty and Homelessness; Healthcare.

Rebecca Kaplan: Community Safety; Public Health and Hospitals; Transportation and Environment; Housing and Homelessness; Economic Opportunity;

While none of the candidates is proposing radical (and necessary, if this planet is to remain hospitable to human life) change, based on website information and questionnaire answers (when provided), it seems that Rebecca Kaplan is the most progressive of the four candidates, and most aligned with the Green Party's values. She is clearly the one with the most experience, especially dealing with large bureaucracies. Whether she would be the most effective of the four as a sitting Supervisor is harder to say.

Spousing progressive policies is one thing; creating applicable ordinances, getting a majority to vote for them, and then making sure that they are effectively executed, is another.

Without a deep and detailed legislative analysis from Grant's 10 years on the San Leandro City Council and Kaplan's 14 years on the Oakland City Council, and an evaluation of thousands of hours of video (assuming it were available) of each of the four as they participated and chaired the various bodies they were members of—something not within the scope of this limited evaluation—it is all but impossible to rate effectiveness, well, effectively.

We think, anecdotally, Kaplan could and should have done more to advance progressive policies and Green Party priorities as a long-time Oakland City Council member and, for some of that time, as President of the Council. Whether any of the three other candidates could have (as a thought experiment) done better in the muck that has been and continues to be the Oakland City Council, we simply cannot say.

With these things in mind, we endorse, with reservations, Rebecca Kaplan for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 3 seat.

County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Unopposed Incumbent

(No Endorsement)

Alameda County has a budget of some \$3.6 billion and employs almost 10,000 people. The Auditor-Controller Agency is the final approver for all payments of the budget each year. This Agency develops, implements and enforces the County's Manual of Accounting Policies and Procedures (MAPP) and reviews every transaction. If a transaction is not in compliance with MAPP it is rejected; departments are then required to provide additional support or go to the Board of Supervisors for approval. According to its mandate, the Agency's staff conducts departmental trainings to explain the MAPP, promotes open dialogue with financial liaisons, and ensures that every taxpayer dollar is spent, audited, and reported in compliance with public expectation and law.

The current Auditor-Controller, Melissa Wilk, was elected to the position in 2018. She previously was the Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller and former Assistant Controller of Alameda County. She had worked within the executive financial management team of Alameda County for over 18 years and graduated with Master's degrees in Public Administration and Social Work.

In her answers to our questionnaire, Wilk noted environmental and other accomplishments such as elimination of "over 100,000 pieces of paper annually; reduction of hundreds of hours of manual input; and increased turnaround time of refunds and response to the public due to our Property Tax Modernization system" as well as the opening of a Clerk Recorder's Office in Dublin which helps to reduce traffic congestion and driving distances. In addition, her office expanded their outreach presentations, and this year created a monthly newsletter.

She also wrote that "Alameda County has won the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for over 35 years. In order to be awarded the Certificate of Achievement, the County must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Annual Comprehensive Financial Report that exceeds the minimum requirements of transparency. The Auditor Controller Agency also received two 2021 GovX Awards for 'radically improving the experience of government' for our Online Marriage Services and Property Tax Refunds Tracking System."

While we didn't identify any problems with Wilk's answers to our questionnaire or via a quick online search of other available information, and even though she is unopposed on the ballot, due to a shortage of Green Voter Guide volunteers, we unfortunately were not able to properly evaluate this race in order for us to make a formal endorsement recommendation.

Treasurer/Tax Collector Unopposed Incumbent

(No Endorsement)

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

Incumbent Henry C. Levy was appointed Alameda County's Treasurer-Tax Collector in May 2017 after the retirement of former Treasurer Donald White, who held the position for 32 years. Levy has been active in the cannabis industry, is a former Board Chair for KPFA radio (1992-1997), and is unopposed on the ballot June 7.

