

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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

As an incumbent, I feel it is important to continue the work that was started and still needs to be done. That work including but not limited to maintaining current hospital quality services, ensuring the citizen's parcel taxes are utilized to maintain hospital functions, keep the community outreach programs and maintain hospital emergency services and stroke center which are a vital necessity in the Alameda community. I am familiar with both Alameda Hospital and Alameda Health System having been a Registered Nurse in both entities. Currently a District Board Member for the past 2 years as well as a member of the finance committee at Alameda Hospital I think I am well positioned to continue to serve as a healthcare district director.

My motivation is simple: I love Alameda hospital and believe without its presence, the community would suffer tremendously. Even though many residents are members of Kaiser or Sutter, when one needs hospitalization and treatment, it is usually sudden and seconds matter. The travel distance to get to a hospital off island in many cases would increase mortality as many of the island residents are reaching maturity. The hospital must remain here continuing to provide quality services and develop innovative strategies for the future. Those of us who live here are that future: I am that future too.

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 Healthcare District Board?

The board duties have shifted now as Alameda has partnered with AHS. Most importantly, the parcel tax must be monitored to ensure that island residents continue to receive hospital services. Those being wound care, orthopedic services, stroke care, emergency services, medical services all provided by seasoned physicians, not residents or interns. I also think community outreach will and must expand to meet the needs of the community. Mature Adult Care, home care services are approaching our population very quickly, we must be prepared. There are many other services that can be addressed but these are the priorities I have chosen.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of Healthcare District Board.

I am Registered Nurse with 31 years of experience in health and hospitals. I hold a bachelor degree in nursing and master of business administration. I am currently assistant program director at Merritt Community College. I am also owner of CCTRNLLC a business teaching healthcare courses and providing consulting and other services. I also serve on the board of directors for ASEB-Alzheimer's Center of the East Bay. I have a passion for healthcare, the elderly and quality of life for all. I have dedicated my life to caring for others and now I teach our younger nurses how to do just that, but time is running out!!!!!!

4. Emergency Care -- It appears that many emergency patients are not actually sent to Alameda Hospital. What therefore is the purpose of the hospital's emergency care facility given that paramedics have been directing emergency patients to other hospitals? Are any plans currently being implemented which would change this situation?

Not all emergency patients come to the hospital by ambulance. In fact, the sickest patients often walk through the door. Sick patients can never be diverted to another hospital unless that facility cannot provide the particular service the patient needs. Alameda is a stroke center, and has cardiac services that can stabilize any cardiac emergency. This alone saves valuable time which is needed in a cardiac event or other emergency when time is life. Door to doctor time at Alameda hospital emergency services is 20 minutes. You won't find that at Kaiser, Summit or Highland hospitals. Alameda hospital is feet away from at least 2 skilled nursing facilities and less than 2 miles from several others. How would you feel if your mom or dad or you had to travel 4.6 miles or more to another hospital in a life threatening emergency situation?

5. Financial Security -- Alameda Hospital has been struggling on the edge of financial security and many citizens envision the hospital eventually having to close. What proposals would you bring to the hospital board to secure its survival?

The JPA is the only reasonable approach that was taken to ensure the longevity of the hospital. That is the reason the hospital merged with AHS. AHS has a strong financial position and a mission and vision that is community focused. I was part of some of the work that put that partnership together. The agreement was to maintain current services to the community while AHS would assume financial and governing responsibility of hospital operations. As a result of this joint power's agreement, I have no reason to believe Alameda hospital will continue its financial struggle to the point of closing.

6. It is known that Alameda Hospital has substandard retrofit issues and that the cost of rehabilitation is well beyond the budget of this city run facility. What solutions will you bring to the board to solve this problem?

As part of the JPA, the planning and funding for the hospital's retrofit is a focus, hospital operations are being looked, sources of funding are being sought and this will be part of the strategic operations, assumed by AHS as part of our agreement. To be clear, the facility is not or will not be run by the city or part of its budget.

7. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you?

I have no endorsements. I do not have any expectations of any endorsements but I invite anyone who believes in quality emergency care services, stroke care, care for the aging, orthopedic care, wound care and skilled nursing services to cast their vote or endorse me!

8. 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).

I am using my own personal funds and resources for this campaign. I do not plan on asking for money to run for this office; however if anyone wanted to donate to my campaign I would accept on the condition that the money be spent on campaigning and any remainder go to the hospital for community outreach.

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

If elected, I plan to work with integrity, diligence and tirelessly to maintain healthcare service that residents of Alameda require and will require in the future. Our increasingly maturing island population will need services for healthcare than will be required to be administered on island. I would like to be the person who ensures that happens.