The Statewide Races

Vote for the Left Unity Slate

Across California, and across this country, we are in crisis. As we’ve noted, like our “direct political ancestors, the abolitionists of the mid-nineteenth century U.S., we Greens are in front with the ideas that can change everything. We try to be visionaries. We are able to imagine a different and sustainable world, one that is more ethical, more just, more equal, and more peaceful. It is important to always have this visionary perspective, but especially now as multiple crises face our country and our planet.”

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

The Left Unity Slate candidates include four Green Party members and four Peace and Freedom Party members. The Greens are Governor candidate Luis Javier Rodriguez, author of 16 books and the second poet Laureate of Los Angeles; Secretary of State candidate Gary Blenner, who teaches and works for a connected school system in a former prison; Controller candidate Meghann Mohammad Arif, a former member; Controller candidate Laura Wells, co-coordinator of the Green Party of California’s state Coordinating Committee, who has worked for organizations such as Pesticide Action Network, Women’s Education Action Agenda Project, and SEIU United Healthcare Workers; and Attorney General candidate Dan Kaplovitz, a Certified Criminal Law Specialist, principal of the Radical Law Center, and former President of UCLA’s Animal Law Society.

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

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

You can also visit the websites of the Left Unity Slate candidates via their official campaign websites:

https://leftunityslate.org/candidates/

To donate to individual campaign candidates, or to all four Green Party candidates through the Green Party of California, see this page on the state party’s website: https://www.cgarens.org/endorsed-2022-statewide-candidates

It’s time for California to break with the corporate, controlled political parties. Vote for the Left Unity Slate candidates.

Governor

Luis Javier Rodriguez

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

The Personal: Gavin Newsom was not born into great wealth, rather he was born into a web of political and financial connections that helped make him, his family, and allied upper-class rich and politically powerful. The financial center of this network was the obscenely wealthy billionaire Getty oil family. Why oil and gas that millions of people cannot afford to pay for, is controlled by the wealthiest families in the world, is a question. But that is the status quo reality in the USA.

When Gavin Newsom was born in 1967 there had already been a quarter century of alliances between the Newsom, Getty, Brown, and Pelosi families. During the early 1940s Pat Brown was running for office and hired his close friend, businessman William Newsom II, to manage one of his early political campaigns. Many years later Gov- ernor Pat Brown’s administration awarded a winter sports concession in Squaw Valley to partners William Newsom II and John Pelosi. The Newsom and Pelosi families connec- ted further when one of John Pelosi’s sons married William Newsom’s daughter Barbara. Another Pelosi son married Nancy D’Alessandro who went into San Francisco politics and is now speaker of the House of Representatives. Meanwhile William’s son, William Newsom III, Gavin’s father, became one of billionaire J. Paul Getty’s attorneys. Pat Brown’s son Jerry became governor of California and appointed William III to a judgeship. Justice Newsom then helped his long-time friend Gordon Getty, one of J. Paul Getty’s sons, secure a change in state trust law that allowed him to claim his share of a multi-heir trust, making Gordon the richest 1 percent or more of the vote cast in the June primary, there are policed. If neither Sanchez, Walker, nor Ahern get 50 percent or more of the vote cast in the June primary, there will be a runoff election between the top two vote getters in November.

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

County Superintendent of Schools

Alyssa Castro

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

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

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

She is very insightful not only of the evolution of Senate Bill (SB) 1290 (passed in 1991), which laid the basis for FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team), the unelected financial oversight board, but the legal require- ment for Districts to expand 55 percent of their budget for site/classroom needs.
The “GPC” 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 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, leading, practicing, walking, phone banking, and other volunteer activities.

The Green Party County Council meets in the evening on the second 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.

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:

We list “No endorsement,” either we had un-resolved 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!

The Green Party of Alameda County

Local:
Alameda County Green Sundays: 2nd Sundays, at 5 pm; Nefsy-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave, at 65th St, Oakland, or online. (510) 644-2293
http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com

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

Oakland-Emeroyville-Piedmont Green Party: We are working on November candidate and ballot measure contests. Please join us as soon as you can. For additional info, see our website, http://oaklandgreens.org or telephone us: (510) 436-3722.

