

Green Voter Guide

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

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Election Day: November 8, 2022

Emeryville School Board Brian Donahue (only)

This year there are four School Board candidates on the ballot: the three incumbents, and challenger Brian Donahue. We are pleased that all four candidates returned our questionnaire, however, we are not at all pleased with the performance of the current school board, with those three incumbents constituting a majority of the current Board. Consequently, we are endorsing only Brian Donahue as change is definitely now needed.

In particular, it has been six years since Emeryville's schools opened in the much-heralded \$96 million "Emeryville Center of Community Life". So how have the schools fared over the past four years, in their now thoroughly-modern environment?

Unfortunately, not very well at all. Student scores on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) show a significant DECLINE for the Emery Unified School District—from 24.4 percent meeting the standards in 2017-18, of the averaged Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy measures, to just 19.2 percent meeting them in 2020-21. (The data for 2021-22 is not yet available.) This compares with the neighboring Oakland Unified School District which was able to increase their scores, from 29.9 percent in 2017-18 to 37.2 percent in 2020-21. And we also note that another District which Em-

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Boycott the Statewide Partisan Races to Protest the Top Two Primary And also Congress, District 12, and State Assembly Districts 14 and 18

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

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District Attorney Pamela Price

Pamela Price is the recommended choice in the runoff race for Alameda County District Attorney. This endorsement is primarily based on her strong commitment to reforming the criminal justice system, and in particular her commitment to reform the money bail system. Ms. Price completed our DA questionnaire, which can be viewed on our website (<https://acgreens.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/pamela-price-ac-District-attorney-2022-06.pdf>), whereas Terry Wiley did not. However, both candidates have websites that spell out their qualifications, platforms and endorsements. Both candidates have compelling personal histories and relevant experience, both oppose the death penalty, and both acknowledge and address the presence of racism in the criminal justice system. Pamela Price finished first in the primary race with 43 percent of the vote to Wiley's 27 percent, with Jimmie Wilson and Seth Steward trailing with 20 percent and 10 percent respectively. The race was replete with attack ads between the two competing prosecutors (Wiley and Wilson) including "a blistering mailer against Terry Wiley" put out by Wilson's campaign over a shootout involving Wiley's adult son. <https://eastbayinsiders.substack.com/p/alameda-county-da-candidates-savage?s=r>.

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Berkeley City Council, District 7 Aidan Hill (Write-in)

Vote for Aidan Hill. This former vice-chair of the homeless commission wants to provide not only essential services to the homeless, but to "get people into temporary accommodations, then motels, then Section 8 housing in the city." Aidan favors pushing 100 percent affordable housing and knows that market-rate housing hinders affordability. Aidan Hill wants to strengthen rent control and eviction protections, and repeal Costa-Hawkins. Aidan states: "Most District 7 residents are renters and need strong protections to stay in their apartments, including subsidies and incentives to keep units rent-controlled for tenants and small landlords." Aidan wants to shift police resources to mental health units, strengthen the Police Accountability Board, and ban less-than-lethal policing (tear gas, pepper spray, projectiles, smoke grenades, police dogs, etc). Aidan Hill promises "to provide public safety by legislating for emergency medical services, preserving open spaces for disaster prevention, and increasing safe-street outcomes." With regard to climate change, Aidan believes this should be the "highest priority" and wants the city to "develop a tree canopy." In terms of District 7 business: "I pledge to finance a Telegraph Business Improvement Union that invests in

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Peralta Community Colleges

*Three races, mostly in Oakland, also
Piedmont, Emeryville*

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

Three seats on the Peralta Board of Trustees are up for election in November. Two of three incumbents are not running for reelection: Linda Handy, first elected in 2002, and Julina Bonilla first elected in 2014.

All of the candidates recognize the importance of community colleges; some started higher education at a community college. Based on responses to the Green questionnaire, all of the candidates showed awareness of current needs: administrative stability (hiring a permanent chancellor and administrative team), effective financial oversight, and wise class management (scheduling and whether/when to cut under-enrolled classes). The state assures funding based on pre-pandemic levels through the 2024-2025 school year. After that, the state will return to the Student Centered Funding Formula, based on increases in student success. Some of the candidates wrote lengthy responses, reflecting considerable experience in education; others less so.

Peralta Board, Area 3 From San Antonio to Seminary, west of 580 to the Bay Louis Quindlen

Louis Quindlen is the first retired Peralta faculty member we can remember running for Board election. He brings many years of educational experience and planning to the table. He emphasized the need for permanent accountable administrators and a plan of action to build enrollment and

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Oakland School Board

All three school board races are open contests with either no incumbent, as in Districts 2 and 4, or an interim director, as in District 6. There are three candidates running in each race, and for all three of these school board races, we will be recommending two (ranked) candidates, with varying degree of enthusiasm, and will highlight a "don't vote for" recommendation for the third.

District 2 #1: Max Orozco, #2: Jennifer Brouhard [Do NOT vote for David Kakishiba]

In District 2, incumbent Aimee Eng has stepped down. This District geographically includes the San Antonio, Lake-side and Chinatown areas. Our top choice in District 2 is Max Orozco. He is a parent of three students who have gone through Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) schools. Max is relatively a newcomer, but has shown outstanding leadership in the recent campaign against school closures (he also opposes charter schools and the general corporate assault on public education).

He has been very visible in supporting the parents, community activists and teachers who have "liberated" Parker School in east Oakland and was assaulted in August by the thugs hired by OUSD to evict those maintaining the

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Oakland Measure W YES Campaign Reform

The Oakland City Council unanimously voted to put this landmark democracy initiative called the "Fair Elections Act" on this year's local ballot. Measure W will reform municipal elections by: (1) bolstering public funding for city-level candidates for mayor, city council, city attorney, and school board via a "Democracy Dollars" program; (2) amending campaign finance and lobbying rules; and (3) creating more transparency about campaign finance.

Championed by the ACLU of Northern California, California Common Cause, the League of Women Voters and capitalizing on the successful public campaign finance voucher program in Seattle, the initiative will create a new program giving every Oakland registered voter four \$25 vouchers (\$100) to donate to qualifying local candidates of their choice. To help level the city's election playing field, candidates will have incentives to meet with voters in every locality and make it possible for all Oaklanders, no matter the color of their skin, their amount of monthly income, or where they live, to select and support candidates who will best represent them. Giving political power to neighborhoods that would otherwise have no disposable income to donate to politicians will result in a more engaged electorate and a more diverse set of candidates running for local office.

In addition, campaign ads will be required to list their top three highest donors to allow voters to discover who is funding candidates and ballot measures. The length of the ban on lobbying by former city officials will be extended from one year to two years. Maximum campaign contribution amounts will be lowered, and more resources will be provided to the Oakland Public Ethics Commission to be the people's watchdog at city hall.

And the cost to Oakland taxpayers? It will use already existing funds amounting to less than half of one percent of the city's general fund and will not increase taxes.

Oaklanders have a transformative opportunity to stand

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

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

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: We are 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 call: (510) 735-7361.

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

Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: Kevin Akin, Peter Allen, David Arkin, Bill Balderston, Dale Baum, Paul Burton, Mica Daniel, Chris Finn, Kelly Hammargren, Greg Jan, Ralph Kanz, Liz Kroboth, Nick Maderas, James McFadden, Ann Menasche, Justin Richardson, Phoebe Thomas Sorgen, Kent Sparling, Pam Spevack, and James Vann.

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 \$ _____

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Don't vote for Christensen

In the June primary, the Green Party approached the race for the non partisan Superintendent of Public Instruction with considerable enthusiasm, supporting Marco Amaral. Regrettably, Amaral did not finish in the top two (actually, fifth, but with over a half million votes). We made a case for Amaral based on his anti-corporate, anti-racist program and contrasted him with the incumbent Tony Thurmond, who speaks progressive, but often does not follow through. For the current November election, Thurmond (who came in first in June by a large margin, but did not quite get 50 percent) is facing an opponent from the “populist right,” Lance Christensen. While not advocating endorsement (or even critical support), as will be explained below, we must say clearly, “NO” to Christensen.

Thurmond served in the State Assembly (D-15) from 2014-2018. While there, he helped author many bills supportive of youth and the varied components of public education, as well as employee rights. He attempted to push a bill reigning in charter schools. In addition, he advocated for a number of anti-racist, LGBTQ rights and pro environment measures. Despite this left liberal record in the legislature, his efforts as State Superintendent have not matched up, regardless of his rhetoric while campaigning for the office in 2018. We will use two key examples from Oakland/Alameda County to illustrate this assessment.

First, in the 2019 strike by the Oakland educators (the OEA) he repeatedly spoke in support of many of the teachers' demands, but used his energies (along with other local/state figures, especially Rob Bonta) to pressure the union to accept a settlement far short of what they deserved. Second, when the county education superintendent, L. K. Monroe (Thurmond is the boss for such positions) undercut the educators and parents/community activists around school closures, by threatening state takeover unless there was a massive cut in expenditures (by OUSD's own records, they were not facing major deficit), Thurmond did nearly nothing, other than mentioning possible help with a long-standing District debt to the state, but no concrete action. While the County Office of Education has gained expanded powers via reviewing Districts' budgets, Thurmond could easily have stepped in (even the County Board of Education was critical of the county superintendent's action).

All this said, the opponent, Lance Christensen (who received less than 12 percent of the June vote) is a horror show. He has served as an administrator for the conservative California Policy Center and a consultant/strategist for a Republican state senator. He is heavily supported by the California State Charter School Association.

While not receiving comparable Wall St./hedge fund backing that other privatizing candidates for this office have received over the previous decade, (perhaps because Thurmond seems so likely to win), there is no question that Christensen is the voice for neo-liberal, privatizing forces (as an active Mormon, he also believes that religious doctrine should be central to guiding political views). His policy on public education is to totally restructure curriculum (including major parental input, which may sound reasonable, but is a rallying cry for many efforts at censorship/ book banning elsewhere), linked to decentralizing education, to allow communities to make their own policies (he wants to rewrite/eliminate state ed code). He calls for monies to follow the student (a way of advocating for vouchers). Not only is he a pro charter privatizer, but an advocate for public sector pension reform.

Not surprisingly, the forces aligned against him (and largely for Thurmond, despite criticisms), include the union movement (including the teachers' unions CTA and CFT) and parent groupings. Our position highlights our frustrations with Thurmond (regardless of his legislative accomplishments), while clearly standing against the right wing offensive that Christensen represents.

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. The 2nd District includes all of the coastal northern and central California counties, and all of the Bay Area counties.

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.

Sally Lieber won a majority of the votes in the June primary election, but per the “Top Two” rules, she still has to run again this Fall. She is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, and has been Mayor of Mountain View and a state Assembly member. She describes herself as “a corporate-free candidate” in her campaign statement, and is 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 the Republican.

State Senate, District 10 Aisha Wahab (recommended, but not endorsed)

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. Hayward City Councilmember Aisha Wahab returned our questionnaire, while Fremont Mayor Lily Mei did not.

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.”

Wahab is endorsed by the Alameda Labor Council, the California Nurses Association (CNA), NARAL Pro-Choice, the California Teachers Association (CTA), and dozens of other organizations, plus at least two dozen local elected officials. 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 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. She has received endorsements from about two dozen local elected officials but as we go to press, only three organizations have endorsed her: Asian Americans for Good Government, Better Milpitas, and the Hayward Chamber of Commerce.

We are not making any endorsements in this race because both candidates are registered with the pro-corporate Democratic Party. However, our recommendation is that voters should cast their ballots for Aisha Wahab.

State Assembly, Dist. 20 No endorsement

Assembly District (AD) 20 covers Dublin, Castro Valley, Hayward, Union City, San Leandro and west Pleasanton. Our preferred candidate in the June primary election, Jennifer Esteen, an organizer with SEIU, did not finish in the top two; those being Liz Ortega Toro and Shawn Kumagai.

Kumagai, a Dublin city councilmember, ran largely on identity issues (being LGBTQ and AAPI as well as a veteran). He prioritizes affordable housing and transit equity issues.

Ortega Toro, who finished far out front and will likely win, might in different times receive our preference, without endorsement, qualified by her close linkage to the “liberal” Democratic Party establishment, especially the Bonta 'machine'. She is secretary treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council and has massive union support, beginning with the teachers union (CTA) and including AFSCME (her union), the nurses (CNA), UNITE-HERE, et al.

She holds many progressive positions, on free higher education, Medicare for All/statewide single payer, strong rent control (including repeal of the Ellis Act and Costa Hawkins), support for public banks, defense of public education, drug legalization, and public financing of elections.

The big problem is her strong advocacy of the Alameda Labor Council's “Save Our Jobs” campaign advocating for the Howard Terminal stadium project. Even though Oakland is not part of AD 20, it is hard to ignore this very public stance. Thus, while we may well need to work with her, assuming she wins, we cannot extend preference for her candidacy.

Boycott

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Given this shameful situation, we thought much about what our position should be regarding the statewide partisan races for the November election. We recommend that people BOYCOTT these contests. Specifically, the following 8 statewide offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, and U.S. Senator. And for similar reasons, also the northern Alameda county congressional and state legislature races. In addition, please note that specific information about the candidates running in these races was provided in our June primary Voter Guide:

<http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides/>.

Boycotting the statewide partisan races is not much of a sacrifice, since only candidates of the two major wings of the money party will be on the ballot. We hope that a visible drop in the vote totals in these races will make a statement against Top Two. In addition, the state of California, as the Green Party has done for many years, also needs to start looking at proven alternatives to the failing electoral system we currently have. For example, most of western Europe uses the Proportional Representation election system with great success, and with high voter turnout that often exceeds 80 percent.

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

Become a Dues-Paying Green Party Member!

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

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

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

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

Warmly, Green Party of Alameda County

State Supreme Court Patricia Guerrero, Goodwin Liu, Martin Jenkins, and Joshua Groban

There are four California Supreme Court Justices facing retention elections this year: Joshua Groban, Patricia Guerrero, Martin Jenkins and Goodwin Liu. All four are experienced and qualified, and none of them stands out as particularly radical or erratic. As a group, they are reasonably diverse, except in their pre-judge legal backgrounds, which do tend towards large corporate-serving law firms and prosecutors' offices.

But since this is just a retention or confirmation election of justices already on the court, and not an election to the court, we believe it is most appropriate not to attack qualified, competent and non-extreme justices, particularly in an uncontested election. Rather than engage in the hyper-politicization of the judiciary that is occurring at the national level, we think California should retain its civility, and retain all four of these justices.

State Courts of Appeal, First District No endorsements

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

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

Since 1998 the Green Party has criticized the Governor's judicial appointment system in which special interests predominate. The three-member commission that must ratify an appointment is often a mere rubber stamp. Prosecutors, supported by police and prison guards, have exercised an undue influence on this outdated judicial selection process. Judges are drawn primarily from a narrow band of the political spectrum, heavily weighted toward law-and-order/war-on-drugs cheerleaders, large corporate law firm partners, and those with tenure in a lower court. Racism and sexism are rampant. The present system of judicial selection does nothing to elevate the standards of judicial qualifications. Californians deserve to have confidence in their courts, but a 2014 study by Court Reform LLC found that of all states California had the highest level of perceived illegal corruption in its judicial branch.

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

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

also issue unfair and erratic sentences, unnecessarily hurt the lives of children and families, and destroy the public trust.

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

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

Peralta Colleges

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student success. A skilled machinist, Quindlen spent 17 years at Laney teaching Machine Technology. As Department Chair for 15 years, he converted a department on the verge of closing to one of the best in the state. He served on various shared governance and other committees, such as District and Laney Facilities. He also has vast experience in Career Education and Workforce Development. Quindlen has developed ties with employers, important for helping students find jobs.