In his answers to our questionnaire, he notes that he has started initiatives such as "sustainable investing, public banking, turning tax-defaulted properties into affordable housing, adopting new technology to the tax collection process, financial wellness programs for county employees, improved reporting to the schools," and more.

However, via a quick internet search, we came across a November 2017 article which asserts that Levy's private business, the Henry Levy Group was helping a group called Alamedans In Charge, which the article says are "a group of greedy right-wing extremist landlords and realtors that are hellbent on making sure that the renters in Alameda are stripped of their renter protections." Even the author admits that, "It appears to be a contradiction for the right-wing extremists of Alamedans In Charge to hook up with Henry C. Levy..." It took place some five years ago, and Hank Levy retired from that firm five years ago. For more, see: www.indybay.org/newsitems/2017/11/11/18804469.php.

Due to a shortage of Green Voter Guide volunteers, we were not able to further investigate that claim, nor properly evaluate this race, so we are not making a formal endorsement recommendation. However, we do appreciate his answers to our questionnaire. Many of his initiatives are exactly what a Green Party treasurer would accomplish, indicating full alignment with Green values.

Assessor Unopposed incumbent

(No Endorsement)

The Assessor locates all taxable property in the county, identifies ownership, and appraises all property subject to property taxation. This is a powerful position that is prone to corruption by powerful business interests seeking to save millions of dollars by getting low assessments. However, only the incumbent Assessor Phong La, who was elected in 2018, has filed for this office, and he did not return our questionnaire.

Given long-standing structural budget problems at the State and local levels, the November, 2020 statewide ballot included Proposition 15, to adopt split-roll taxes on real property (maintaining Proposition 13 rules for owner-occupied residences while taxing commercial property at market value.) While the Assessor's office is neither a partisan position nor a law-making entity, the Assessor has influence over the outcome by the way he frames the potential impact to the County. Unfortunately, the 2020-21 "Maintenance of Effort Budget" issued by Assessor La was not supportive of Prop. 15, which then ended up being defeated by less than 4 percent of the vote (with slightly more than 48 percent in favor and slightly less than 52 percent opposed.)

We are also concerned with the influence that the entrenched Democratic Party machine may be exerting over Assessor La given that in the last election his campaign website featured endorsements from such politicians as Gavin Newsom (who was then Lt. Governor), Rob Bonta (who was then a State Assemblymember), Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Abel Guillen (who was then an Oakland City Councilmember), former Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, Berkeley City Councilmember Lori Droste, former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris, District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, and Scott Haggerty (who was then a County Supervisor.) In addition, a few weeks before the November 2018 election, candidate La had raised over \$327,000 compared to his opponent's war chest of less than \$10,000, which of course is typical of how big-money is used by the local machine to maintain its power.

We need elected officials who will be independent of the pro-corporate oligarchy which currently dominates our elections. Unfortunately, no such candidate filed for this race, so we're not able to make an endorsement. Either leave the ballot space blank or write in the name of your dog, your cat, or your favorite anti-corporate activist.

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

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

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

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

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

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

District Attorney Pamela Price, with reservations

There are four candidates for Alameda County District Attorney, none of whom are the incumbent, who is not running for re-election. The candidates are Pamela Price, Seth Steward, Terry Wiley, and Jimmie Wilson. Price and Steward answered the questionnaires we sent them, while Wiley and Wilson did not. All four candidates have websites that spell out their qualifications, platforms and endorsements in detail. All four candidates have compelling personal histories and relevant experience, and all four oppose the death penalty, and acknowledge and address the presence of racism in the criminal justice system.

However, a key part of our questionnaire was the issue of bail reform, and the role it should play in reforming our criminal justice system. Both Price and Steward favor bail reform, with Price indicating much stronger support. Neither Wiley nor Wilson (who did not return our questionnaires) addressed bail reform on their campaign websites indicating this is not a priority (or that they favor the current money bail system as a mechanism to obtain DA plea-bargains.) Since money bail is highly coercive and discriminatory, often forcing the poor families to choose between a guilty plea to a crime they did not commit or the psychological and economic hardship of remaining in jail for an extended period of time awaiting trial, lack of a clear position on money bail excluded Wiley and Wilson from getting an endorsement.