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

Credits:
Kevin Aik, Peter Allen, Bill Balderston, Dale Baum, Gary Blenner, Paul Burton, Brian Good, Greg Jan, J.P. Massar, James McFadden, David Morrison, Kathy Park, Michael Rubin, Larry Shoup, Phoebe Thomas Sorgen, Pam Spevack, and Laura Wells.

The Green Party of Alameda County
2028 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: _________________________________

Thank you for your contribution of: $ ______

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 it hard for ordinary citizens—make that the rest of us—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 are 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

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 sign 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.
Parker's campaign is grounded in the realization that Castro in Honduras at the invitation of her Libre Party, due to the minimum wage increase proposals in his first union election— at a small steel plant in New Jersey. Parker was only eighteen when he organized for Social Justice, and a leading member of the Socialist (short) term as well.

In the “two-party system in the US, Democrats and Republicans are two sides of the same coin, funded by and serving the same corporate masters. Their politicians, in general, will continue to make decisions of war, climate change, growing economic impoverishment and racist and sexist state repression based on the sole motivation of maximizing profits for their masters - who have ultimate control over the use of those profits. It’s our work, day in and day out, that make those profits possible, yet this system does not allow us any real say in the consistent decision to spend trillions on war and relative pennies on social neces-

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

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

But in addition to focusing on the big picture, Parker has long worked on specific movements for improvements in the conditions of workers. In California, the United States, and abroad. He was a central leader in the first at-

tempt to qualify for the ballot an increase in the minimum wage to $15 in Los Angeles back in 2013, a cause that was taken up by others and which later succeeded. He strongly favors immediate further increases in the minimum wage today. His work in the Harriet Tubman Center has been a substantial influence in the movement against police brutal-

ity and violence against minorities.

Of course, the incumbent Democrat, Alex Padilla, is favored to get the most votes in the Primary election in June. Whoever comes in second will go on to the runoff in November with Padilla. But it is not at all clear who will come in second. There are five other Democrats on the ballot, and ten candidates in total, including four “preference” candidates. Depending on how things go, if the Republicans split their vote ten ways, an outsider from the Peace and Freedom Party with the endorsement of the Green Party could have a real chance.

While two candidates also appear on the ballot with “Green Party” under their names, voters should be clear that the candidates are not part of the national party, and that it is not a Green Party slate. Depending on how things go, if the Republicans split their vote ten ways, an outsider from the Peace and Freedom Party with the endorsement of the Green Party could have a real chance.

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

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

Follow the money and her voting record. Whether Re-

democratic or Democrats are in office, our schools, healthcare, justice, environment, and democracy decline. To all those who set the limits on what regular people can expect from Washington. We need to send Barbara Lee and the duopoly the message that we’re fed up with their votes for military spending, their failures in helping the vast majority of us who are not wealthy, etc. We need to send voting for Glenn Kaplan, albeit with minor reservations.

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Governor
continued from page 1
invested in many of these businesses. But that is only part of the story, since Gordon and other Getty family members have contributed at least $516,025 to Gavin Newsom’s political campaigns (L.A. Times 9/7/2018.) Gordon, who once stated that he considers Gavin as a son, also loaned Newsom $1,000,000 to help him purchase a home in Pacific Heights. The Gettys are also close to Nancy Pelosi. When Gordon’s granddaughter Ivy married in 2021 at San Francisco City Hall, Nancy officiated.

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

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

California’s working class is largely left behind when the economy improves, and first to hurt when there is a downturn. Both the parties of the billionaires reject any real distributive action are positive steps often taken by Newsom, but are no substitute for a class-based politics that serve the interests of the vast majority. Similarly, Newsom talks a lot about the existential problem of climate change, yet his measures to put serious controls on a central source of the problem—the production of fossil fuels—have been very weak. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, Newsom has a number of other billionaire families contributing to his political campaigns.

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

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

Vote for Luis Javier Rodriguez for Governor.