To build enrollment Quindlen recommends that Peralta reach out to people in immigrant communities stuck in low wage service jobs or not working. He recommends teaming up with Adult Education programs in the six K-12 Districts within Peralta's borders to bring the many high school students who disappeared during the pandemic into concurrent enrollment.

Quindlen is endorsed by Donald Moore, President of Laney Faculty Senate; Nicky Gonzalez Yuen, Peralta Trustee; Karen Weinstein, former Peralta Trustee; Peralta Federation of Teachers, and Alameda Labor Council.

Tarrell Gamble, a business consultant, is a Trustee of the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association, where he serves as the Vice Chair of the Investment Committee and Chair of the Audit Committee. His day job is as Senior VP, Capital Markets, at Blaylock Van, Wall Street's longest continuously operated African American investment banking and financial services company. For over 20 years, he has been involved in The San Francisco Achievers and 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, helping students of color access higher education through mentoring, tutoring and sponsoring over 1,000 underrepresented students seeking to further their education.

Gamble is endorsed by Peralta Trustee Linda Handy, Oakland City Councilmember Loren Taylor, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Alameda County Supervisors Keith Carson and Nate Miley, former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris, and California Superintendent of Instruction Tony Thurman.

Peralta Board, Area 5 Piedmont, and parts of Oakland—Upper Rockridge, east of Lake Merritt between 580 and Skyline to Leona Canyon

Dual endorsement: Cindi Reiss and Saleem Gilmore

Incumbent Cindi Napoli-Abela Reiss defeated long-time Peralta Board member Bill Riley (first elected in 1998) in 2018. Four years ago, we supported her. She was the first Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) woman ever elected to the Peralta Board—in a District where AAPI students are 25 percent of enrollees.

Reiss, who has a PhD, has been a tenured faculty member for 14 years in the California Community College system, and was previously an adjunct in the CCC and CSU systems. She was very active in the statewide Academic Senate, serving on many committees, and is on the Accreditation Commission for Colleges and Junior Colleges. Reiss has statewide credibility as a competent and knowledgeable community college leader, and has the expertise and courage to go toe-to-toe with administrators when need be.

During her two years as Board President and Vice President for one year, Peralta was dealing with the consequences of mismanagement that eventually put the District on the brink of state takeover and loss of accreditation status. This would have led to college closures. Now, state takeover is no longer a threat, and Peralta's status with the regional accrediting agency has improved.

Reiss is criticized by faculty and community for not working to prevent class cuts. Reiss is also faulted for

having a non-inclusive style of decision-making, and for being uncommunicative with and unsupportive of faculty members and their union.

Reiss is endorsed by Peralta Trustee Bill Withrow; Julina Bonilla, recently retired Peralta Trustee; Oakland Councilmember Sheng Thao, Melissa Wilk, Alameda County Auditor-Controller; Phong La, Alameda County Assessor; and Rob Bonta, California Attorney General.

Shaleem Gilmore is a newcomer running for Peralta Community College Board. He wants to use his experience and commitment to public service to improve student, faculty, and staff outcomes. He believes that employees and students should have the opportunity to participate in the high-level decisions that affect all constituents of the District and require board action. He wants to hold the system accountable for the opportunities that can come out of the crisis of COVID. He is concerned about the low level of morale of some staff and faculty. Gilmore, who has an EdD, is an administrator at CSU East Bay. He has experience in policy development, implementation, and assessment. He was a teacher in OUSD, and adjunct faculty in undergraduate and graduate programs. In 2014 he ran for Oakland School Board. He has served on several OUSD bond oversight committees, was on the Accessibility Committee of AC Transit, and is the chair of the Personnel Commission of the Alameda County Office of Education.

Gilmore argues that it is short-sighted to cut classes before enrollment is complete. Since the state is funding the colleges regardless of enrollment numbers, Gilmore says now there is an opportunity to think innovatively to re-engage the local community and show that Peralta Colleges are the places to come to "make your future a reality"—a District message. He is concerned that courses align with transfer to four-year institutions and workforce programs. He suggests offering smaller classes to allow for personalized, individualized instruction.

Gilmore says that, along with other Board members, he would leverage his relationships at the state level to deliver the message of District needs, as articulated by District leadership, faculty, staff, and students.

Gilmore is endorsed by current Peralta Trustees Kevin Jenkins and Linda Handy; former trustee Bill Riley; Cliff Thompson, Oakland School Board Director; Peralta Federation of Teachers and Alameda Labor Council.

Peralta Board, Area 7 Parts of West Oakland, North Oakland, Lake Merritt, and Emeryville Shewee Yohannes

In her questionnaire, Shewee Yohannes quotes, truly believes in, and commits to the Peralta mission statement: "The Peralta Community College District is a collaborative of colleges advancing social and economic transformation for students and the community through quality education, rooted in equity, social justice, environmental sustainability, and partnerships."

Yohannes began her education at community college; she has a BA in International Business and an MS in Business Analytics. Currently she is an Assistant Dean, Adjunct Professor, and interim Program Director at Golden Gate University (GGU), where she has had direct experience in non-traditional education. Yohannes emphasizes the importance of research, data collection, and analysis in college decision-making. In her questionnaire, she discusses with insight the challenges for safety and scheduling during the pandemic, and the need for consultation and surveys to decide what formats of classes to offer—in-person, online, hybrid, etc.

Yohannes is a daughter of Ethiopian immigrants to the US, and a veteran of the US Army. She wrote, "I have worked as an audio-visual employee in government institutions, so I have some insight into their concerns of classified workers." Yohannes has lived and worked abroad, where she supported refugees and taught English as a Foreign Language. She is on the Board of Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), a local social justice organization addressing homelessness, housing, reentry, violence prevention, and the root causes of poverty.

Yohannes is endorsed by the Peralta Federation of Teachers and the Alameda Labor Council, as is the following candidate.

Seth Steward is an attorney with a Masters in Public Administration, currently chief-of-staff for an Oakland Councilmember. He did not return a questionnaire. Steward ran for Alameda County District Attorney in June 2022. His connections to community colleges are as an adjunct faculty member at Merritt College and City College of San Francisco, and Board Member of the Peralta Foundation. His Twitter says: Proven Prosecutor. Decorated Air Force Veteran. Public School Teacher. Policy Leader.

District Attorney

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However, a key part of our questionnaire was the issue of money bail reform, and the role it should play in reforming our criminal justice system. Price strongly favors money bail reform. Wiley (who did not return our questionnaire) does not address bail reform on his campaign website indicating this is not a priority, or that he favors the current money bail system as a mechanism to obtain DA plea-bargains. Since money bail is highly coercive and discriminatory, often forcing 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, the lack of a clear position on money bail excluded Wiley from consideration of our 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 30 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.

Terry Wiley is a veteran prosecutor whose entire legal career (30 years) was in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, therefore he is embedded in that system. We examined his website which indicates leadership and management experience within that system. However we found no mention of bail reform which is a disqualification for our Green Party endorsement. Mr. Wiley seems to have the backing of the establishment Democratic Party machine as evidenced by listing numerous politicians, backing from police and sheriff organizations, and backing from construction and realtors. A vote for Terry Wiley appears to be a vote for the establishment status quo.

In summary, the Green Party endorses Pamela Price. It is a plus that her career has been in civil litigation rather than criminal law. It will be exciting to have a DA who comes at the position from that angle. She is well qualified and 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 without reservations.

County Supervisor, District 3 Rebecca Kaplan, *with reservations*

Alameda County has some 1.6 million people. The five members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors (BOS) oversee an operating budget of some \$3.6 billion. The County employs almost 10,000 people in twenty-one different agencies and departments, with executive authority placed in a County Administrator, appointed by and responsible to the Board.

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

A consequence of flying under the radar is the recurrent lack of competition for the office. In the June primary election, just as it was four and eight years ago, District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle again ran unopposed. But because the District 3 appointed Supervisor, Dave Brown, wasn't eligible to run, since he hadn't lived in the District for at least a year, this year there's a very rare open seat for this contest, which was previously held by Wilma Chan from 1994-2000 (before being elected to the state legislature) and again from 2010 until she died last November after being hit by a car.

Of the four June primary candidates for this seat—Rebecca Kaplan, Lena Tam, David Kakishiba, and Surlene Grant—three returned the Green Party questionnaire (Kaplan, Kakishiba, and Grant), but Tam did not. And only Kaplan provided detailed answers to most or all of the questions.

Kaplan is currently the At-Large Councilperson for Oakland, serving since 2008 and before that on the AC Transit Board. She has served as Oakland's representative on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board. Tam was a Councilperson and Vice Mayor in Alameda, from 2006-2014, and before that a County Planning Commissioner and Chair.

Each of the candidates has a website (Kaplan's is by far the most detailed.) The priorities of each candidate, as specified on their websites are:

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

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.

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 question-

naire answers (when provided), it seems that Rebecca Kaplan is the most progressive of the 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 as a sitting Supervisor is harder to say.

Espousing 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 Tams's eight years on the Alameda City Council and Kaplan's fourteen years on the Oakland City Council, and an evaluation of thousands of hours of video (assuming it were available) of each of them 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 another candidate 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.

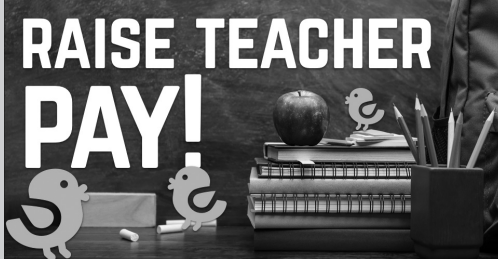
With these things in mind, we endorse, with reservations, Rebecca Kaplan for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 3 seat.

Alameda County Measure D - NO Allows larger agricultural buildings and equestrian riding arenas

Alameda County Measure D raises more questions than it answers. The measure allows for development of equestrian and agricultural facilities like horse arenas and winery related structures that exceed the limits of the urban growth limits imposed by the Measure D that was passed in 2000. The County has decided that no environmental review is needed for this measure and bases most of that conclusion on the 1994 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the East County Area Plan. That out of date document does not analyze Greenhouse Gas Emissions or Wildfire impacts of the project, which were not requirements at the time it was prepared.

The County did prepare an addendum to the previous EIR that says none of the impacts of the new Measure D are significant and therefore no further environmental review is required. However, one goal of Measure D is to promote more vineyard development in the South Livermore Valley, but the addendum analysis does not adequately consider that we are in a drought, so where will the water come from for more thirsty vines? Plus, nowhere in the Addendum is there any mention of meeting the mitigation goals of the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy that provides minimum mitigation requirements for threatened and endangered species resulting from development in that part of the County. Short-cutting the environmental review process should never be condoned and therefore we recommend a No vote on Measure D.

Brian Donahue for Emery School Board



*Emeryville's school district is in trouble.
Academically it is in last place among East Bay school districts
even while spending the most money per pupil in the East Bay.*

**Change the top down administration culture
to teacher supporting culture**

**Shame Disney/Pixar to honor their commitments
for financial support for the schools**

Increase teacher pay

Stop spending money on consultants

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http://emeryvilletattler.blogspot.com/**

Albany City Council #1: Robin D. Lopez, #2: John Anthony Miki, #3 to #5: Jeremiah Garrett-Pinguelo, Jennifer Hansen-Romero, Nick Pilch (You rank)

Albany's First Ranked Choice Voting Election! In 2020 Albany Voters passed Measure BB, bringing Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) to our City Council and Board of Education; Albany Greens endorsed this measure making Albany's elections more representative of the votes and preferences of its voters. RCV has been recognized as one means of bringing at-large (non-Districted) elected councils such as Albany's into compliance with the California Voting Rights Act. In this year's election the three open Board of Education seats are being filled by three candidates running uncontested, so even though only the City Council has more candidates than seats, voters will be asked to rank the candidates for school board as well.

Shout out to the City of Albany for creating this informative webpage: <https://www.albanyca.org/departments/city-clerk/election-information/ranked-choice-voting>

Albany City Council – Five Candidates for Two Open Seats

Robin López: Rank #1: Robin moved to UC Village to pursue a Ph.D. at UC Berkeley, and has since put down roots and is raising his family here. He led mental health programming in Richmond in conjunction with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and received the White House Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Robin serves on the Albany Social & Economic Justice Commission. He is committed to creating youth opportunities, enhancing access to basic needs and mental health resources, and developing equitable and sustainable new infrastructure and housing.

In regards to climate action, he states, "We are in a global climate crisis, and Albany is no exception to the consequences. As a dedicated scientist and ecologist, much of my life work centers around ensuring the ecological integrity of our planet, while finding balance with human needs and survival. Albany has the power and opportunity to position itself as both a regional and state leader in climate policy and climate equity." Robin López's background, identity and lived experiences situate within the key values outlined by the Green Party, particularly around ecological wisdom, social justice, and respect for diversity.

John Miki: Rank #2: An Albany resident since 2005, John Miki first served in 2010 on the Traffic and Safety Commission (now Transportation Commission), and worked to pass Albany's first Active Transportation Plan. As an urban designer and architect he brought experience

in subject knowledge, consensus building, and an ability to balance the aspirational dreams of the community with short term implementable changes. He now serves on the Climate Action Committee, moving Albany forward to a more sustainable and resilient future.

John's approach to leadership embodies the 10 Key Values of the Green Party, in particular his statement regarding nonviolence: "To move beyond the current state of violence in politics and in the ability to have dialog between opposing groups, we must start with empathy and trust. Empathy to take a moment and listen and hear where a person is coming from. Trust to understand that solutions can be found that are not winner takes all." We endorse his candidacy for many reasons, but his note here sums them well.

You Rank: Rankings #3 thru #5: Jeremiah Garrett-Pinguelo, Jennifer Hanson Romero, and Nick Pilch: You Rank – Like much of the Bay Area, Albany is fortunate all the candidates for City Council embody progressive values and deep or deeper shades of Green. Any of them would be a fine city council member, so we leave it to voters to rank them—with a reminder that these votes will count if your first and second choices don't have a majority in the first round of counting—and we endorse all five of the candidates without reservation.

Jeremiah Garrett-Pinguelo: Jeremiah is a Community Organizer and self-funds the Run a Mile Food Bank & Houseless Laundry Program. He is the Community Outreach Organizer for UC Gill Tract Farm. He claims to attend every Albany public meeting. He envisions a Homeless Shelter on Cleveland Ave. next to the Albany Public Works Facility, and advocates for Rent Control & No Evictions.

Jennifer Hanson Romero: Jennifer can be found many mornings picking up litter on Solano and San Pablo Avenues with the Blue Glove Crew. A third-generation Albanian, she is a Girl Scout Leader, has raised funds for Albany Little League and the Albany Thrives Together shower program; served as President of the Solano Avenue Association and on the City's Economic Development Committee.

Nick Pilch: Nick was on the Albany City Council from 2014 to 2020, prior to that and currently again on the Planning & Zoning Commission, and 11+ years on other Albany Commissions and Committees. A founder of Albany Strollers & Rollers and also what is now the Albany Climate Action Coalition, he has a deep commitment and long record of service to Albany.

Albany School Board No endorsements

This year, there are three open school board seats. We were informed by Lucy Baird of her withdrawal from the campaign, although that happened too late to have her name removed from the ballot. The remaining three candidates then decided not to seek endorsements, or reply to questionnaires. In light of this, we are not endorsing or advising against any of the candidates, and instead urge Albany

voters to visit the City of Albany website (<https://www.albanyca.org/>) > City Clerk > 2022 Election Information > Candidates, and read each candidate's statement.