Pamela Price has a very strong legal background and commitment to civil rights, and early in her career she worked as a criminal defense attorney. For at least the last thirty years, her practice has been in civil litigation, particularly employment litigation, rather than criminal law. At the same time, however, she clearly has a sophisticated understanding of the criminal justice system, and presents a detailed and comprehensive platform both on her website and in response to our questionnaire. Price also has an impressive and progressive list of endorsements, including Angela Davis. Price is a member of the Alameda County Democratic party Central Committee. Based on her responses to our questionnaire, her interest in reform of the criminal justice system, and in particular reform of the predatory bail system, we believe Pamela Price is the best candidate to shake up a District Attorney system whose culture works hand in hand with the prison industrial complex.

Seth Steward appears to have the least courtroom litigation experience of the four, but did have a stint as a prosecutor in the San Francisco DA's office. He is currently working as the chief of staff for an Oakland city councilmember. Steward lists relatively few endorsements, and does not have any endorsements that are identified as being directly involved in the criminal justice system, such as prosecutors, defense attorneys or judges. (Steward does list some names without identifying their positions.) We do not endorse Steward because he is the least qualified, and it is not clear he has enough relevant experience for the position.

This brings us to Terry Wiley and Jimmie Wilson, both veteran prosecutors in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, and therefore embedded in that system. Neither of them returned our voter questionnaire, however we examined their websites to glean a bit more about them. Wiley has more experience as a prosecutor (thirty years), and has held more leadership and management positions than Wilson, but Wilson has significant experience as a prosecutor (sixteen years) and more varied work experience than Wiley, who has been an Alameda County prosecutor for his entire legal career. Wilson has a more detailed platform than Wiley, who emphasizes his experience and leadership roles. Both Wiley and Wilson have received large numbers of endorsements, but one aspect of Wilson's endorsements causes us the most concern—his endorsements from multiple police officer unions, which have frequently been active opponents of police accountability. In any case, as mentioned before, the lack of commitment to money bail reform is a disqualification for our Green Party endorsement.

In summary, the Green Party endorses Pamela Price. Our one concern is that most of her career has been in civil litigation rather than criminal law. However, she clearly has a sophisticated understanding of the criminal justice system, presents a detailed and comprehensive platform, and presents herself strongly as the most progressive candidate. Accordingly we endorse Pamela Price, but with reservations.

Alameda Measure B School Facilities Bond YES, with standard bond reservations

As always, we express our concerns about any bond measures, which financially benefit financial/banking institutions. We should note that if there was a public banking system in California (which the Green Party supports), then these bonds could avoid the regressive impact bonds generally have in enriching these private capitalist interests.

This measure is very similar to one we supported in Oakland in 2020. Such funding is not linked to Prop. 98, though there have been proposed state measures to strengthen physical infrastructure. This proposal would authorize \$298 million in bonds, providing roughly \$14.7 million annually to the Alameda Unified School District. This would provide funding for new/renovated classrooms, improved water/plumbing systems and air quality, student health, cleanliness and safety measures, including equipment/technology which has been made more pressing during the pandemic. This would also allow for updated physical equipment for curriculum needs. These funds could not be used for staffing, including added administration. There would be an annual audit of expenditures and an independent oversight committee, in line with the legal requirements passed in Prop. 39.

Also in line with that initiative, the percentage needed to pass this measure would be 55 percent. All funds would be expended locally and none allowed to be deferred to state spending. Though Alameda has just 4 charter schools, they could have access to such funds as mandated by the state. The monies which will be raised by this bond are definitely needed, and even though we would have preferred a different funding mechanism, it's still important to vote YES, so that these critical needs can be met

Oakland Measure C Library Parcel Tax YES, with standard parcel tax reservations

If Measure C passes with your vote, it will keep extended open hours for Oakland neighborhood libraries and continue services for seniors, youth and unhoused people for another thirty years.