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

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

Mohammad Arif, though not allowed to mention another candidate in his statement in the Secretary of State’s污染出道ifation Guide, managed to work in a mention of the real role of Kounalakis in Sacramento. “California’s economy and government should serve working people, not just the wealthy. Eliciting rich developers and their supporters to bring Newsom to the forefront of their agenda for ordinary people. Peace, justice, human rights. I support the Left Unity Slate. People are power.” (A short statement, though longer than some; the brevity forced by the high cost of each word in the statement. Rich and poor candidates alike are charged $25 per word.)
Secretary of State
Gary N. Blenner

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

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

Blenner is no newcomer to electoral politics. He got his first taste from running for the Center Joint Unified School District school board in 2006. He has run unsuccessuflly for the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and 2016, challenging the developer-controlled money interests in the county. This time, Blenner has his sights on becoming California Secretary of State. “I’m not just running as a protest candidate. I’m in it to win it.” What is it that Blenner wants to change? And why is it that the current incumbent (Dr. Shirley Weber) is the wrong candidate for that position? “I think Dr. Weber is an amazing woman, and her achievements and life story should be celebrated by everyone. However, she is no friend to progressives, and is another corporate stooge like practically every other mainstream Democrat.” Blenner points out that Weber opposes ranked choice voting and a single payer health care system. And we also note that her current campaign contributors include the likes of Chevron, Phillips 66, Facebook, Nike, Anheuser Busch, Lyft, Eli Lilly, Merck General, and AT&T.

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

Blenner goes on to argue that real, substantive, progressive change will never come unless we fix our election system, open up the political process, and get private money out of politics. “The Democrats talk about trying to maintain voting rights and preserve democracy. They ought to practice what they preach (as a registered Green) to the Center Joint Unified School District, to shut it down and keep power for themselves.” Blenner is referring to AB 2808 which, if passed, would outlaw ranked choice voting in the State of California.

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

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

Controller
Laura Wells

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

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

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

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

Green Party candidate Laura Wells is a strong supporter and member of the Left Unity Slate made up of Green Party, Peace and Freedom candidates running for partisan statewide office. She sees the June “top two” primary, as an ideal opportunity to cast votes for progressive candidates other than the highly promoted candidates with allegiances toward their campaign contributors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Treasurer
Meghann Adams

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

Meghann Adams has been a tireless organizer of anti-war and anti-racist actions in the San Francisco area for fifteen years. She has been a school bus driver for seven years, active in SMART 174, the union representing school bus drivers in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. She is a former president of the local union and a community organizer. She has served as treasurer of campaigns, and now is running for California Treasurer to represent working people.

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

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

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Election Day: June 7, 2022 5 green voter guide

State Offices • Vote for the Unity Slate

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Election Day: June 7, 2022 5 green voter guide

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Treasurer continued from page 3

“I am running to represent the working-class majority of California—working class families, small businesses, and the (largely elected) officials. My standard for judging all political questions is ‘what is good for the working class and the population as a whole?’ Racism, war, poverty, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and environmental destruction grow out of the system of predatory capitalism. This system of profit at any cost to the people or planet must be stopped, and it can be stopped by one dedicated to meeting people’s needs—socialism.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vote for Meaghann Adams for Treasurer.

Attorney General

Dan Kapelovitz

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

Probably most familiar to northern Alameda county voters is the Democratic Party incumbent, Rob Bonta. He served on the Alameda City Council and in the State Assembly from 2012 to 2021 before his appointment as Attorney General by Governor Newsom last year. He has impressed many people in high places, because as of December 31, 2021, he had $5 million in his campaign war chest — over 4000 donations, 200 of which were over $8000. General Motors PAC made 4 donations totaling $8100. Anheuser Busch gave $16,200. AirBnB made seven donations (including employees) totaling $5,500. Also conspicuous on Mr. Bonta’s donors list are a number of casinos and gaming establishments. Sports betting is an upcoming issue in California.