For Becky Hopwood: <https://www.albanyca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/52019/637964147230170000>

For Sadia Kahn: <https://www.albanyca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/52015/637964146095770000>

For Ron Rosenbaum: <https://www.albanyca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/52023/637964151699730000>

Albany Measure K Medical Services and Fire Protection Special Tax Yes, with parcel tax reservations

Albany has one measure on the ballot; the Green Party endorses it with reservations: Measure K: Special Emergency Medical Services, Advanced Life Support, and Fire Protection Special Tax Increase: Currently, the City of Albany imposes an Emergency Medical Services Special Tax and a Paramedic Advanced Life Support Fire Engines and Ambulance Service Special Tax.

Measure K would replace these two special taxes with one to fund paramedic, advanced life support, firefighting services, fighting equipment and ambulance service within the City. It creates a special tax at the maximum rate of \$0.074 per square foot of land owned for residential and commercial properties to be operative for fiscal year 2023-2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, subject to an annual adjustment for inflation capped at 5 percent of the tax rates imposed by the City in the prior fiscal year. The Measure exempts residential parcels owned by qualifying very low-income residents from the tax, and allows qualifying very-low income renters to apply for a rebate of the special tax. The Albany Fire Marshal notes passage of this measure will help fund equipment specific to protection of large affordable housing projects.

Based on parcel size rather than the flat per-parcel ones it replaces, Measure K is somewhat progressive, as property values often parallel lot size, and larger commercial properties will pay significantly more than the current \$113.50 per parcel levied equally; Albany's smallest residential lots at 2500 square feet will only see their rate increase by roughly \$70. Accounting for apartments and condominiums, the average increased cost per residence will be roughly \$1 per week.

As we've stated before, our reservations stem from inequities created by Proposition 13 coupled with the state's squeeze on local governments, and the need to use devices such as sales and parcel taxes to fill these shortfalls. However, in light of similar taxes for similar needs in other Bay Area municipalities, we reservedly recommend a vote of Yes.

Berkeley

continued from page 1

workers' protections, democratic decision-making and establishes a living wage." With this progressive agenda, the election of Aidan would help shift the conservative Berkeley City Council back to the Left.

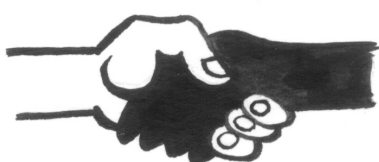
Aidan's District 7 opponent is Rigel Robinson, the incumbent. Rigel did not respond to multiple requests to complete our 2022 Voter Guide Questionnaire. However, we did have his 2018 completed questionnaire where Rigel focused on the student housing crisis and his promise to push for "taller, denser buildings around campus." He seems to have gotten his wish, although this was primarily a UC decision, not a City decision. And housing prices keep climbing. Four years ago Rigel only favored building "some market rate housing," however his pro-developer votes on Council since then show that he is in lock-step with our Mayor and sits in the pro-developer camp. It is hard to think of any independent action by this mayoral puppet. In a District heavily populated with students who need housing protection, it would be great to oust the Democratic Party machine incumbent and replace him with a Green progressive candidate willing to stand up against the establishment and put "people before profits" in the crises of climate and housing. We recommend a vote for Aidan Hill.

Berkeley Auditor Jenny Wong

After being elected City Auditor in 2018, Jenny Wong is running unopposed. For those unfamiliar with her duties, per the City of Berkeley web page, the Auditor provides an independent assessment of whether City funded services and operations: 1) Are managed properly and in compliance with laws and regulations. 2) Achieve their objectives and desired outcomes. 3) Are being provided efficiently, economically and effectively.

As the city watchdog, Jenny Wong has performed well earning our trust and a big thumbs up recommendation. Jenny Wong is a long time Berkeley resident who has 22 years of experience in the government auditing field including the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the last 4 years as the Berkeley City Auditor. Her responses to Green Party questions are online at:

https://acgreens.wordpress.com/?page_id=1491.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Berkeley City Council, District 1 #1: Tamar Michai Freeman #2: Elisa Mikiten (ranked but not endorsed) [Do NOT rank Kesarwani]

We strongly recommend ranking Tamar Michai Freeman #1 for Berkeley City Council District 1. She would represent a significant shift on the Council, replacing a conservative incumbent who ignores her constituents with a progressive who is concerned about "inequities and systemic discriminatory practices that continue to require our focus and commitment." Tamar is an advocate of "Housing that is truly affordable and retainable for low income families, working-class families, and students." She supports TOPA, the Rent Board, repeal of Costa-Hawkins, and 100 percent affordable housing at BART. "Public land should be for the benefit of the people." Ms. Freeman favors Measure M, the tax on vacant rentals, but is against Measure L, the catch-all exorbitant bond. "Why is the City Council asking residents at this time to agree to this high bond amount? ... many residents do not trust the City Council will spend funds in a transparent manner." On budgets, she thinks remaining ARPA funds (COVID relief) should be used to "increase

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City Offices & Measures: Berkeley

Berkeley City Council

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the health and wellness of our Berkeley community” with services for those most in need. Tamar supports police oversight by the Police Accountability Board, police de-escalation policies over less-than-lethal police tactics (tear gas, pepper spray, smoke grenades, police dogs), shifting police resources to mental health units, and ending police raids on the homeless. On climate change, she thinks the city needs to “Subsidize technology where income is a barrier and ... rely less on concrete structures and incentivize plants and greenery to uptake carbon.” For all these reasons, rank Ms. Tamar Michai Freeman #1.

Rashi Kesarwani is the incumbent City Council member in D1, arguably the most conservative City Council member. She was a stealth candidate in 2018, unknown at City Council meetings. She did not return our candidate questionnaires. Four years ago, she evaded direct answers in replies to the Berkeley Progressive Alliance questionnaire, indicating she would likely support large-scale development of high-density market-rate housing. Our voter guide prediction proved true. No friend of the Rent Board, she is the strongest advocate for real estate and developer interests on the Council. She has displayed no meaningful interest in police oversight, with little or no support for the Police Accountability Board, and she is often dismissive of constituent concerns. In the BPA questionnaire she indicated that single payer health care is impractical in California, revealing her very conservative attitude. Rashi’s endorsement page is a who’s-who of neoliberal and establishment Democrats. She is the Democratic machine candidate who puts establishment interests ahead of her D1 community.

Elisa Mikiten’s questionnaire (see: https://acgreens.wordpress.com/?page_id=1491) indicates progressive positions on housing, rent control, policing, budget priorities and climate change. Elisa states she is “committed to building and preserving affordable housing, rehousing the homeless, and addressing climate change.” “There is little or no ‘trickle down’ ... market-rate housing will not lead to housing that is truly affordable...” She favors Measure M, the vacancy tax, but also Measure L, the boondoggle bond. The Green Party (and Ms. Freeman) oppose Measure L (see article below). On policing, Elisa claims support for “the Council’s process to reimagine public safety,” a vague assertion about “process.” She says: “Hopefully... we will be able to reduce the need for officers—who can be freed to focus on building relationships in the community that help them prevent and solve the kinds of issues they are best suited to address—violent and other serious crime.” When asked directly whether she favors shifting police resources to mental health units, she replied “our vision for mental health services should not be constrained by savings in the Police Department.” Unfortunately this does not sound like a reduction in the police budget. This fits with her strong advocacy for police during Council and Police Review Commission meetings. Based on her responses, Ms. Mikiten would be an improvement over Kesarwani, but is far inferior to Ms. Freeman.

Rank Tamar Michai Freeman #1, Elisa Mikiten #2 (ranked but not endorsed). Do NOT rank Rashi Kesarwani at all!

Berkeley City Council, District 4 Kate Harrison

Kate Harrison is the incumbent Council Member for District 4, winning her seat in a special election in 2017 and holding it in 2018 against challengers backed by developer interests. Kate is running unopposed. She has been a relatively consistent progressive vote on the Council, and at this point she appears to be the only remaining progressive vote on the Council. To understand how she has leveraged her career expertise in the public sector with hands-on experience as a Council member, please read her detailed responses to our questionnaire (see: https://acgreens.wordpress.com/?page_id=1491). Kate Harrison’s first priority continues to be affordable housing. Kate wrote Berkeley’s proposed Vacancy Tax (Measure M) to force landlords, some of whom “own entire vacant buildings, ... to free up housing stock and create more equity in the housing market.” Her other issues include: “police reform (ensuring minimum use of force, creating the independent Police Accountability Board Reform Commission), labor rights (enhancing parental leave benefits, ensuring employees have shift predictability ...), [and] ... fighting to keep Alta Bates open.” She also prioritizes “the fight against climate change” (including successfully advocating ARPA funds be used for those most in need), and supports “strong rent control and eviction protections.” On homelessness, she ar-

gues for more “physical and mental health support” services along with more affordable housing, and the need “to stop the cycle of criminalization of the unhoused community.” Kate participated in the People’s Budget process and is “a cosponsor of the re-imagining policing budget, passed ... in May, which would fund social services and mental health first responders, [and] reduce use of armed police to respond to non-violent infractions.” She believes re-imagining policing includes: “reducing budgets for police, prisons, and other carceral systems and reducing reliance on onerous fines that impoverish people.” On land use, Kate is critical of the Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP) agreement with UC stating: “it falls far short of what it costs the City to provide services to the University,” and she believes “People’s Park is blighted because of deliberate neglect by the University.” On development at BART she favors “the maximum proportion of affordable housing possible, with a minimum of 50 percent” and supported the “seven story project at North Berkeley BART.” In summary, Kate Harrison is the only progressive member of the Berkeley City Council and we strongly support her candidacy.

Berkeley City Council, District 8 Mari Mendonca

We strongly recommend union and community organizer, Mari Mendonca for Berkeley City Council District 8. The election of Ms. Mendonca would represent a significant shift away from Lori Droste’s conservative voting on the Council. Mari would bring a fresh voice to a Council that continues to slide to the Right with their support of developer interests and tolerance of more policing as a solution to Berkeley’s social problems. She is a strong advocate of affordable housing including 100 percent affordable housing at BART. She recognizes that Berkeley has “far exceeded market rate housing” needs and must prioritize affordable housing. She supports strong rent control, an elected Rent Board (including this year’s Community Slate), repeal of Costa Hawkins, and keeping Alta Bates open. On public land use, Mari believes decisions “should reflect equity and protections for our most vulnerable community members.” Mari points to “over spending” by police as identified by the City Auditor and wants to shift “funding towards youth programs and job opportunities, job training, mental health, Specialized Care Unit and supporting the Police Accountability Board.” Mari would bring to the Council her city government experience as Vice Chair of the Housing Advisory Commission and as an elected Rent Board Commissioner. Please check out Ms. Mendonca’s completed voter guide questionnaire (see: https://acgreens.wordpress.com/?page_id=1491) for more on her policy positions. In summary, Mari Mendonca’s election would add a progressive voice to a conservative Council. We recommend ranking Mari Mendonca #1 and not bothering to rank the other candidates discussed below.

With the incumbent Lori Droste not running, four other candidates tossed their hats into the ring for District 8. Disability rights advocate and lawyer Mary-Lee Smith decided to drop out and threw her support behind Mari Mendonca. None of the three remaining candidates returned our questionnaire. Insurance agent Jay Wu, although qualified for the ballot, is without a candidate website and has filed no financial donations as of early September. Similarly, no candidate website or public campaign filings could be found for Peter Bruce DuMont, the founding president of Star Alliance, an apparent new-age, Berkeley-based organization. That leaves only super lawyer/litigator Mark Humbert in the running, a candidate who has Droste’s endorsement along with most of the current City Council. Mr. Humbert’s campaign website lists his priorities as: public safety, supporting small businesses and addressing homelessness and affordable housing crises. His website has no details about how he would support these “priorities.” He lists public service as “president of the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association, and as a commissioner on our city’s Transportation, Public Works, and Fair Campaign Practices Commissions.” His endorsements page lists most of the past and present Berkeley political establishment, without a progressive face to be had. This suggests that he would vote in lock step with our current mayor and Council majority and not rock the boat on issues of development, policing, homeless and budget priorities. His election would continue the conservative shift of the Berkeley City Council that began with the 2018 election of Rashi Kesarwani and Rigel Robinson. We recommend not ranking Wu, DuMont or Humbert.

Berkeley School Board Jennifer Shanoski, Ka’Dijah A. Brown, and Mike Chang

There are three openings on Berkeley’s School Board. We endorse these fine candidates: Jennifer Shanoski, Ka’Dijah A. Brown, and Mike Chang. Ka’Dijah A. Brown is the incumbent president of the school board and a sixth grade teacher. Jennifer Shanoski is a chemistry professor and President of Peralta Community Colleges Teachers’ Union. Mike Chang is an education law attorney and chair of the Police Accountability Board.

As for their opponents, we are blessed with six candidates for three seats. Tatiana Guerreiro Ramos sounds interesting, with heartfelt answers for our questionnaire. She is co-owner of an education company and special education advocate. Norma JF Harrison is a member of the Peace and Freedom Party who promotes an alternative to the school system. Reichi Lee is a board member at a children’s law office and serves on the Peace and Justice Commission.

For more information about the candidates, check out their websites and questionnaires:

(https://acgreens.wordpress.com/?page_id=1491)

If you would like deeper analysis provided in future Green Voter Guides, please volunteer.

Meanwhile, the Green Party of Alameda County recommends that you vote for Jennifer Shanoski, Ka’Dijah A. Brown, and Mike Chang for School Board.

Berkeley Rent Board Soli Alpert, Nathan Mizell, Vanessa Danielle Marrero, Ida Martinac, and Nageene Mosaed

These five pro-tenant candidates were nominated by the Berkeley Tenant Convention after being interviewed by a panel representing numerous progressive organizations and unions, including the Green Party, DSA, Berkeley Tenants Union, and SEIU 1021, and then elected as the top vote getters in the convention vote, a local small-d democratic process open to all Berkeley residents. This year the convention was virtual, with both on-line and paper ballots, and over 200 Berkeley residents voting.

This is an experienced, progressive, and diverse slate. All five have impressive resumes and will be assets to the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board. Vote for these five candidates. There will be opposition from landlords and BPOA (Berkeley Property Owners Association).

Berkeley Measure L No, No, No! Infrastructure Bond

All agree that Berkeley has infrastructure needs. However, is a \$650,000,000 General Obligation Bond with no specific projects that costs \$475,000,000 to finance and is to be repaid over a period of 48 years the answer?

Consideration for a smaller targeted bond of \$300,000,000 and a Parcel Tax for street repair and traffic safety was rejected even though the parcel tax specific for streets received the greatest support in the public survey conducted by Lake Research Partners.

Thirty-year bonds, or in this case bonds repaid over 48 years, do not make logical sense as the method to finance streets that are going to need repair in fifteen years or less. The Parcel Tax for street repair preferred by the voters would have provided steady funding, which in turn would give the stability needed for continuous street repair and maintenance and restricted those funds from slipping into other spending or covering department budget overruns.

How did a smaller targeted bond and a parcel tax for streets end up in a catchall wish list? Look no further than the Mayor and City Council who expect that by throwing everything together, they can reach the 2/3 threshold for passage with the assumption that Berkeley voters will find something in the long list of possibilities to vote for even though there is no commitment to anything within the Measure L Bond.

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Berkeley Measure L

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It is because of Berkeley's incompetent management that this measure is on the ballot. It is a city's duty to repair streets and infrastructure, which have been neglected for years. From the Auditor's Report under City Manager: "To address rising costs for unmet capital needs, we recommend that the City Manager collaborate with the Department of Public Works to implement a funding plan aimed at 1) reducing the City's unfunded capital and deferred maintenance needs, and 2) ensuring regular maintenance of city assets to prevent excessive deferred maintenance costs in the future..."

