

Berkeley District 8 Mary Kay Lacey

The Green Party strongly endorses Mary Kay Lacey. She is running against the conservative incumbent Droste because, in Lacey's words, "District 8 needs a strong progressive leader to represent our interests." On this we definitely agree! Because of Berkeley Ranked-Choice Voting, we advise (with reservations) ranking Alfred Twu as #2 and Russ Tilleman as #3, and strongly recommend not ranking Droste. See Lacey's and Twu's responses to the Green Party questionnaire here:

<https://acgreens.wordpress.com/candidate-questionnaires>

Lacey is a Berkeley graduate with a law degree from Georgetown who has worked on land use and redevelopment, Native American tribal law, river flow, and represented a neighborhood association addressing problems related to Chevron. She wants to "uphold local planning and zoning" and make sure the city "gets entitled community benefits from upzoning" including preventing exemptions from CEQA. Her key issues are retaining Alta Bates, creating affordable housing (with assurances "that we have the infrastructure to handle the increased population"), strengthening rent control (including the repeal of Costa-Hawkins), and supporting the Transfer Tax to fund homeless services (favoring a "housing first" approach, including the Pathways Project). She supports environment policies of mass transit, bikes, electric cars, banning plastics, and promoting green infrastructure. She thinks she can work with the University: "one of the biggest issues I see is that Long Range Development Plan between the City and UC." Regarding community safety, Lacey states the police staffing problem is "not unique to Berkeley but is part of a nationwide trend" and is partly due to Berkeley's high cost of living which can be addressed with the budget process. She favors community policing (bike and foot patrols), more earthquake prep, and addressing storm water runoff problems which require "adding pumps where appropriate." Regarding development, she states that "unfettered market rate development ... is not a solution ... will do nothing to solve the affordability problem ... we have to build affordable housing now." She supports "efforts to identify publicly owned lands that are not presently being utilized as possible sites for building affordable housing" and that "the housing stock for rental housing do not sit vacant." Lacey sees the need to build housing in all districts including at the North Berkeley BART Station and Adeline corridor – but it "should be affordable." She believes gentrification can be fought with strong rent control laws to prevent evictions. Although she waffled a bit on policing issues, she is progressive. She is well qualified, the most viable challenger, the candidate who is most likely to beat the incumbent. Rank Lacey #1 for D8.

Alfred Twu is generally progressive on issues, and like Tilleman supports green infrastructure. Twu supported a Police Review Commission Charter Amendment as well. Twu, a creative designer, says of Alta Bates, "New senior housing near the hospital would benefit from and could subsidize the retrofit of Alta Bates. I would also work with state officials to obtain state level funding or policies to keep Alta Bates open." However, Twu supports market-rate housing and has voiced some pro-developer positions during public comments at City Council and Commission meetings.

Russ Tilleman is tough on policing issues, having worked with Bobby Seale on a potential ballot measure for an elected Police Accountability Board with teeth. Re Alta Bates, he wrote that if it "has no value to Sutter, they can sign it over to the Berkeley Free Clinic and we can provide universal health care for Berkeley residents. If necessary, the City of Berkeley can use eminent domain to take possession of it." Despite launching a different measure with Seale, Tilleman says he supported the coalition drafted ballot measure to strengthen the Police Review Commission, which the City Council ultimately failed to put on the ballot. Tilleman, however, has little experience in city government or its commissions, and

some found him inflexible when discussions of a police-accountability measure arose earlier this year. Tilleman did not return our Green Party questionnaire so there are still questions about his policy positions on some issues.

Do not rank incumbent Lori Droste who has failed progressives. She has taken pro-developer positions and anti-homeless positions on legislation time and again. She voted against putting even the watered down version of the Police Review Commission charter amendment on the ballot, and was a strong voice in favor of Urban Shield. She is one of Berkeley's most conservative Council members, favoring developers and police over constituents.

Vote Green Party endorsed Mary Kay Lacey #1. Please rank Twu #2 and Tilleman #3 (due to reasons listed above), and don't rank Droste at all. Mary Kay Lacey's victory will be a victory for the people.