Another veteran of elected office is former Republican (and now NPP candidate) Anne Marie Schubert, a thirteen-year District Attorney. She promises to “stop the chaos” of crime and violence by renewing San Francisco’s progressive District Attorney Chesa Boudin, and she enjoys the endorsement and funding of a variety of law enforcement organizations. She raised $1.6 million in 2021 and as of December 31, 2021, had about $140,000 remaining. Most of her 500 donors are retired or self-employed.

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

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

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

Vote for Dan Kapelovitz for Attorney General.

Insurance Commissioner

Nathalie Hrizi

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

When the Green Party and Peace and Freedom Party were considering endorsements late last summer, the Hrizi campaign ads asked voters to “Vote for Nathalie Hrizi, a San Francisco elected union vice-president and community activist running for California State Insurance Commissioner, the office charged with setting rates and regulating the huge insurance business. Nathalie’s top priority would be to make sure that everyone has access to health care regardless of their ability to pay.

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

“The insurance market is a $123 billion business in California alone. Those billions are being left in the control of the owners of insurance companies, which are nothing but parasites that exist solely to profit. The insurance companies provide zero health services. They’re happy to take our money, then charge us outrageous prices for goods and services we need. That’s why people in the state are being forced to avoid paying for services when we need care.

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

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

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

Ms. Hrizi (https://hirzicommissioner.com/) has appeared at public forums, and will campaign virtually up and down the state until June 7. She had substantial Green support in previous years, receiving over 30,000 votes in 2018. She enthusiastically endorses the Green statewide candidates on the Left Unity Slate, with some joint campaign appearances planned. Every vote that Nathalie Hrizi receives is a clear statement of support for universal health care, and the abolition of the parasitical corporate profiteers who have been able to prevent it so far.


State Offices • Vote for the Unity Slate!
State Superintendents of Public Instruction

Marco Amaral

It is a rare opportunity when people can vote for a genuine radical for statewide office such as Marco Amaral, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Marco is a working teacher and currently President of the South Bay Union School District. The district is south of San Diego with about 6,000 students. He holds a degree from U.C. Berkeley and a graduate degree from the University of San Diego. Marco is the son of a California state assemblyman and the Mayor of Mountian View. He is endorsed by Senator Diane Feinstein.

When asked about his campaign issues, he talks about making systemic changes in our schools, especially for Latinx students. He also prioritizes holding politicians accountable for the serious problems in our schools. He wants to spend more money in our schools and favors raising teacher salaries to retain teachers and to attract good students to teaching careers. Regarding accountability, he blames both the Democratic and Republican parties for the state of our schools. He also sees the Superintendent position as a bully pulp to promote the ideals of public education. When asked about books that influenced him, he mentioned three authors: Paulo Freire, the Brazilian whose radical education theories are well known. He also mentioned bell hooks, the African American feminist, and Frantz Fanon whose criticism of western imperialism is also well known.

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

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

Join us in voting for Marco Amaral.

Board of Equalization, District 2

Sally Lieber

(Preferred, but not endorsed)

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

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

The Republican, Peter Verbiac, 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 Correction Officer Examination and the Law Enforcement Test Battery. He has done a lot of volunteer work in politics and public service, but has never held elected office.

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

Sally Lieber is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, and has been a member of the state Assembly and the Mayor of Mountain View. She describes herself as "a corporate-free candidate" in her campaign statement, and to be well-regarded by a number of Greens in northern Santa Clara County, but the data-driven plan 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, Lieber is a "corporate-free candidate," which is not enough for her to win the seat, rather than either of the other two candidates.

State Senate District 10

Aisha Wahab

(recommended, but not endorsed)

Runner-up: Jamal Khan

(not endorsed)

Don’t vote for Paul Pimentel

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

Aisha Wahab is the at-large member of the Hayward City Council, elected in 2018. Wahab’s campaign statement 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 believes that “every student deserves the opportunity for free, accessible, quality higher education.” The Green Party of Alameda County recommends Aisha Wahab for State Senate District 10, but because she is registered with the problematic Democratic Party, we are not able to endorse her.