But Measure L is a grab bag with a laundry list of possible expenditures and a commitment to none. The most important sentence in the entire Measure L text is found in Section 4. Estimated Cost of Improvements. This statement follows a list that sounds like a commitment with, "These dollar amounts are estimates and are not a commitment or guarantee that any specific amounts will be spent on particular projects or categories of projects."

The text of Measure L does not define the timing of the bond sales nor the amount of the bonds to be sold at any time and instead states, "The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the City based on need for funds and other factors." With an 18-year time spread for selling the bonds and no specific project commitments, it is unknown who will be making the decisions or for what over the next five, 10, 15, or 18 years.

Both the argument for Measure L and the rebuttal to

the argument against Measure L promise that the measure establishes an Oversight Committee. However, with no guarantee that any specific amounts will be spent on any particular project or category, then anything that broadly fits the imagination qualifies.

More troubling to the promise of oversight are the current and ongoing complaints coming from the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (oversight for measures FF and GG) and the Homeless Panel of Experts (oversight for Measure P the transfer tax for Homeless Services). At issue is not receiving the necessary information in a timely manner, if at all, so oversight is thwarted.

Last, with no commitment to any project, there is no assurance that the money spent will actually provide the infrastructure upgrades and replacements needed for a rapidly changing, unstable climate future.

The only commitment made in Measure L is that however the bond money is spent, the residents of Berkeley will be paying for the bond debt service, either directly through property taxes or indirectly, until 2070/2071 with the "best estimate" of that debt service cost as \$1,125,000,000! Are they nuts?

Vote NO, a billion times no!

Berkeley Measure M - YES Vacancy Tax

This sensible measure has been needed and discussed for decades. Brava to Councilmember Kate Harrison for Measure M which will get many of Berkeley's approximately 1200 empty rental units back on the market by taxing

the owners for each empty unit in yearly increasing increments until they are rented. The tax is directed primarily to corporate landlords who leave units and entire buildings vacant, sometimes for decades, to promote higher rents. There are many exclusions for small landlords who reserve a single unit or two for personal use or to provide housing for family members. The tax will put more much needed rental units back on the market, cut down on the blight of empty buildings scattered around our city, and generate \$3.9 to \$5.9 million in annual revenue for the City which, hopefully, will be used to construct affordable housing and to acquire and rehabilitate multi-unit buildings for housing and low-income households. For details, see:

<https://vacancytaxberkeley.org/>

We strongly recommend voting YES on M.

Berkeley Measure N - YES Public Low-Rent Housing

Per the City Attorney's analysis, Measure N authorizes government entities to "develop, construct or acquire an additional 3,000 units of low income housing in the City of Berkeley for low income persons. This measure grants only general authority for units to be developed, constructed or acquired and does not approve any individual project."

More low-income housing is definitely needed, so approving Measure N is obvious, as no public low-income housing can be built without such approval (and non-governmental developers generally won't build low-income housing without governmental involvement). Vote Yes on Measure N.

Emeryville School Board

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ery is often compared with, the West Contra Costa Unified School District, which includes the cities of Richmond and San Pablo, was able to increase their scores proportionately even more than did Oakland, over the same time period.

Fortunately, Brian Donahue, who has been an activist on school and other issues for many years, offers a strong alternative to the failures of the current Board. Donahue was a co-founder of Residents United for a Livable Emeryville (RULE), which was able to elect every City Council member during their 14-year existence, but which came to a close earlier this year after having been sidelined by the pandemic over the past two years. He is also the publisher of the Emeryville Tattler blog and a longtime Green Party member. In his questionnaire answers, Donahue writes, "I would empower teachers. Change the culture so that the administration morphs into a teacher helping culture.... Long term, I would look into melding Emery with Berkeley's School District. Not only to absorb the high level academic success at that District but also to ameliorate the high costs associated with operating a stand alone school District that make small Districts like Emery less efficient."

Donahue also wants to get "major corporations in Emeryville to commit to supporting the schools with a special emphasis on Disney/Pixar." He notes that Disney/Pixar should, "...pay the money promised to the District after the 2004 community plebiscite (Measures T and U) where a quid pro quo corporate campus expansion approval from voters came with a promise to be a benefactor for Emeryville schools," but that "money never materialized." Donahue also states that in 2017, the Emery School District dropped from the 4th worst in Alameda county to "the bottom that year and it has remained on the bottom. This school board should not be running for re-election with that terrible record." We agree—it's time to replace the Board. Vote only for Brian Donahue, and not for any of the three incumbents.

Emeryville City Council

**Eugene Tssui,
with reservations
Sukhdeep Kaur,
with reservations**

We are disappointed only three out of five Emeryville city council candidates chose to respond to our questionnaire because we can't in good faith recommend a candidate for political office that is not completely transparent and accountable. If council candidates can't be bothered to let citizens know about them and their ideas on public policy before the election, we can't imagine they would suddenly change their minds and see the value of public servants being accountable and transparent after the election. It is for this reason we cannot even consider recommending David Mourra and Brooke Westling. Mr. Mourra did not respond to numerous requests and Ms. Westling told us she wasn't interested in endorsements from political party groups. These two candidates appear to be trying too hard to protect their brands and in so doing, their brands as unapproachable would-be politicians who won't be accountable to the people are now preceding them.

That leaves the remaining three candidates, Eugene Tssui, Sukhdeep Kaur, and Kalimah Priforce to consider. Frankly we were not overwhelmed with any of them but Eugene Tssui sent us a strong environmental message in his questionnaire response. That combined with his long publicly accessible record of tenaciously advocating for environmentally conscious development was enough to put him over the top for us, although we are concerned that he (like the other candidates who completed our questionnaire), didn't mention worker protections or unions. With his ideas tending towards the visionary, Mr. Tssui seems like he may serve as a spoiler on the council, at least for some decisions. But that may be what this Emeryville city council needs after many years of groupthink culture having descended there. Eugene Tssui is an architect and an author.

Sukhdeep Kaur caught our attention because she didn't leave any sour notes, admittedly a low bar but she did not disappoint either; being just progressive enough. She seems like she would serve as a consensus builder and would be a bridge building counterpoint to Mr. Tssui. Sukhdeep Kaur is an attorney.

Kalimah Priforce would have gotten our nod in a field of more conservative choices. He is a likable candidate in many ways but we were not impressed with his casting of himself as a pragmatic moderate with an entrepreneurial background. He will likely get support from Emeryville's business community, but not us. Kalimah Priforce is a non-profit advisor.

The Emeryville city council has been sort of a one note affordable housing chorus in recent years. Affordable housing has been very much needed after decades of runaway market rate housing projects approved in the years before this council took their seats. We have watched with interest

how Emeryville has become a leader in the region for how to deliver affordability in this difficult market. But affordability is not the only thing people care about. Livability too is something needed to keep cities as desirable places. Our two choices for city council also expressed the need to keep the pressure on for affordable housing in their answers to our questionnaire. But while we applaud the current city council for all their work bringing affordable housing to Emeryville, we think Eugene Tssui and Sukhdeep Kaur will serve as reminders that Emeryville city hall has more than one duty to the people.

The Green Party recommends Eugene Tssui and Sukhdeep Kaur for Emeryville city council.

Emeryville Measure O - Yes, with reservations Real Property Transfer Tax Increase

Emeryville voters are being asked to increase the tax rate upon sale for all real property in excess of \$1 million with local Measure O. The tax, called a real estate transfer tax, is paid by the seller of property at the time of the sale and applies to commercial and residential property. This measure increases Emeryville's real estate transfer tax closer to what surrounding cities charge from the low rate currently charged.

Measure O's is relatively progressive and would modify Emeryville's existing real estate transfer tax rate of \$12 per \$1000 in property sales and increase it to \$15 for sales between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 and \$25 per \$1,000 for property sales above \$2,000,000. Property sold for less than \$1 million would remain unchanged.

Measure O would deliver more revenue to a city that very much needs it. The Emeryville city council, which has endorsed Measure O, has done a good job with providing affordable housing but they have lagged on expensive livability issues the people have said they want like parks, bike infrastructure and a library. While Measure O funds would not be earmarked for these things, it would take the pressure off more mundane spending requirements and presumably free up discussions about general fund discretionary spending in the future.

While we appreciate the graduated nature of this tax targeting wealthier property owners, we think the \$1 million lower limit for collection casts too large a net. Average home prices in Emeryville are now about \$750,000 and rising. That means this tax increase will be paid by middle class property owners as well as the wealthy. That rate should have been more like one and a half million dollars. They could have made up for that "lost" revenue by entering another higher rate for properties over say \$3 million.

Nonetheless, this proposed real estate transfer tax increase is better than what currently exists and Emeryville will be closer to what neighboring cities charge with their transfer taxes.

The Green Party recommends a YES vote, with reservations.

**Do you have QUESTIONS
about Registration,
your Ballot, or Voting?
Please call the Registrar of
Voters: (510) 272-6973
or the Lawyers'
Committee for Civil Rights:
1-866-OURVOTE
or check the Secretary of
State's website:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>**

City Offices & Measures: Oakland

Oakland School Board

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school, to allow it to continue to operate. He is also the first choice of the Oakland Education Association (OEA), the local teachers' union.

Our second choice is Jennifer Brouhard, She is a long time teacher in the District (27 years), mainly at La Escuelita School. Like Orozco, she opposes closures and charters. She has been endorsed for the Number 2 ranking by the OEA. She worked hard for the union's campaigns, though not a part of the varied left caucuses which have provided leadership in the OEA, including the 2019 strike and the fight back during the pandemic.

We advocate a "Don't vote for" position regarding David Kakishiba. He can be considered an 'insider' and served on the Board from 2003-2015, during which time cuts and closures occurred, and provided little leadership in opposing this austerity, generally voting with the majority. Following this stint on the Board, he has been involved in fiscal responsibilities, especially around administering parcel tax monies and chairs the Measure G committee, especially focused on music and art programs. He has ongoing political aspirations as he ran for the County Board of Supervisors this year, but emerged third for the District 3 seat.

Though Kakishiba has been a long time organizer with groups such as the East Bay Asian Youth Council and advocated for progressive youth programs, we can only assume he will block with the current pro-closure Board majority and thus, state clearly Do Not Vote for him.

Oakland School Board, District 4

**#1: Pecolia Manigo,
#2: Mike Hutchinson,
with reservations
[No! No! No!, Do NOT vote
for Nick Resnick]**

The race around the Oakland School Board seat, District 4, is the most controversial of the three school races, not only around who we are supporting but whom we are strongly opposing here. District 4 boundaries have been redrawn but still include the affluent Montclair area, but also the Glenview, Laurel, and others. This had an obvious impact on this race, with Mike Hutchinson, currently on the school board for District 5, moved into District 4.

We are calling for voting for Pecolia Hudson-Manigo as our first choice. She is an Oakland parent and has served as executive director of PLAN, a parent advocacy group, which had a long relationship with the teachers union, the OEA. She also spearheaded the Reparations for Black Students campaign and helped draft the Reparations resolution, which included an attempt to halt the school closures. There were some questions over her complete rejection of charter schools, but her response satisfied the OEA Representative Council and leadership, which gave her a sole endorsement.

Mike Hutchinson decided to run in the new District 4 where he resides, though he would still have a year remaining as District 5 board member. He has been a long time opponent of closures and charters, but has generated much controversy around a range of issues, including non-payment of his staff, lack of focus involving the activists at the Parker liberation school, and disregard in communication with a range of presumed allies, including the OEA, the SLAP (Schools & Labor Against Privatization) network, and in years past, the former Oakland Justice Coalition. SLAP recently voted with some reluctance to give him a ranking of No. 2, but East Bay DSA, which had heavily worked in his last run, dis-endorsed him. He is admired by many for his policy positions, but has caused much frustration. Nonetheless, it is tactically important to advocate support, albeit No. 2, for Mike, especially because of the third candidate in the election.

That would be Nick Resnick, ironically a former OUSD teacher, who is currently the chief executive officer of Inquiry by Design, a firm that produces curriculum for K-12 schools. He is a major advocate for the corporate education "reform" project, including charters, despite his verbiage about student learning and inclusiveness. His impact is not just local, but regional and even national. He ran for the Peralta Community College Board in 2016, but lost, with 27 percent of the vote. Resnick MUST be defeated.

Oakland School Board, District 6

**#1: Valarie Bachelor
#2: Joel Velasquez, with
reservations**

[Do NOT vote for Kyra Mungia]

District 6 in Oakland extends all the way from Skyline Boulevard down to Rt. 880. Again there are three candidates, two whom we support and one whom we definitely oppose.

We support Valarie Bachelor as our No. 1 choice. She has lived in the Eastmont Hills for two years. She is an organizer for the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) and has been a labor organizer for 15 years. She has shown her public support for the Parker School liberation struggle and a moratorium on closures. She is the first choice of the Oakland Education Association (OEA) and is supported by the SLAP (Schools & Labor Against Privatization) coalition.

We rank Joel Velasquez No. 2. He is an Oakland parent and long time opponent of school closures in OUSD, going back 10 years to the occupation of Lakeview Elementary School. He has been visible as well around the recent campaign against closures, including Parker. He has provided leadership in school PTAs and on a citizens commission. He applied for the opening on the District 6 board seat after Shanthi Gonzales resigned, but was not selected. He is the No. 2 ranked candidate for the OEA and also backed by SLAP. Our concern with him is based on him not returning our questionnaire and the fact that he does not even have a campaign website as we go to press.

We are very opposed to any support for the interim incumbent, Kyria Mungia. Though she taught briefly in Oakland (three years at Horace Mann), she was mainly selected to fill the District 6 opening because she serves as Mayor Libby Schaaf's deputy director of education, working on programs around technology in the schools. Her links to the pro developer, privatizing administration is enough to disqualify her, in our opinion.

Oakland Mayor #1: Allyssa Victory Villanueva, with reservations

**#2: Sheng Thao
(ranked but not endorsed)
#3: John Reimann
(ranked but not endorsed)**

Unlike the last three Mayoral elections, going back to 2010, we didn't have a Mayoral candidate to support early on in this campaign. In fact, our top choice this year, Allyssa Victory Villanueva, was only placed on the ballot two weeks after all of the other candidates officially qualified, due to a legal misinterpretation by the City Clerk's office.

Victory Villanueva is a Criminal Justice Attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union and is also legal Counsel to Communications Workers, Local 9415. She has a broad progressive platform, and her questionnaire responses reflected that. In her responses, Victory Villanueva writes that she's "expressly running on public banking to help fund public development of necessities like affordable housing" and pledges to bring the police department into compliance with the settlement agreement to end federal monitoring and to expand resources for eviction defense. She has been endorsed by groups such as Communications Workers Local 9415, Brown Berets - Oakland chapter, Latine Young Democrats of the East Bay, and Our Revolution East Bay. Allyssa Victory Villanueva is our number one choice; however, because of her lack of experience with elected office, her stance on the A's stadium/Howard Terminal project, and her active involvement with the Democratic Party, we endorse her with reservations.

Sheng Thao was elected to the District 4 City Council seat in 2018. Prior to that she served as Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan's Chief of Staff. We disagree with several of her positions and actions, such as her support for the A's stadium/Howard Terminal project (albeit with community benefits), so we're not able to endorse her. However, Thao is far better than the other current or former elected officials who are running. In fact, except for Treva Reid, none of those other candidates (Ignacio de la Fuente, Greg Hodge,

or Loren Taylor) even returned our questionnaire. We rank Thao second for Mayor, but we do not endorse her given the policy differences we have with her.