The money is coming from parcel taxes and would provide approximately \$18 million in the first year. This funding provides not only books but electronic resources, legal consultations, Wi-fi, CDs, movies and in general a well-used community space. Local libraries have even become meal distribution centers during the last two years when operations were complicated by the pandemic. Now, in-person events are also slowly returning.

Jamie Turbak, Oakland Public Library Director, specified how crucial this tax is. "By continuing this existing tax at the current rate (\$114.50 per single-family parcel), Measure C will fund about 40 percent of the Oakland Public Library's budget. If this revenue is eliminated, I will need to propose branch closures and cut the budget for books."

Turbak broke down the funding as follows: 77 percent, personnel; 16 percent materials and collections; and 7 percent operations and programs. No official argument against the measure was submitted.

In general the Green Party discourages regressive funding methods such as parcel taxes. But supporting libraries is important for everyone, and this measure at least includes a low-income residential exemption.

We recommend you vote YES ON MEASURE C.

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: Online, on Zoom

The access info will be posted to our website (<https://acgreens.wordpress.com/>) a day or two before the program, along with a description and info about the speakers



Ten Key Values of the Green Party

Ecological Wisdom

Nonviolence

Social Justice

Grassroots Democracy

Decentralization

Community-based Economics

Feminism

Respect for Diversity

Personal and Global Responsibility

Sustainability

Also please see:

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

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Green Voter Card

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

Federal Offices

U.S. Senator—**John Thompson Parker** (full term)
 AND **John Thompson Parker** (partial term: write-in)
 U.S. Representative, District 12—**Glenn Kaplan**, with reservations

State Offices

Governor—**Luis Javier Rodriguez**
 Lieutenant Governor—**Mohammad Arif**
 Secretary of State—**Gary N. Blenner**
 Contrroller—**Laura Wells**
 Treasurer—**Meghann Adams**
 Attorney General—**Dan Kapelovitz**
 Insurance Commissioner—**Nathalie Hirzi**
 Superintendent of Public Instruction—**Marco Amara**
 Board of Equalization, District 2—**Sally Lieber**
 (Preferred, but not endorsed)
 State Senate, District 10—**Aisha Wahab**
 (Recommended, but not endorsed);
Jamal Khan, runner-up (but not endorsed);
 Don't vote for **Paul Pimentel**
 State Assembly, District 14—Don't vote for **Buffy Wicks**
 State Assembly, District 18—No Endorsement,
 please see write-up
 State Assembly, District 20—**Jennifer Esteen**
 (Preferred, but not endorsed)

Judicial Offices

Superior Court Judge, Office #1—**Tamiza Hockenhill**
 Superior Court Judge, Office #12—**Pelayo Llamas**
 Superior Court Judge, Office #21—No Endorsement,
 please see write-up

County Offices

Superintendent of Schools—**Alysse Castro**
 School Board, Area 7—Don't vote for **Dillie** or **Dao**
 Supervisor, District 2—No endorsement, please see write-up
 Supervisor, District 3—**Rebecca Kaplan**, with reservations
 Assessor—Unopposed incumbent (No Endorsement)
 Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder—Unopposed incumbent
 (No Endorsement)
 District Attorney—**Pamela Price**, with reservations
 Sheriff/Coroner—**Yesenia Sanchez**
 Treasurer/Tax Collector—Unopposed incumbent (No Endorsement)

Local Measures

B—Alameda School Facilities Bond—Yes, with standard bond reservations
 C—Oakland Library Parcel Tax—Yes, with standard parcel tax reservations

Candidates in green ink are **Left Unity State members**.
 (Please see the front page article.)

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Greener Voter Guide

A publication of the Green Party of Alameda County,
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Election Day:
June 7, 2022



for the thinking voter