Candidate Jamal Khan has worked at the national and state level of government and advocated for increasing the minimum wage, paid family, sick leave, and universal access to childhood education. Khan is the only candidate who has mentioned policies to protect the rights of children. As a senator, Khan would outlaw child marriage, which is still legal in California. However, Khan supports increasing police presence within California by increasing neighbor watch groups and police presence on social media.

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 prioritizes 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 Director, and under her mayoral tenure Fremont opened the #1 Happiest City in the United States designation. As a Senator, Mei will protect neighborhood open spaces and increase funding for education.

Candidate Jim Canova has spent 27 years as a Santa Clara County supervisor who represented the tony Marina/Pacific Heights district?  Assembly District (AD) 14 is a non-race and to primary her. She was easily re-elected in 2020 garnering nearly 85 percent of the vote against her Independent challenger while spending less than $2500 in the election run-up of her nearly $230,000 campaign war chest. Buffy Wicks is a cog in the Clinton-Obama Democratic Party Corporate Machine, a machine no longer interested in the public good but instead only interested in campaign donations to maintain power. Buffy made her home in the East Bay moving into our district (then it was AD15) at the beginning of the election season accompanied by $1.2 million in spending on her behalf for the 2018 primary, a record amount.

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

Now that Buffy is an incumbent apparatchik in a Democratic Party controlled state, no other Democrats are willing to challenge her. And no Republicans even bother to primary her. She was easily re-elected in 2020 garnering nearly 85 percent of the vote against her Independent challenger while spending less than $2500 in the election run-up of her nearly $230,000 campaign war chest. Buffy’s campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of Buffy’s campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight. Over 90 percent of her campaign contributions just for 2021 are running at about $270,000, with no challenger in sight.

We recommend AGAINST voting for Buffy Wicks since that concedes consent to be ruled by a corporate controlled party that offers no choice of candidates or policy positions. We instead recommend a protest vote. Write in the name of your dog, cat, or favorite pet as a protest. Or if you don’t have a pet, perhaps list a neighbor’s pet. Send a message that the corporate controlled machine candidates should be removed. Instead we could support a movement that supports a neoliberal Party that discounts the public welfare in favor of its corporate donors.
Democratic Party, locally and statewide, including the Bonta Labor Council, who also represents the major powers in the One is Liz Ortega Toro, secretary treasurer of the Alameda major segments of the labor movement in Alameda County.

Running more on identity issues (being LGBTQ and AAPI a retired lab scientist, whose main focus is sticking to local pressure from the Democratic Party establishment, she is at the center of what now is a more recent “machine” that is trying to concentrate and centralize power, focused around this being a partisan race, her role in supporting the Democratic Party apparatus and leadership will most often overide her personal positions, if they conflict. In addition, her funding comes from corporate sources, especially the gambling/casino industry (which will be much involved in this year’s state referenda), from hi tech, such as Google, and from the beer baron Anheuser Busch again land her in the category of a corporate Democrat, so we definitely will not be giving her an endorsement.

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

State Assembly, District 20
Jennifer Esteen
(Preferred, but not endorsed)

This is an important race on several levels. The 20th AD covers Dublin, Castro Valley, Hayward, Union City, San Leandro and west Pleasanton. There are four candidates, two of whom did not return our questionnaire: Joel Garcia, a retired lab scientist, whose main focus is sticking to local issues, and Shawn Kamagai, a Dublin city councilmember, running more on identity issues (being LGBTQ and AAPI rights, repeal of the Ellis Act and Costa-Hawkins, public banking, free tuition for community colleges, and others. On two critical local questions—first, she opposes school closures, but second, in line with her close connection to the Alameda Labor Council, she unfortunately supports the Howard Terminal/stadium project (unlike her previous runoff opponent, Dr. Roberta Hillman, free higher education, and support for public banks. Both are for aggressive defense of public education, with Ms. Esteen calling for a moratorium on school closures. Both are for public financing of elections, and a major reform of the campaign finance system.

This race is important for moving on key issues, but it is equally about the political power structure in the County where the 20th AD is the 20th AD. We are therefore supporting any other candidates because of their affiliations with pro-corporate political parties, we can take a preference for Ms. Esteen, not only because of our firm opposition to the stadium project, but also because of her connection to the more major oligarchic bastions of the Democratic Party.