John Reimann is a retired carpenter and the only Mayoral candidate who explicitly is opposing the proposed A's stadium/Howard Terminal project, which will eliminate good-paying union jobs at the Port and require public subsidies of hundreds of millions of dollars. He also is taking radical or progressive stands on many issues, but doesn't usually elaborate on how those ideals can be achieved. In addition, Reimann doesn't have any experience in government, or in managing organizations or institutions; nor does he have a campaign website or any endorsements, per his questionnaire responses. Nevertheless, because of his unequivocal opposition to the A's stadium/Howard Terminal project and other good stands on issues, we are ranking him #3, but without an endorsement due to his lack of experience and campaign deficiencies.

Note: For this November's election, we had a shortage of volunteers to work on analyzing and writing articles; if you'd like to see more info in these articles, please volunteer!

Oakland City Council, District 2 Nikki Fortunato Bas

Oakland's District 2 includes San Antonio, neighborhoods by Lake Merritt, and Chinatown. Nikki Fortunato Bas is the current City Councilmember. She is a major part (along with Carroll Fife) of the left/liberal bloc in the City Council—the major opposition to the pro-developer politics centered around Mayor Libby Schaaf.

Her major work has focused on affordable housing and expanded mental health programs. As to the first, she helped lead the vote for an eviction moratorium during the pandemic. She has advocated for expansion of community land trusts, creation of community owned affordable housing, and programs to support the homeless. As to the second, she headed the task force on reimagining public safety, including a tripling of funds for public mental health services.

She has been a strong advocate for immigrant rights. She helped put Measure T, the proposed progressive business tax, on the current ballot. Representing Chinatown, she has been outspoken on the potential impact of the Howard Terminal project and against the complete developer plan advocated by Oakland A's owner John Fisher. While she may fall short of what some Greens hope for in a complete rejection of the project, she clearly opposes the proposed giveaway.

Ms. Bas has supported hazard pay for grocery workers and has a background in organizing garment workers in Chinatown. Thus, it is no surprise she has strong labor backing, including the Alameda Central Labor Council and its municipal unions (such as SEIU 1021). She has served as a director of the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy and has support from groups such as Rise Up. She has also been endorsed by East Bay DSA.

Her only opponent, who entered the race very late, is Harold Lowe, a financial planner working for Frontier Wealth Strategies. Outside of chairing the oversight committee for Measure G, the earlier parcel measure to raise funds for Oakland schools, he seems to have no real public record.

The choice is obvious, not simply because her opponent seems of little consequence, but more importantly because she has provided leadership on some of the most critical issues Oakland is facing—affordable housing and reprioritizing funds for public safety. Vote for Nikki Fortunato Bas for City Council, District 2.

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City Offices & Measures: Oakland

Oakland City Council, District 4 Janani Ramachandran (preferred but not endorsed)

Oakland District 4 (with its new boundaries) includes affluent neighborhoods like Montclair and Redwood Heights and more middle/lower income areas such as Glenview, Laurel and Dimond. The seat is up for grabs (with Sheng Tao stepping down to run for mayor), but there are only two contestants: Janani Ramachandran and Nenna Joiner.

We know Janani from her 2021 special election race for District 18, State Assembly, when we supported her campaign. She has an impressive background, having served as a commissioner on the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission, working for Central Legal de la Raza supporting immigrant workers, and being involved in family violence programs supporting survivors of abuse. Her program emphasizes affordable housing (including using publicly owned land), programs for the homeless (safe tiny housing, pathways to permanent housing, and comprehensive mental health), more programs for parks and public space, fire safety, and violence prevention (such as community policing and the MACRO program).

Her opposition to the Howard Terminal stadium project had been a hallmark of her state assembly contest, but recently she has softened that stance, while maintaining a call for community benefits. Thus, her labor support includes not only the Labor Council and the municipal unions (SEIU 1021 and IFTPE) but most of the building trades. She is also backed by the Democratic liberal establishment, ranging from Ro Khana to the Wellstone Club. She is also endorsed by ACCE, the Oakland Tenants Union, and Our Revolution.

Her only opponent, Nenna Joiner, has a curious background, operating a sex shop, Feelmore Adult Gallery. She was introduced by Mayor Libby Schaaf to Joe Biden as one of Oakland's "up-and-coming entrepreneurs." While we agree in legalizing and protecting sex workers, Ms Joiner, takes this concern to advocate for much stronger street safety, making her sound more like a "law and order" candidate. There seems little else of substance in her program.

While this is a non-partisan race, we cannot but help note Ramachandran's involvement in the county's Democratic Committee and her links to most of the Bonta, liberal Democratic Party establishment. In addition, her wavering on her stand around Howard Terminal is a clear retreat. Thus, despite her outstanding record and her advocacy on key progressive issues, we state our preference for her in this race, but not our endorsement.

Oakland City Council, District 6 No endorsement

Four candidates will be on the ballot, contesting for the District 6 City Council seat; however, none of them is clearly better than the others, and we have concerns with each of them. Two filled out our questionnaire, Kenneth Sessions and Nancy Sidebotham. Sidebotham has been very involved in her local community and strongly opposes the A's stadium/ Howard Terminal project. However, she opposes a municipal ID card, is against raising the minimum wage, and she wants to increase the police force, so we can't endorse her.

Although Sessions did return our questionnaire, he did not answer many of the questions and did not indicate any background with government, elections, or politics, not even at the community or neighborhood level. He said he doesn't have any endorsements and as we go to press, he doesn't have a campaign website. He wrote he'd need "tutoring on how to interpret the budget," he wants to hire more police officers, and he's opposed to extending the Just Cause law, so we can't endorse him either.

The two candidates who did not return our questionnaire do have campaign websites, but both of those unfortunately lack solid answers on how to tackle our City's urgent needs. Yakpasua Zazaboi's website has sections on Homelessness, Clean Neighborhoods, and Economic Growth & Development, but none of those sections have clear and specific ideas on how he'd address those issues, and most of the important issues we asked about in our questionnaire are not addressed at all.

Similarly, Kevin Jenkins' website also doesn't address most of the important issues in our questionnaire and it lacks workable, specific ideas for most of the four issues that are on his website. In addition, according to the City's campaign finance page, Jenkins is the only candidate who has raised over \$2,000 as of June 30 (the last reporting date available as we go to press).

However, his form 460 report shows that the significant majority of his money comes from OUTSIDE of Oakland— at least \$20,350 of his \$32,310 was from outside of the City and for donations of \$200 or more (which make up over 87 percent of his \$32,310 total), at least 72 percent was from outside of Oakland. So if you don't like how Jenkins is financing his campaign, then rank all three of the other candidates in whatever order you prefer (or even randomly), since if a majority of voters do that, one of those other three will then become our next District 6 Councilmember.

Oakland City Auditor Courtney Ruby

Courtney Ruby is running for a fourth term as City Auditor. We appreciate that she responded to our questionnaire, despite having no opposition. She wrote, "It is an honor to be elected to hold Oakland's government accountable for the residents of Oakland." Ruby and her team conduct audits to critically scrutinize the effectiveness, efficiency and compliance with the law of City programs, departments or operations. Follow-up audits are done to see if problems have been remedied.

During the past four years, Ruby's audits have focused on some of the most critical issues facing our city government, such as homelessness, police reform, fire prevention, and government finance. Recent audit reports on homelessness services were welcomed by homeless people and advocates. Ruby also looks at the spending on development projects. For example, her audit of the Fox Theater project revealed the renovation cost of \$91 million "had ballooned by \$58 million without adequate oversight or accountability." Ruby answered some of our questions about future development, including the A's proposed project at Howard Terminal by saying: "I must be independent in fact and appearance regarding all issues that could potentially fall under the purview of the Auditor's office."

Ruby notes that the Office of the City Auditor is the independent watchdog over the other branches of City Government, but not independently funded. "It is a conflict of interest that the City Council appropriates funding for the City Auditor's office," she wrote. She explains that the number, risk, and complexity of mandated audits have outstripped the capacity of the Auditor's office. Measure X, the City's Charter Amendment on the November ballot would establish a minimum staffing level. If passed, Measure X would provide additional oversight capacity that would help to resolve challenges the city is facing.

To those who may see City problems but are afraid to report them, Ruby emphasizes that the Auditor is obligated to fully protect whistleblowers.

Oakland Measure H Yes, with parcel tax reservations Renewal of funding for schools

Measure H is another parcel tax measure to aid the Oakland schools. It is a continuation of a similar measure, passed over a decade ago. We supported the previous assessment, with our usual critique of parcel taxes.

It provides for a \$120 per parcel tax for 14 years, without increasing the initial tax rate, adding an annual cost of living adjustment, providing exemptions for seniors and specified low income individuals, and having independent oversight and audits. Many Oakland schools already utilize and depend on the funds from the original measure.

Measure H is supported by the Oakland Education Association (the teacher's union). Vote YES on measure H.

Oakland Measure Q Yes, with bond reservations Authorizes low rent social housing units

This measure results from a requirement established at the state level that requires voter approval (50 percent +1) to allow municipalities to float bonds for any housing expansion. This item, together with measure U, will provide \$850 million as the first step to "develop, construct, or acquire, or assist the development of," up to 13,000 low rent social housing units.

While we always assert our critique of bond offerings being generally regressive, we also make decisions based on the moneys' use. While there are concerns that even with the state guidelines, for the extremely low and very low seeming "affordable" designations, the low criteria is at around \$55,000 annual income for a one person household, with many excluded.

Nonetheless, most any measure to build low rent housing is essential. It is also true that this money could be used to acquire already existing units as well as new housing. Again this should not prevent our support.

Measure Q is endorsed by East Bay DSA and local housing coalitions. In our research, the only opposition we found was from a conservative anti-tax group. Vote YES on measure Q.

Oakland Measure R – YES Gender neutral language

Measure R is a clear Yes. This measure will replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral language in the Oakland City Charter. For example, instead of using the pronoun "he" to refer to the Mayor, the City Charter would use "the Mayor" or "they." In essence, this measure replaces outdated language that was based on gender stereotypes. It also updates language to be inclusive of non-binary individuals who do not identify as male or female. These changes are consistent with the Green Party's platform of supporting the equality of all people, regardless of gender.

Oakland Measure S - YES Voting for school board for non-citizens with children under 18

This is an obvious measure to support. It provides for access to voting for all parents/community non-citizens in Oakland school board elections. Many non citizen community activists are already heavily involved in Oakland school issues, such as the struggle against school closures. Federal law does not prohibit non-citizens from voting in state and local elections. Court decisions have ruled that access to public education is a right, regardless of citizenship status.

Many towns and cities have proposed and even passed such progressive measures. At a time when voting rights and immigrant rights are under attack in many regions and states in the U.S., this is an obvious response, advocating an expansion of democratic rights.

It is endorsed by a wide range of community groups such as Parent Voices Oakland and the East Bay Asian Youth Center. The negative argument is again provided by reactionaries of the local tax association. Vote YES on Measure S!

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).

City Measures: Oakland

Oakland Measure W

continued from page 1

up to the special interest groups, corporations, and billionaires who represent a tiny and non-representative portion of the city, but who dominate political donations and who know that they, by throwing in an obscene amount of money for oversized glossies full of misinformation, will have a statistically 77 percent chance of defeating Measure W.

Allow candidates to focus on what Oakland voters want, not what big money wants. Vote YES on the Oakland Fair Elections Act.

Oakland Measure T Yes, with reservations Progressive business tax

Measure T, the progressive business tax measure, is the product of the old “legislative sausage” process. This began with a much more progressive taxation campaign envisioned, the project being spearheaded by East Bay DSA, as a grassroots, signature gathering effort. As it ‘progressed’, there were negotiations with the more liberal city council members (Fife, Bass, and Kaplan) attempting to prevent a major fight back from the Oakland business community and lessen the increased rates. Following this, a majority on the city council put it on the ballot; this had major backing from the Alameda Central Labor Council, especially from SEIU 1021 and IFTPE, (both are in negotiations with the city).

The result is still a progressive tax on larger businesses in the city (though the rates have been ratcheted down, hence our reservations), and by extension, it also provides relief for smaller businesses who currently pay a disproportionate amount in taxation.

The Chamber of Commerce has agreed not to oppose the measure, but it is not clear whether larger Oakland-based corporations, like Clorox, will follow suit. In addition to unions, the measure is backed by a range of progressive groupings, including Oakland Rising and East Bay DSA.

Oakland Measure U Yes, with bond reservations Infrastructure Bond

This measure would allow the city to issue bonds of up to \$850 million for affordable housing, street improvements, and updating of city facilities. Specifically, the measure estimates that \$350 million would be allocated to construct, purchase and/or rehabilitate public housing; \$290 million would be allocated to repave streets, build sidewalks and other infrastructure to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety; and \$210 million to construct, improve and rehabilitate city facilities such as parks, fire and police stations, and libraries. Use of Measure U funds would be subject to an annual audit and oversight by the Affordable Housing & Infrastructure Bond Public Oversight Committee. In essence, Measure U is a continuation of the work started through Oakland’s 2016 Measure KK, another bond measure focused on housing, streets, and city facilities; through Measure KK, the city was able to construct, rehabilitate, or acquire and convert over 1,400 affordable housing units, and fulfill much of the city’s Three Year Pavement Plan.

Given that Oakland is one of the most expensive housing markets in the country and the number of residents who are currently unhoused, further investment in affordable housing is urgently needed. Investments in repaving streets

and infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists are also needed to create a safer environment that encourages use of active forms of transportation. Yet, as described in a report prepared by the city’s Director of Finance and presented to the council in July, the city currently lacks the funds to fully implement its plans to address these issues. Of course, we would rather see the city find another way to fund this work instead of issuing bonds (see page 2 for more about the Alameda Green Party’s concerns about bonds). However, there is no other funding mechanism being proposed, and investments in affordable housing, in particular, are urgently needed. As a result, we are recommending a Yes vote on Measure U.

Oakland Measure V - YES Just Cause

For measure V, only an argument in favor was officially submitted, and we agree with that argument and have extracted several of its key points, as follows: Just Cause for eviction is a basic protection for tenants, meaning that, if a landlord wants to evict, they must show a valid reason. Under Just Cause’s existing law, landlords cannot evict for an arbitrary reason, or no reason at all.

Measure V adds protections for school children and educators so that there won’t be evictions during the school year, so as to minimize disruption. And it will keep more students housed in Oakland. Also, evictions are linked to worse health outcomes, lower school achievement, and increased homelessness.

Requiring Just Cause for Eviction is the best defense against discrimination, retaliation, harassment, and displacement. It makes it harder for landlords to evict merely because the tenant asked for repairs or if the landlord only wants to rent to tenants of a certain race. Of course, property owners can still move into their unit if they choose. Essentially, a landlord who wants to evict must state in writing their reasons, and the tenant has the right to dispute that in court.

Vote YES on Measure V.

Oakland Measure X – YES Term Limits, etc.

This Measure makes numerous, largely minor changes to the City Charter that have the potential to modestly improve city governance and functioning. First, there are currently no term limits for councilmembers and this measure would set a limit of three consecutive terms. As noted in the measure, this change could create more opportunities for new candidates to run and be elected for open seats, since running against incumbents can otherwise be an insurmountable barrier.

Second, the measure would also eliminate a loophole that prevents the Mayor from casting a tie-breaking vote on the council. Currently, councilmembers who oppose a measure that would otherwise receive a 4-4 vote in the council can simply abstain from voting to create a 4-3 vote, which kills the measure instead of allowing the Mayor to cast a vote to break the tie. Measure X would close this loophole by counting abstentions and absences as a “no” vote strictly for the purpose of determining whether the Mayor can cast a tie-breaking vote on a measure.

