

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for the School Board?

My motivation to run the School Board is be an advocate for every student's success. My commitment to the Alameda schools stems from my experience in public education and in understanding how public education can benefit our children and community.

- Served on School Site Council for Bay Farm, Lincoln (Chairperson), Alameda High School (Chairperson) & Encinal High School
- Volunteer as an after school Math Enrichment Instructor
- Budget and Accounting/Finance Qualifications
- Demonstrated leader and collaborator with various community organizations. I am a board member for the Community of Harbor Bay Isle, homeowner association president (14 years) and co-founding Managing Director of the Alameda Vipers Basketball Club.

As an active parent in our public education system, I have gained much insight and understanding to the needs of our students and on the support our teachers need to be more effective. I understand the importance of making sound financial decisions and want to help our community allocate the district's limited resources to maximize student success.

2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected? What do you believe are the main priorities for the School Board?

I believe that we must seek more input from our teachers regarding their professional development. Continuing professional development for teachers as it relates to differentiated

instruction and providing sufficient collaboration time to ensure that teachers can effectively implement Common Core standards will be necessary for its success.

The main priority of a school board is to be fiscally responsible and transparent as we allocate our limited resources to achieve student success.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of School Board. If you are an incumbent, what issues can you point to in your time as an incumbent that have had a positive impact? As an incumbent what can you tell us about your service on the school board, and share with us the decisions you have made in this capacity that you believe made a difference in the functioning of the school district?

I have my degrees in Accounting, Finance and Business from the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley and the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. I have been involved in my son's schools as I believe it is important to assist our dedicated teachers and administrators. I have served on: School Site Council (SSC) for Bay Farm Elementary, Lincoln Middle School (Chairperson), Alameda High School (Chairperson), and Encinal High School; Principal Selection Committee for Bay Farm Elementary and Lincoln Middle School. While serving on SSC, I understand the importance of allocating our limited financial resources to meet our goals of student success.

If elected to the Board, every decision I make will be based on "How does this benefit our students?" At a time when our schools are struggling to have copy paper, I question whether we are making the correct decisions in our allocation of funds. As a retired professor, I have taught Cost Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Financial Accounting and Financial Statement Analysis and Business Proposal Writing. With my accounting background, I have a comprehensive understanding of budgets and the ability to be fiscally responsible.

4. The AUSD is now searching for a new superintendent -- what qualifications will you consider important?

I believe the next superintendent must be a consensus builder who looks to have a collaborative relationship with our teachers, classified staff and custodians, parents and the community.

Accessibility is essential along with the ability to be a good listener. This person needs to rebuild trust and credibility. The next superintendent must have a strong financial background as we deal with budgetary constraints that will result in difficult decisions that will need to be articulated to our community.

5. Due to the tight budget constraints how do you propose to handle the district's need for a new office?

We need to look at existing AUSD facilities before we decide on new offices. I thought it was the correct decision of the board to not exercise the option to purchase the current building.

6. How did you perceive the district's refusal to obtain appraisals for the tidelands swap with the city?

I think it is essential to obtain appraisals so that we have pertinent information in determining if there is a difference in market value between the exchanged properties. This is a necessary function in performing one's due diligence as a board member in order to make an informed decision.

7. How do you stand on the agreed-upon \$175 million bond to be placed before the voters this fall? If you have disagreements with this bond what would you have suggested?

I agree that we need to address our aging infrastructure and the cost to make such repairs. However, we must clearly inform our seniors that they are not exempt from this bond unlike the parcel taxes. Our prior parcel taxes have made mention of the senior exemption. Therefore, we need to be transparent so that our seniors are aware that this exemption will not apply to the bond. In addition, we must provide full transparency as to the specific allocation of funds to the site locations.

8. Budget -- In the coming period school budgets will be facing continuing shortfalls -- how would you propose dealing with this crisis?

Being transparent with the community by providing the details of the multi-year budget. By providing specific details, we will get the necessary input from all stakeholders to meet the fiscal constraints of these shortfalls.

9. Accountability -- Concretely and specifically, how will you make yourself accountable to the voters who elect you? How can the voters participate in holding you accountable if you are elected?

As an elected official, you are always accountable to the voters. I intend to visit all our school sites to obtain feedback from PTA or School Site Council meetings so that I can be in constant contact with our teachers, students, staff, and the community.

10. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

My intention to run for the school board is to ensure that we provide a positive environment for student success. When I pulled my papers, I thought I would remain below the \$1,000 threshold by running a grass root campaign. I am currently in the process of forming a committee to determine my financial expenditures. If necessary, I plan to ask for contributions from my friends and supporters.

11. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Parent lunchtime volunteer at Bay Farm School where we implemented a successful recycling program that separated the various items into three categories (green, recyclables, and non-recyclables).