Superior Court Judge
Office #1: Tamiza Hockenhull

There are three candidates running for three openings on the Alameda County Superior Court: Tamiza Hockenhull, Pelayo Llamas and Michael Bishay. Hockenhull responded to our questionnaire, while Llamas and Bishay did not. Hockenhull and Llamas both have campaign websites; Bishay does not. Given the information available about Bishay, and his apparent distaste for providing public information, we cannot endorse Michael Bishay. And if you prefer not to leave the Office #21 space blank, consider writing in the name of your favorite supreme court justice. If you prefer not to leave the Office #21 space blank, consider writing in the name of your favorite supreme court justice or lawyer, whether current or historical. Both Hockenhull and Llamas have significant legal experience, and both have been working as Court Commissioners, performing duties similar to those of regular judges. Both Hockenhull (a woman of color) and Llamas (a child of immigrants) would contribute to the diversity of the court. Because both Hockenhull and Llamas are careful in their statements to avoid an appearance of bias, it is not clear how progressive they may be, but none of the information they presented raised any red flags, and their efforts to present themselves as fair rather than partisan or ideologi- cal is appropriate. Hockenhull and Llamas both received endorsements from numerous Alameda County Superior Court Judges, which is a good sign, showing that they are respected by those already doing that job. While we don’t have a complete picture of either candidate, based on the information available we endorse both Tamiza Hockenhull and Pelayo Llamas for Alameda County Superior Court.

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).

State Assembly, District 18
No endorsement

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

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

Second, and related the incumbent, Ms Bonta, reflects the contradictions this situation represents in terms of the Democratic Party. On a range of issues, we have a degree of common ground. These include Medicare for All, progressive taxation, expansion of union rights, defense of LGBTQ rights, repeal of the Ellis Act and Costa-Hawkins, public banking, free tuition for community colleges, and others. On two critical local questions—first, she opposes school closures, but second, in line with her close connection to the Alameda Labor Council, she unfortunately supports the Howard Terminal/stadium project (unlike her previous runoff opponent, Dr. Roberta Hillman, free higher education, and support for public banks. Both are for aggressive defense of public education, with Ms. Esteen calling for a moratorium on school closures. Both are for public financing of elections, and a major reform of the campaign finance system.

This race is important for moving on key issues, but it is equally about the political power structure in the County where the 20th AD is the 20th AD. We are therefore supporting any other candidates because of their affiliations with pro-corporate political parties, we can take a preference for Ms. Esteen, not only because of our firm opposition to the stadium project, but also because of her connection to the more major oligarchic bastions of the Democratic Party.
Alameda County Sheriff

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Castro clearly opposes the cuts linked to the threatened state takeover (which ironically the County School Board also did after major resistance in Oakland) and feels that school closures would be counterproductive. While it’s the Board’s role, not the Superintendent’s, to okay charter school applications, she counter-poses charters to school closures, with more of the former creating greater pressure for more of the latter.

Moreover, she is acutely aware of the need to have programs to counter the ‘school to prison’ pipeline, to work with VTH districts to have budgets and LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan) goals that work and align with resources that serve local needs. She’s endorsed by every teacher union in the county as well as the Alameda Central Labor Council. She also has the backing of more progres- sive school board members and coalitions like Educators for Democratic Schools.

Finally, she states strongly that she wishes to prioritize much greater transparency. There is no doubt that Alyssa Castro is the superior candidate.

County School Board, District 7 (Tri-Valley)

Don’t vote for Dice or Doo

This is the only contested race for the Alameda County School Board, and therefore the only County School Board seat which will appear on the ballot. The election is for District 7, in the east county, in the Pleasanton-Livermore area. There are three candidates, with one of whom, Cheryl Cook-Kallio, has any serious experience in public education. She also is the only candidate who returned our questionnaires.

Eric Dice claims to be a public school teacher but identifies as a ‘superintendent’ for support services for charter schools with Key Educational Group. Enough said.