Third, the measure would require the city council to hold a minimum of two public hearings on proposed ballot measures relating to property taxes, bonds, or changes to the City Charter before they are placed on the ballot. This requirement would allow for more public input on the proposed text of ballot measures, which could help Oakland

voters avoid having to vote on poorly written and/or deeply flawed measures. The measure also includes several changes relating to the City Auditor, including clarifying the duties of this position, setting minimum qualifications, prohibiting them from endorsing candidates for most city offices, and requiring the city to budget for at least 14 full-time staff in this office. It would also allow the Public Ethics Commission to adjust the salaries of councilmembers, the city auditor, and the city attorney, with the stated goal of making them competitive with similar positions within the city and across the region. There are several other minor changes that, while too numerous to note, seem logical. In all, this measure appears to be a positive step toward encouraging fresh faces to run for office, allowing for public input on proposed ballot measures, and improving processes for city governance.

Oakland Measure Y - NO Zoo parcel tax

Measure Y is another money grab by the Conservation Society of California, a private non-profit that runs the Oakland Zoo. The measure would impose a \$68 per year parcel tax on homeowners and other property owners in Oakland. The measure would require an annual increase in the tax based on inflation. The Conservation Society, formerly the East Bay Zoological Society, has received tens of millions of dollars from the City over the last decades while managing the property in Knowland Park. In 2002 the City voters approved Measure G which gave the Society \$23 million for the expansion that was recently completed at a total cost of \$70 million. In 2012 the Conservation Society placed a measure on the Alameda County ballot that would have placed a parcel tax on every property in the County with homeowners being charged \$12 per year. Unlike the current proposal Measure A1 did not have an annual cost of living increase, and the total amount of funds collected was less. And unlike Measure A1, the current Measure Y will place the burden for maintaining a facility used by residents of the region only on Oakland residents. Measure A1 lost, but now the Society is back with an even bigger money grab.

In 2014 the City Council voted to give the Society 53 acres of Knowland Park property for the purpose of implementing a conservation easement for the benefit of local wildlife, specifically the Alameda whip snake which is a threatened species. The Easement was a requirement for the expansion of the Zoo footprint further into Knowland Park. Normally a developer would have to pay for such lands, but the Conservation Society paid nothing, except the promise to complete the implementation of the easement, along with funding the endowment to guarantee the costs of long-term management of the lands. The Conservation Easement was required to be put in place by June 2016, but it still has not been completed. The Conservation Society has a history of not fulfilling its legal responsibilities, like its ongoing failures to provide accounting to the City for its use of City funds.

Add to all of this that the Zoo is confining wild animals in artificial habitats, that do little to help with the long-term conservation of species. Most of all this is a highly regressive tax that impacts those least able to afford it, the most. Multi-million dollar homes in the hills will pay no more than those in the flatlands. Vote No on Measure Y!

Register Green by November 30

If you are not already a registered Green, or if you changed Party preference to vote in the Primary, please be sure to register Green! To remind yourself, resolve that you’ll register Green by no later than the end of November. It’s important to let the corrupt Corporate Parties know that you don’t approve of their many policy failures and the unconscionable actions they have taken—recently as well as over the past decades.

In addition to officially being counted as valuing the corporate-free politics of peace, justice and ecology by registering Green, you will also help us maintain our status as a California ballot-qualified political party. You can register online at: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. Postage-paid voter registration cards are available for free at most libraries and post offices.

Please remember to register Green as soon as you can, or at least by November 30!

Green Sundays

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

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

Where: During the pandemic, we’ve be on Zoom.
(We will likely return to meeting in-person sometime in 2023).

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



AC Transit, At-Large Alfred Twu

The AC Transit Board has two At-Large Directors who represent the many cities and various unincorporated areas in western Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. These seats are on the ballot in different years. This year we endorse the challenger, Alfred Twu, an architect, designer, artist, and Berkeley Planning Commissioner. In the At-Large race, only Twu returned our questionnaire.

Twu, not a car-owner, is a user and advocate of public transit. He has worked with organizations such as Seamless Bay Area, Walk/Bike Berkeley, and East Bay Transit Riders Union on illustrations, infographics, board games, and other efforts to promote and improve transit. As an architect, he has worked on transit facilities and transit-oriented affordable housing. He supports development of housing and workplaces near transit. He has working relationships with community and elected leaders in cities, other transit agencies, and at the state-level. Twu is not taking corporate or corporate PAC money. He signed the No Fossil Fuel Money pledge.

Twu points out that public transit is at a crossroads, with the pandemic, climate change, and the shift in city planning to reflect less use of individual cars. In the next few years, we will see whether public transit can succeed, or will enter a downward spiral. One of Twu's top priorities is to coordinate bus, BART, and bikes. Other priorities include continuing hazard pay for employees, more zero-emission buses, especially in neighborhoods with more air pollution, more service in low-income areas – where people are more likely to have no other transportation option and must get to work. Twu will work for equity in funding, since bus transit gets fewer per-passenger subsidies than rail and ferry. He supports free bus pass pilot programs and the new BayPass all-agency pass program. He does not mention the goal of zero fares for everyone, which some cities in the US and around the world have instituted.

Twu has a long list of endorsers from across the AC Transit District, including AC Transit Directors Jovanka Beckles and Jean Walsh, other local and state elected officials, transit advocacy groups, and community organizations.

Joel Young, incumbent, did not return the Green Party questionnaire. Young has served more than 3 terms on the AC Transit Board as an At-Large Director. He was appointed by the AC Transit Board in February 2009 to fill one of the District's At-Large positions (after Rebecca Kaplan resigned). He ran for a full term in 2010, with praiseworthy plans, but that was the last time that Greens endorsed him. As we go to press, Young does not list any endorsements on his website.

Young has made some missteps during his time at AC Transit. His past questionable actions speak for themselves. Young was censured by the AC Transit Board in 2013, after he used information only the Directors and legal staff are privy to for non-AC Transit work in his law practice. In 2011, he reportedly struck his ex-girlfriend in the face after she caught him cheating. In 2014 and 2018 Greens endorsed Dollene Jones' challenge to Young. Jones, a retired bus operator who frequented AC Transit Board meetings, knew AC Transit policy and presented ideas for improving AC Transit for employees and riders. The incumbent, however, held on to his seat.

This year, we again encourage you to vote for the challenger, Alfred Twu.

AC Transit, Ward 3 Sarah Syed (preferred, but not endorsed)

Two candidates are on the ballot for the Ward 3 seat, Sarah Syed and Stewart Chen. We have a preference for Syed, but are not able to endorse because we were short-handed in having enough volunteers to adequately assess this race.

Syed has Master's degrees in city planning and transportation engineering from UC-Berkeley. On her website she says she's spent her career "building light rail and better bicycle access in the Bay Area at BART and in Silicon Valley. I led bus rapid transit planning in Los Angeles and"... at the "Othering and Belonging Institute at UC-Berkeley I help communities have their voices heard in planning and evaluate transportation equity grant programs."

Chen is president of the Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council and was also appointed to the AC Transit Parcel Tax Oversight committee. He is a chiropractor, and previously was elected to the City of Alameda Healthcare District and to the City Council.

In their questionnaire responses, Syed had more specific answers to several of the questions we asked. For example, in evaluating bus rapid transit (BRT), she wrote, "Tempo is a fantastic transit project that is bringing faster, more reliable service to the people who use it. Riders benefit from 5- to 10-minute headways throughout the day, bus-only lanes, off-board fare payment, all-door boarding, and comfortable, canopied stations," whereas Chen only noted that he's seen "the improvements and understand also the need for better changes; I agree changes have been positive but we can do better."

Similarly, Syed's answers about AC Transit perhaps developing a zero- or super low-emission fleet and also how they might accommodate the loss of parking at the Ashby and North Berkeley BART stations shows a much greater awareness of specific factors that impact these questions. And finally, when we asked about emerging technologies, Syed responded that, "There is a lot we can do right now with the tools that we have while keeping an eye to the future. Rather than racing to be the first to deploy some new technology, we should instead focus on mundane mobility solutions that actually work. I think it is time for some cheap and boring transportation solutions," and gave us examples of why "fixed route bus service is the most efficient way of providing transit service to most communities."

Sarah Syed's questionnaire answers show she is better qualified to serve, hence our preference for her, but due to a shortage of volunteers to adequately assess other aspects of this race, we're unfortunately not able to make a formal endorsement here. Please help us alleviate this shortage by volunteering!

AC Transit, Ward 4 Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, San Lorenzo and portions of Hayward and San Leandro Barisha Spriggs

We endorse Barisha Spriggs, a transit rider/advocate and community leader in Ward 4, where she has lived for more than 30 years. She is supported by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 192, which represents AC Transit bus operators, mechanics, and other workers. She is also endorsed by AC Transit Director Jovanka Beckles, elected in 2020. ATU endorsed Beckles then, as did Greens. For many months during the pandemic, ATU workers and allies fought for hazard back pay. ATU finally won "appreciation pay" and other gains in their new contract earlier this year.

In March 2022, Spriggs applied to fill a vacant Ward 4 seat on the AC Transit Board. She was not selected by the Board. If elected now, she will be another strong Board voice for working people.

Spriggs hasn't owned a car for a long time, and relies on AC Transit every day, many times in combination with other forms of public transportation such as BART. In her questionnaire Spriggs wrote that "People deserve justice, and justice includes fair and equitable access to public transportation. As a bus rider in a working-class Brown and Black community with many essential workers, I want to make sure riders who depend on AC Transit have healthy, well-connected communities." She notes that new modes of transport such as electric bikes, bike share, and point-to-point carshare can help fill in gaps in transit service, but "Ward 4 does not have these kinds of services like Oakland and Berkeley."

Spriggs's transit policy experience includes organizing with TransForm, and joining with the Bay Area League of Women Voters to observe meetings of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the AC Transit Board. Spriggs catalyzed the \$2 million Emergency Repave of Ashland and the \$20 million Ashland East 14th Street Phase II Corridor Improvement Project. Transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists now have a safe and accessible commercial corridor. The street has expanded bus boarding platforms, new bus shelters, safer sidewalks/crosswalks, adequate street lights, and bike lanes. Because there is less car usage, these projects reduce AC Transit's carbon footprint.

Ms. Spriggs supports public transit that is reliable, accessible, equitable, affordable, union-friendly, and sustainable. Spriggs aims to obtain additional funding to hire more employees and restore service to pre-pandemic levels. She will work to reduce AC Transit's carbon footprint to slow

the effects of climate change. She will work to keep fares low with quality customer service. Further, she supports a fare-free system and free transfers, adding since California "is the fifth richest economy in the world, with political will, it can happen."

In addition to ATU 192 and Jovanka Beckles, Spriggs is endorsed by Alameda Labor Council, BART Directors Liz Ames and Lateefah Simon, Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle, and many elected officials in Hayward, San Leandro and Oakland.

Murphy McCalley was appointed to the AC Transit Board Ward 4 seat in May 2022, becoming an incumbent for the November election. McCalley replaced Mark Williams who stepped down. Now retired, McCally spent his entire 30+ year work life in public transit. He was employed at two transit agencies in Southern California, serving as CFO in both. He then became a nationwide consultant specializing in public transit finance..

McCalley grew up in the East Bay in a family that did not own a car and only used AC Transit. He grew up in a blue collar/union household, and he can appreciate and respect the work of organized labor. Now he lives in Castro Valley, where the nearest AC Transit bus stop is a few miles away, so he drives to get to the closest public transit. He wants to represent Ward 4 because the community is underserved. He wrote, "AC Transit will need to think outside of the box in providing the transit services demanded," such as "last mile" service. He explained, "AC Transit implemented the Flex service, which had limited success. I would like AC Transit to reexamine its Flex service to see if it can be structured to work better."

Regarding the "new normal" post covid, AC Transit needs to adjust to new travel patterns and demand. McCalley wrote, "Low income, transit dependent riders should be afforded a level of service that matches their demand." He supports low fares for elderly and low income people. What's needed is "Funding, funding and more funding." McCalley is endorsed by AC Transit Board Members Elsa Ortiz, Joel Young, and Christian Peeples; Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, San Leandro Councilmember Deborah Cox, Hayward Council Member Sara Lamnin, and the Sierra Club.

Spriggs's endorsements were the deciding factor for us, especially that of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 192. Please vote for Barisha Spriggs for AC Transit, Ward 4.

AC Transit, Ward 5 Fremont, Newark, Union City, parts of Hayward Diane Shaw (unopposed, not on the ballot)

Diane Shaw was first elected in 2018, and is now running for re-election. Greens endorse her. But because she is unopposed, this race will not appear on the ballot, an option taken by special districts to avoid paying the Alameda County Registrar of Voters for ballot presence.

Shaw is a retired Bay Area transit manager, working in IT. She was involved in all aspects of bus transportation from finance, operations, scheduling and planning to inventory and maintenance of equipment. While working, she was a long-time bus commuter. Now she sometimes rides in all parts of the system to better understand the routes and to talk to riders. In her questionnaire, Shaw wrote, "I would ride [the bus] more if it came closer to my house but they took the stop away in our neighborhood ten years ago." An accomplishment during her first term is increased service in her area. "AC Transit is part of the community. People now know who AC Transit is."

Shaw wants AC Transit to "adapt our service to where the riders want to go." She envisions a transit system in the Bay Area that is linked together and can be used by all. She calls for AC Transit to be "environmentally smart" and "move towards our clean air standards...We need to work with our labor partners to identify how we can introduce emerging technologies." She recommends that AC Transit partner with other agencies that serve people looking for work to encourage job seekers to consider employment with AC Transit. Regarding fares, Shaw wrote, "we should be providing free transportation to all students under 22 as they are our next generation of riders."

The only other endorsement Shaw sought and received is that of the Sierra Club.

Special Districts: BART, EBMUD

BART, District 4 No endorsement (Not on the ballot)

Robert Raburn is running unopposed for BART Board District 4. He has a mixed history as an incumbent, and sent an email that he was too occupied with other duties to respond to our questionnaire. Raburn's actions on the BART Board will depend to a certain extent on who wins the other seats, so we'll focus our write-up on the other Alameda County seat up for election—District 6.

BART, District 6 Lance Nishihira

Lance Nishihira: Of the three registered candidates for BART Board of Directors, District 6, Lance Nishihira has the longest list of professional qualifications, experience, and training, centered around progressive ideals that would prepare him for success on the BART Board. More importantly, his answers to our lengthy questionnaire, along with his substantial list of endorsements from colleagues on numerous boards also show a greater ability to work with others on challenging issues to move things forward. BART definitely has its challenging issues, and needs someone that can work with others to make needed progress. Based on the history of the candidates, their responses, what they've done, and who supports them, this is a pretty clear and easy decision to support Lance Nishihira for the BART Board.

Liz Ames first ran for the BART Board four years ago to fill an open seat. After serving one term, the majority of Board members with whom Ames served endorse her opponent, Lance Nishihira. Anu Natarajan, the candidate we supported four years ago, endorses Ames' opponent Lance Nishihira. Among local elected officials, the majority who have endorsed in this race support Ames' opponent Lance Nishihira.

Ames campaigns for change, but takes credit for or lists as campaign priorities projects that BART has had in the works before Ames was elected. Other stated campaign priorities haven't changed from her original campaign four years ago. We wrote four years ago that such vague campaign pledges came across as platitudes – easy comments to make when running for office, but with no real plan on how to make them happen. We see a major contradiction between Ames' main pledge to hold costs down, while promising more resources for a long list of things that riders/voters would like, but especially emphasizing more resources for police and security. We would all like things to be better on BART; it's easy to come up with lists of things we would like to see improved. It's harder to come up with real solutions. As stated, the majority of improved security measures that Ames calls for have been in the works and in development since before Ames was elected. Ironically, Ames pledges accountability, fiscal responsibility, and to keep personnel costs down, but also pledges increased resources mainly for police. It's not clear how she intends to do this, and most elected officials endorse someone else. Her vague promises did get her the endorsement of the head of the police union – not the most progressive voice for change or fiscal accountability. The more progressive vote for real change is for her opponent, Lance Nishihira. Shyam Chetal returned the questionnaire, but his responses, while friendly, were extremely limited, and don't reflect much thought about the issues.

EBMUD (East Bay Municipal Utilities District) Ward 3: Marguerite Young Ward 4: Andy Katz (unopposed, not on the ballot) Ward 7: Matt Turner

East Bay MUD, as it is fondly called (or EBMUD for short), is governed by a seven-member board of directors, elected by wards. In addition to providing water service to over two million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, EBMUD provides wastewater treatment to parts of Northern Alameda and Western Contra Costa County through its "Special District 1" (or "SD1" for short) governed by the same board of directors

This year, Wards 2 (Central Contra Costa County), 3 (parts of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties), 4 (parts of western Alameda and Contra Costa Counties), and 7 (mostly southern areas of Alameda County – and a bit of San Ramon) are up for election. (See: <https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/board-directors/your-board-members> for map.)

Two seats with incumbent directors are uncontested and won't be on the ballot: Ward 2 (John Coleman) and Ward 4 (Andy Katz). A third incumbent, Frank Mellon, has not sought reelection, so that seat is open.

The Issues

Water supply is a perennial issue for EBMUD. While supply is now adequate, climate change is creating problems by decreasing snowpack in the Sierra, where most of EBMUD's water comes from. That means more water will arrive sooner—as rain. Also, if Bay Area population continues to expand (as the State is predicting) more water may be needed. How future water supply is addressed—both for storage and for flood control—is a long-term issue that's likely to be expensive and contentious. It could mean more sharing with other districts, more groundwater storage shared with Central Valley farmers ("conjunctive use"), or expanded surface storage (more or higher dams).

The flip-sides of water supply are water conservation and recycled water use. Both would reduce the need for added supply. EBMUD has been a leader in both, but they can get expensive and, if recycled drinking water is involved, controversial.

Sea level rise is another looming climate change issue. Most of SD1's facilities are along the Bay shoreline and will be increasingly subject to flooding. Whether to protect or move these facilities will be a major issue.

Finally, disaster preparedness is a biggie for EBMUD. Earthquakes can damage pipelines. Wildfires can threaten local reservoirs and could start in EBMUD's extensive forested watershed areas. Preparedness costs money, but may prevent even bigger losses.

The Races

Ward 3: Marguerite Young (incumbent) vs. Mark Seedal): Marguerite Young is seeking her third 4-year term. She has run as a pro-environment candidate and is endorsed by the Sierra Club and East Bay League of Conservation Voters as well as by major labor unions, local elected officials, and fellow EBMUD directors. In her questionnaire response she emphasizes her support for protecting the Mokulumne River (EBMUD's main water supply) as a wild and scenic river. She also points to an increased rate of replacing old pipelines, expanding EBMUD's customer assistance to low-income households, promoting anti-racist policies, and having EBMUD become carbon-neutral by 2030.

On water supply, she supports continuing to expand EBMUD's water conservation and recycling programs, as well as its conjunctive use and interties with other water suppliers. She feels EBMUD does well at managing its watershed for water supply, wildlife habitat, and fire protection. On SD1, she would like to continue improving the system's efficiency and protecting its facilities from sea level rise.

Mark Seedal (ballot designation – "water utility planner") is making his first run for this board seat. His questionnaire responses emphasize wanting to increase the rate of pipeline replacement while keeping rate increases below the inflation rate. He does not explain how he will accomplish these two potentially inconsistent goals, other than by making EBMUD's operations more efficient. He has been endorsed by one San Leandro City Council member, Fred Simon (outside of his ward).

He would like to see EBMUD put more emphasis on using recycled water to both increase supply and reduce wastewater flows to the Bay. (However, disposing of removed salts and solids can be problematic, and costs can be high.) He also wants to increase recreational use of EBMUD watershed lands. (Again, this would come with increased costs for rangers.) He favors simplifying EBMUD's rate structure, but provided no details.

Overall, Mr. Seedal's responses were vague, while Ms. Young's were clear and addressed EBMUD's future needs in an environmentally sensitive way. The Green Party recommends Ms. Young.

Ward 4 (Andy Katz [incumbent] unopposed): While Mr. Katz will not be on the ballot, he did provide a questionnaire response, which was both responsive and well thought out. He has been a consistent supporter of environmentally sensitive management as well as supporting progressing work policies for EBMUD. If he were on the ballot, the Green Party would be supporting him.

Ward 7 (no incumbent running): April Chan, Corina Lopez, and Matt Turner: April Chan (ballot designation "small business owner") did not return her candidate questionnaire. He campaign website (<https://vote4aprilchan.com>), in addition to listing Congressman Eric Swalwell, includes another page with over 30 local endorsers, including four current EBMUD board members (including current incumbent Frank Mellon) and Supervisor Nate Miley. Her campaign website provides minimal information on her platform, except she appears to support protecting EBMUD's water supply and affordability while addressing climate change. She currently chairs the Fairview Municipal Advisory Council.

Corina Lopez (ballot designation "councilmember/businesswoman") is currently in her second term as a San Leandro City Council member. (She will be termed out from that office in December.) She also is an elected member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee and vice-chair of East Bay Community Energy (a local joint powers agency for electricity delivery in the East Bay). She did provide a questionnaire response. Her responses emphasize her experience as an elected official. She says she has extensive local endorsers, but none are yet listed on her campaign website (<https://www.corinalopez.com/>). She supports expanding EBMUD's "purple pipe" recycled water distribution system. She would also like to see EBMUD increase its replacement of ailing infrastructure and improve its links to other water agencies. She wants to work with local jurisdictions to ensure that new construction has a "net zero" water use. She also wants to clarify and simplify EBMUD's rebate programs. She wants to make continuation of seismic upgrades to dams and other facilities a major priority.

Matt Turner (ballot designation "public advocacy consultant") is making his second run for this EBMUD board seat. (In his first run he lost to the current incumbent.) He did provide a questionnaire response. He has a campaign website, <https://votemattturner.com>, but it is currently under construction. His questionnaire response includes an extensive list of local endorsers, including notably Supervisor Nate Miley, who also apparently endorsed competing candidate April Chan.

Like the other candidates, his responses emphasize the importance of addressing climate change. However his responses were more specific. He points to the need to expand EBMUD's use of conjunctive use in the Central Valley to improve resiliency, as well as promoting stormwater reclamation in the East Bay. He would also expand the "horizontal levee" project along the East Bay shoreline to address sea level rise. He also notes that with rising temperature and the prospect of prolonged droughts, improved forestry management in EBMUD's watershed lands, especially in the Sierra, has increased importance.

On rates, he feels that EBMUD's current rate structure sends "price signals" more effectively than most water districts, but would like to establish a means-tested "zero tier" for low income households that would eliminate fixed charges and thereby send more effective price signals to reduce water use, noting that low income households are most sensitive to price signals. He opposes installing "smart meters," like those used by PG&E, because meter readers provide on-the-ground assessments of local conditions in the District. Each of the three candidates has their strengths, and apparently many local endorsements, which suggests they have all been around politically for a while. All also show some past involvement with water-related issues. Mr. Turner's responses did show more detailed awareness of EBMUD's environmental issues and somewhat greater environmental sensitivity.

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>

East Bay Regional Park District, Ward 3

Daphne Lin, with reservations

Dennis Waespi, with reservations

Dennis Waespi, the incumbent, has been serving on the EBRPD Board since he was elected in November 2014. His East Bay Regional Park District experience is extensive, having worked at the EBRPD in a variety of positions since 1974. He also has a long history of local political participation including serving on the Boards of the Castro Valley Sanitary District; Hayward Area Recreation and Park District; Alameda County Waste Management Authority; Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling; as well as the Alameda County Parks, Recreation, and Historical Commission. Present roles include membership on the Alameda County Fire Advisory Commission and the Castro Valley Sanitary District Community Advisory Committee. Waespi did not return our questionnaire, but we can glean some of his attitudes and policy positions from recent public statements and appearances.

During the first half of 2021, the EBRPD Board was making headlines regarding a controversial policy that allowed staff to shoot feral cats as a tool to manage park lands ecosystems. Following public outcry against the policy, the Board shifted to working with local animal shelters and advocacy organizations to help spay, neuter, and relocate cats in sensitive wildlife areas. Staff is no longer allowed to kill cats themselves, rather the Board may outsource the killing to a third-party as needed. Following the vote, Waespi stated, "I think it will work because of the transparency, the reporting we're going to do, and the collaboration we have with very, very concerned, passionate people that do not want to kill cats, and that's not our goal either."

Another issue that is often brought to the Board's attention is how to balance disparate interests of trail users—hikers, bikers, equestrians, and users of electric vehicles. Waespi's view is that any solution must involve users sharing existing trails since building new trails is cost prohibitive. Waespi is enthusiastic about land acquisition and development of recreational facilities, with an eye toward connecting tracts currently owned by the District as opportunities arise.

Daphne Lin is an attorney with a focus on civil litigation

and employment law. A self-identified outsider to the political establishment, she acknowledged "while I may not have the same experience or knowledge in the ins and outs of the District as the incumbent, I make up for it by being a fast learner, having an open mind, and being able to provide a fresher perspective." She also stated, "I am an Asian American woman who will bring diversity to the Board."

Lin is motivated to run so she may push for some changes to current EBRPD Board practices and policies. She wants to change the District's "current inhumane policy of exterminating feral cats that live on park grounds, and make East Bay Regional Park District's policy-making process more transparent and more efficient."

On tension between various types of trail uses she observed "while the population continues to grow, trails and access to the parks have not. For example, with 73 parks and over 100,000 acres of open space, there is not a single bike-specific trail built in the entire district. I propose making the parks safer and more accessible by building separate bike-specific trails to prevent collisions with hikers, and allowing pedal-assist e-bikes so physically-challenged persons can enjoy riding in the parks." Lin believes the District's main purpose is to "preserve open lands against urban development, and provide venue for the public to enjoy nature and the outdoors." In doing so, the District "should focus more on the stewardship of existing land holdings because if it does not properly manage its existing land holdings, it cannot justify acquiring more land which often ends up being cheap grazing grounds for cattle ranchers." See her questionnaire for her responses on other policy areas.

Gina Lewis began her community service as an appointee to the Union City Park & Recreation Commission. Later that same year, she was appointed to the Executive Board of Directors for the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members, a statewide citizen organization. She has also been a member of the Kitayama Elementary School Site Council and District Council in New Haven Unified School District in Union City.

Despite multiple emails and phone calls, Lewis did not return our questionnaire so what little we can learn about her approach to serving on the EBRPD Board is taken from her website: "Representation matters. In the 88-year history of the district there has never been a Black woman appointed nor elected as a Director. Issues that affect us never make it to the table for discussion or inclusion." She also calls for "more sustainable 'best practices'" and greater "transparency in our dealings especially with employees." Unfortunately, we do not have any information about Lewis's

policy positions or specific practices and procedures she might raise with the Board if elected.

Our recommendation is to vote for either Daphne Lin or Dennis Waespi, with some reservations for both candidates. We like Lin's clear statement that District policy should be to not exterminate feral cats, since that is indeed the District's stated goal; and her willingness to bring new perspectives to harmonizing various trail-use types and other topics. On the other hand, her lack of experience and nuance with land management and wildlife issues may be a weakness until she gets up to speed. Waespi clearly has some know-how when it comes to navigating the regional political arena and connections with stakeholders, but at the same time his longevity may make him less willing to take a radical approach to solving important or long-standing problems in District lands. Unfortunately, Gina Lewis did not provide enough background for us to recommend her.

East Bay Regional Park District, Ward 5

Unfortunately, not on the ballot

Olivia Sanwong is the only candidate that filed to run for the seat. Sanwong was recently re-elected to the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors in the June primary, after first winning the seat in 2018. She has experience with EBRPD as a member of the Park Advisory Committee starting in 2016. Sanwong did not return our questionnaire, but in a press release she highlighted her campaign mission to "balance access to recreation activities with environmental stewardship and responsible financial management while also planning for extreme weather events."

Unfortunately, Alameda County does not print uncontested races for special districts on the ballot. Therefore, someone who was never elected to a particular office can be seated to it without the voters first having a chance weigh in on them. It would be better if the race appeared on the ballot so that the candidate could at least run against the write-in space rather than automatically taking office without a single voter approving of them filling that seat. At a minimum, voters would have an opportunity to see that a seat is being filled, and even perhaps to realize that they themselves could have filed to run for the seat!

In any case, this is the current state of (or lack of) democracy in Alameda County.

State Propositions

Proposition 1 - YES

Constitutional right to reproductive freedom

In the wake of the devastating *Dobbs* decision reversing *Roe v. Wade* and stripping women of their liberty, California voters will have an opportunity to vote this Fall on Proposition 1, which places protection for reproductive rights, specifically the right to abortion and contraception, into the state's constitution. Vermont will be voting on a similar measure this year.

The Proposition states in principal part: "The state shall not deny or interfere with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives." The provisions are stated to be in furtherance of the already existing right to privacy in the California Constitution.

Since 2002, a California statute, the Reproductive Privacy Act, has declared that "Every woman has a right to choose to bear a child or to choose and obtain an abortion... The state may not deny or interfere with a woman's right to choose or obtain an abortion prior to viability of the fetus, or when the abortion is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman." This is basically a codification of *Roe*, not ideal from a feminist standpoint, since it recognizes a state interest over women's bodies, yet still strongly protective of abortion rights. The same statute also provides that every individual has a right to choose or refuse birth control.

There is good reason to seek to amend the California Constitution to add explicit protection for abortion rights. The placement of rights in the California Constitution provides the maximum protection possible within the state, as a statute can be repealed by the legislature, and a decision by state Courts can be overturned. Though amending the California Constitution is far easier than federal Constitutional

amendments, it still requires a vote of the people (through voter initiative process or after approval by the legislature) rather than legislature action alone. However, federal law and federal court rulings could still potentially preempt or overturn state protections, so there is no substitute, even for women residing in California, for the federal government to restore legal abortion nationwide.

Greens have long supported women's reproductive rights including the right to safe, legal abortion regardless of age or marital status. From the Green Party national platform, "Women's right to control their bodies is non-negotiable. It is essential that the option of safe, legal abortion remains available... We endorse women's right to use contraception and, when they choose, to have an abortion."

Moreover, Proposition 1 seems on the face of it to provide even better protection for abortion rights than the statute, avoiding the pitfalls of *Roe* that allowed for a continuing erosion of access before its ultimate demise.

What is most unfortunate is the proposition's very poor and ambiguous wording that could potentially back-fire on women. Unlike the statute, women merit no mention in the proposition, the right to choose abortion belonging to an "individual." Could that be interpreted to mean that a husband or boyfriend or parent of the pregnant woman might have a say in the decision whether to have an abortion? Aren't they individuals? That may sound far-fetched but given the current political climate of rising misogyny and anti-feminist backlash, we can't take anything for granted. The decision to have an abortion belongs to the pregnant woman alone, no one else. That should have been spelled out.

However, putting reproductive rights into the state constitution has significant benefits for women in California, and despite these reservations, we urge a yes vote. We must not let the anti-woman anti-choice perspective gain any more victories.

Prop 26 - No Position

Legalizes sports betting at Indian casinos & racetracks

Prop 27 - NO

Legalizes online and mobile sports betting

Both of these propositions would greatly expand gambling in California. Prop 26 would do so on Indian lands plus at existing horse racing tracks, while 27 would do this via online gambling anywhere in the state.

These two Propositions are somewhat related and feed off each other; both are motivated by the opportunity to make large amounts of money, as evidenced by the most money ever raised regarding a single election state proposition issue—over \$360 million thus far, from the various gaming interests involved.

Proposition 26 - No position:

This measure, related but unlike Proposition 27, was initiated by a small group of leaders of the largest tribes. The authorized program of permitted gaming methods at Indigenous casino sites is currently limited. Proposition 26 would remove many of these limits, including wagering on sports events, like baseball, auto racing, basketball, football, boxing, wrestling, and a host of outside events broadcast into casino platforms.

The biggest question here is weighing Indian sovereignty rights versus the negative effects of expanded gambling. Expanded gambling leads to increased suicide, crime, divorce, and bankruptcy. Yet organizations that help

State Propositions

Props 26, 27

continued from page 14

problem gamblers are chronically underfunded and Prop. 26 doesn't provide that funding either.

However, the institution of Indigenous casinos has been a needed boon and supplement to mandated, but insufficient, federal and state financial assistance. The result has been tremendous uplift in the political, economic, health, and social life of Indian tribes and peoples. Casino profits are shared with non-casino tribes and these efforts, though lagging, are both continuing and constantly improving.

Proposition 26 is complicated, with many competing factors to weigh. Beyond the pros and cons of expanded gaming on Indian land, the fact that 26 allows sports betting at horse racing tracks means it supports an industry with questionable animal rights practices, plus there are provisions in 26 that almost certainly will hurt existing card rooms and which seem to be rather self-serving. Individual Greens have different priorities on the conflicting issues in Prop. 26, so we're not able to endorse either a Yes or a No vote on this proposition.

Proposition 27 - NO

Proposition 27 was put on the ballot by deceptive propaganda. Signers were told by paid signature collectors that "this new measure will raise money to end homelessness in California." Proposition 27 was not initiated, nor promoted by California Indian tribes, but by out-of-state corporations that sought to take advantage of the voter's universal desire to end homelessness and the compassion of state voters to lift up the plight of California's native peoples from the violent repression of the past.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 correctly acknowledged the sovereignty of Indigenous people and the right of tribes to operate gambling casinos on tribal land. This Act has successfully improved the quality of life for Indian tribes and produces millions in revenues that are shared among both casino and non-casino tribes, which mandated federal and state government financial assistance could never replicate.

Proposition 27 would astronomically expand to unlimited types of gambling well beyond being confined to casinos on Indian land to online phenomena available to everyone, even minors with a cell phone or access to varieties of digital devices. The measure blatantly lies in many ways:

- that revenue from online gaming will uplift poorer non-casino Indian tribes. Impartial analysis shows that at least 90 percent of revenue from the expansion will go into the pockets of the out-of-state carpetbaggers who wrote the measure specifically for their benefit;
- that revenue from the measure will end homelessness. Besides there being no revenue to allocate, voters need only to recall that the "selling point" years ago for approving the State Lottery was the promise that produced revenue "would forever end the problem of funding education throughout the state";
- that minors will not be able to gamble online. No procedures are indicated that will weed out anyone with a digital device from online access.

Additionally, because those of lower income and wealth are lured in larger measure to games of chance with the hope of improving their status, Proposition 27 would aggravate economic inequality. The availability of unlimited online gaming opportunities will provide increased attractions that will further worsen the already weak financial condition of marginalized people.

The great majority of California Indian Council tribes oppose Proposition 27 as a boondoggle that will proliferate gambling throughout California life and institutions, degrading lifestyles of minors as well as the elderly, by which the out-of-state corporations will realize uncountable wealth with practically nothing positive accruing to California, its residents, or its many intractable issues. Vote NO.



Proposition 28 - YES Arts and Music Education Funding

This initiative deals with a need for greater support for art and music in the schools. It would provide \$1 billion annually for art and music programs in K-12 schools, statewide (regrettably including charters, which is now built into all state proposals for added education resources).

The resources come from the general fund, over and above the state constitutional requirements for K-12 funding as is required by Prop. 98. Thus the main teachers' union, the California Teachers Association, and its president, Toby Boyd, are supporting the proposition, since it doesn't lessen Prop. 98 monies. There have been ongoing efforts for a good number of years to strengthen the arts, even while austerity measures have slashed such enrichment programs, especially in poorer districts, with large working class and people of color student populations. In the past, there were categorical monies that were directed at targeted needs, but these were ended in the 1990s.

No opposition arguments were submitted against Prop. 28. This is a worthwhile proposition, especially with the state having an over \$90 billion surplus. Vote "Yes" on Prop. 28.

Proposition 29 - YES On-site medical professional at kidney dialysis clinics

An overwhelming Yes to Proposition 29! Kidney dialysis is a life-saving procedure. Who among us would not want our families, loved ones, and friends to be in the care of a trained professional?

There are 80,000 kidney dialysis patients in California. Yet only two multi-national kidney dialysis corporations dominate the outpatient kidney dialysis industry in this state. Together, they treat more than 75 percent of all patients in the state and earn close to \$450 million dollars a year in California. DeVita and Fresenius own and operate 72 percent of the clinics in the state. Dialysis patients were steered to commercial insurers by The American Kidney Fund which receives more than 80 percent of its revenue from DeVita & Fresenius. Joint ventures between for-profit corporations and "physicians who own a stake and may also be the patient's primary doctor" might pose a conflict of interest. The patient and/or their advocate will make better decisions when they are informed.

Proposition 29 protects the rights of the patient. Clinics will not be able to discriminate or refuse services to a patient based on the source of payment. Proposition 29 prevents the closing of clinics or substantially reducing service there without state approval. We all know that corporations have closed stores, and fired employees, for wanting safe working conditions, a living wage, or unionization, but this is all to protect their profits. People deserve safe working conditions and kidney dialysis patients deserve the best health care and they deserve to have a licensed health professional in every dialysis outpatient clinic.

Americans pay more for health care than any other civilized nation and rate 48th in the quality of health of our people. Wake up California. Vote Yes for Proposition 29.

Proposition 30 - NO Programs to reduce air pollution and prevent wildfires

At first glance this initiative might appear to be something that the Green Party would fully support. We are in the age of consequences of the global climate crisis and there is no time to waste to rapidly make a truly just transition to a clean energy economy. Going where the money is to fund the transition—the wealthy—is the right idea. The problem with this measure is what it mandates for how to spend the money raised.

Prop 30 originated in 2021 with a signature gathering effort underwritten with about \$8 million by the ride-hailing service company Lyft. Clearly, Lyft has a commercial interest in accelerating the adoption of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs). This interest lies in the fact that they were mandated by the California Air Resources Board in a 2021 ruling that requires Lyft and Uber to achieve a level of 90 percent of their logged miles to be by ZEVs by 2030.

Approximately 35,000 people in California have personal income over \$2 million. Based on that, Prop 30 is expected to generate approximately \$100 billion over 20 years. The money raised is divided into three main categories: 35 percent to ZEV infrastructure investment, 45 percent to ZEV and clean mobility, and 20 percent to the wildfire greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction.

Prop 30 emphasizes support for the adoption of cleaner private cars (which is not a policy priority for the Green Party) over other forms of transportation such as active mobility and public transit. Prop 30 is aimed at making electric vehicles more affordable and charging infrastructure more ubiquitous. This has the likely impact of not just underfunding public transit, but in fact undercutting public transit. Transitioning cars to ZEV for those who insist on or need a personal car may be needed, but it is a misuse of a funding opportunity like this, and if Prop 30 passes as is, it is highly unlikely that there will be another bite at the apple.

It is correct to identify wildfires as an enormous contributor to the state's greenhouse gas emission profile, and a category that is currently not being counted. The issue needs to be addressed. But in this initiative, it simply pitches around \$20 billion over 20 years to an agency that is woefully mismanaging California's forests by selling trees to the logging industry in the guise of forest "thinning" for supposed wildfire prevention purposes. Our forests need to be protected, and that should not be the role of CalFire. CalFire's role is to put out fires. Calls for a CalFire "divorce"—splitting off the role of forest protection to a new agency—may be something the Green Party should support, but we shouldn't be supporting handing them \$20 billion.

Californians are desperately in need of improved and expanded clean emission public transit, walking and biking amenities, and other non-car mobility options. For the reasons outlined above, we urge your "NO" vote on Prop 30.

Proposition 31 - YES Approves the ban on certain flavored tobacco products

Over the last few years, tobacco corporations have evaded the ban on selling tobacco products to minors by selling flavored preparations that they calculate are so attractive to children that they will find ways to obtain them, and become addicted for life to nicotine. In 2020, the California Legislature adopted SB 793, that banned the sale of most flavored tobacco products (with a few exceptions used almost entirely by adults, like expensive flavored cigars). As the sponsor said, "Using candy, fruit, and other alluring flavors, the tobacco industry weaponized its tactics to beguile a new generation into tobacco addiction." The bill was so popular with the public that only one legislator voted against it.

But the tobacco corporations, knowing the public supported the ban, nevertheless found a way to delay its implementation. Under California law, if a referendum against a law qualifies for the ballot, the law cannot be implemented until the voters make their decision. So they paid professional signature-gatherers millions of dollars to get enough signatures to delay the law until the election of November 2022. (How did they get the signatures? They lied. The signature-gatherers told voters that their signatures would qualify for the ballot a law that would ban selling flavored tobacco products! And the disclosure form they are legally required to show potential signers, showing that Philip Morris USA and the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company provided almost all the funding for the referendum, was not shown to the voters.)

This law is a good law, and should be enacted by the voters now that the delay is over. The tobacco companies have already profited from the two-year delay they paid for, and they may or may not bother to spend more money on lying ads against Proposition 31. But a vote to uphold the law will keep these conscienceless corporations from continuing to sell these products, and an overwhelming vote may help convince the legislators to take further actions that will cut into their ill-gotten gains. We need this health and safety measure, it is the sort of law Californians need and support, and we urge a vote of YES on Proposition 31.

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Green Voter Card

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

State Executive Offices

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

Federal Offices

U.S. Senate (full term) - Blackball this race, see front-page article
 U.S. Senate (partial term) - Spurn this race, see front-page article
 U.S. Representative, District 12 - Stay away from this race, see front-page article

Other State Offices

Board of Equalization, District 2 - Sally Lieber (Preferred, but not endorsed)
 State Senate, District 10 - Aisha Wahab (Recommended, but not endorsed)
 State Assembly, District 14 - Shun this race, see front-page article
 State Assembly, District 18 - Snub this race, see front-page article
 State Assembly, District 20 - No endorsement, Please see write-up

Judicial Offices

State Supreme Court - Patricia Guerrero, Goodwin Liu, Martin Jenkins, and
 Joshua Groban

State Courts of Appeal, First District - No endorsements, please see write-up

Special School Districts: Peralta Community College

Area 3 - Louis Quindlen

Area 5 - Cindi Reits and Saleem Gilmore, please see write-up Peralta

Area 7 - Sheweeet Yohannes

County Offices

Supervisor, District 3 - Rebecca Kaplan with reservations
 District Attorney - Pamela Price

City Offices

Albany
 City Council - #1: Robin D. Lopez, #2: John Anthony Miki,
 #3 to #5: Jeremiah Garrett-Pinguelo, Jennifer Hansen-Romero, Nick Plich
 School Board - No endorsements, please see write-up

Berkeley

Auditor - Jenny Wong
 City Council, District 1 - #1: Tamar Michai Freeman,
 #2: Elisa Mikiten, with reservations [Do NOT rank Rashi Kesarwani]
 City Council, District 4 - Kate Harrison
 City Council, District 7 - **Aidan Hill** (write-in)
 City Council, District 8 - Mari Mendonca

School Board - Jennifer Stanoski, Ka'Dijah Brown, and Mike Chang

Rent Stabilization Board - Soli Albert, Nathan Mizell, Vanessa Danielle Marrero,
 Ida Martrnac, and Nageene Mosaad

Emeryville

City Council - Eugene Tsui, with reservations, Sukdeep Kaur, with reservations
 School Board - **Brian Donahue** (only)

Oakland

Mayor - #1: Alyssa Victoria Villanueva, with reservations, #2: Sheng Thao
 (ranked, but not endorsed), #3: John Reimann (ranked, but not endorsed)
 City Auditor - Courtney Ruby

City Council, District 2 - Nikki Fortunato Bas

City Council, District 4 - Janani Ramachandran (preferred, but not endorsed)

City Council, District 6 - No endorsement, please see write-up.

School Board, District 2 - #1: Max Orozco, #2: Jennifer Brouhard

[Do NOT vote for David Kakishiba]

School Board, District 4 - #1: Pecolia Manigo, #2: Mike Hutchinson, with reservations

[No! No! No! Do NOT vote Nick Resnick]

School Board, District 6 - #1: Valarie Bachelor, #2: Joel Velasquez, with reservations

[Do NOT vote for Kyra Mungia]

Special Districts

AC Transit, A-Large - Alfred Twu

AC Transit, Ward 3 - Sarah Syed (preferred, but not endorsed)

AC Transit, Ward 4 - Barisha Spriggs

AC Transit, Ward 5 - Diane Shaw (unopposed, not on the ballot)

BART, District 4 - No endorsement (Not on the ballot)

BART, District 6 - Lance Nishihira

EBMUD, Ward 3 - Marguerite Young

EBMUD, Ward 4 - Andy Katz, (Unopposed, not on the ballot, please see write-up)

EBMUD, Ward 7 - Matt Turner

EBRPD, Ward 3 - Daphne Lin, with reservations and Dennis Waespi, with reservations

EBRPD, Ward 5 - Unfortunately, not on the ballot, please see write-up

Statewide Propositions

1 - Constitutional right to reproductive freedom - Yes

26 - Legalizes sports betting at Indian casinos & racetracks - No position, see page 14

27 - Legalizes online and mobile sports betting - No

28 - Arts and Music Education Funding - Yes

29 - On-site medical professional at kidney dialysis clinics - Yes

30 - Programs to reduce air pollution and prevent wildfires - No

31 - Approves the ban on certain flavored tobacco products - Yes

Local Measures

D - Countywide maximum floor area ratio increase for agricultural buildings
 and equestrian riding arenas - No

H - Oakland renewal of funding for schools - Yes, with parcel tax reservations

K - Albany Medical Services and Fire Protection Special Tax - Yes,
 with parcel tax reservations

L - Berkeley Infrastructure Bond - No, No, No!

M - Berkeley Vacancy Tax - Yes

N - Berkeley Public Low-Rent Housing - Yes

O - Emeryville Real Property Transfer Tax Increase - Yes, with reservations

Q - Oakland authorizes low rent social housing units - Yes, with bond reservations

R - Oakland gender neutral language - Yes

S - Oakland non-citizen school board voting - Yes

T - Oakland Progressive Business Tax - Yes, with reservations

U - Oakland Infrastructure Bond - Yes, with bond reservations

V - Oakland Just Cause - Yes

W - Oakland Campaign Reform - Yes

X - Oakland Term Limits, etc. - Yes

Y - Oakland zoo parcel tax - No

Green Voter Guide

A publication of the Green Party of Alameda County,
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Election Day

November 8, 2022



for the thinking voter