Kate Doo identifies as a parent involved in education, but works with high tech startups. Her vague language has no substance and sounds like something out of a corporate education handbook.

Ms. Cook-Kallio is the only serious candidate. However, even though this is a non partisan race, her links with the Democratic Party establishment, including reactionary, pro corporate Democratic Party leaders such as Diane Feinstein preclude a formal endorsement. In 2002 Cook-Kallio served as a Congressional Fellow for Feinstein and when Cook-Kallio ran for State Assembly in 2016, Feinstein endorsed her. The June 2018 Green Voter Guide details Feinstein’s involvement in the plutocratic system we are living in. (To download the June 2018 Voter Guide, go to https://agecure.org/wordpress/voter-guides/) Nonetheless, Cook-Kallio is clearly the best qualified candidate.

She has a strong education background, having taught for a number of years as a high school civics teacher and currently serves on the California State Civics Education Task Force. Her views on public education are generally progressive, critical of the widespread expansion of charter schools and for greater funding for public education. She is very concerned about how FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team), the financial monitoring board created by the State Legislature, has impacted school districts such as Oakland.

Cook-Kallio has also served as a city council member in Pleasanton from 2006-2014. She has been endorsed by the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the Alameda Central Labor Council.
County Supervisor continued from page 9

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

David Kakishiba: Homelessness; Community Safety; Public Health.

Lena Tam (The website has no ‘Priorities’ tab, this is taken from the ‘Issues’ tab): Safe and Sustainable Transportation; Environmental Protection; Public Safety; Poverty and Homelessness; Healthcare; Rebecca Kaplan: Community Safety; Public Health and Hospitals; Transportation and Environment; Housing and Homelessness; Economic Opportunity;

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

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 Grant’s 10 years on the San Leandro City Council and Kaplan’s 14 years in the Oakland City Council, and an evaluation of thousands of hours of video (assuming it was available) of each of the four as they participated and chaired the various bodies they were members of—something not within the scope of this limited evaluation—it is all but impossible to rate effectiveness, well, effectively.

We think, notwithstanding, Kaplan could and should have done more to advance progressive policies and Green Party priorities as a long-time Oakland City Council member and, for some of that time, as President of the Council. Whether any of the three other candidates could have (as a thought experiment) done better is something for the future, when they continue to be the Oakland City Council, we simply cannot say.

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

Alameda County Offices
County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Unopposed Incumbent

(No Endorsement)

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

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

In her answers to our questionnaire, Wilk noted environmental and other accomplishments such as elimination of "over 100,000 pieces of paper annually; reduction of hundreds of hours of manual input; and increased turn-around time of refunds and response to the public due to our Tax Refunds Tracking System.

As the opening of a Clerk Recorder’s Office in Dublin which helps to reduce traffic congestion and driving distances. In addition, her office expanded their outreach presentations, and this year created a monthly newsletter.

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

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

Treasurer/Tax Collector Unopposed Incumbent

(No Endorsement)

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

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

In his answers to our questionnaire, he notes that he has started initiatives such as “sustainable investing, public banking, turning tax-defaulted properties into affordable housing, adopting new technology to the tax collection process, financial wellness programs for county employees, improving reported to the schools,” among others.

However, via a quick internet search, we came across a November 2017 article which asserts that Levy’s private business, the Henry Levy Group was helping a group called Alamedans In Charge, which he describes as a group of greedy right-wing extremist landlords and realtors that are hellbent on making sure that the renters in Alameda are stripped of their rights, and that “it appears to be a contradiction for the right-wing extremists of Alamedans In Charge to hook up with Henry C. Levy, a man who is all about public service,” as he took off from that firm five years ago.

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

Assessor Unopposed incumbent

(No Endorsement)

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

Given long-standing structural budget problems at the State and local levels, the November, 2020 statewide ballot was crowded with Propositions 15, to adopt a state tax on real property (maintaining Proposition 13 rules for owner-occupied residences while taxing commercial property at a market value), the Assessor’s office has influence over the outcome by the way he frames the potential impact to the County. Unfortunately, the 2020-21 “Maintenance of Effort Budget” issued by Assessor La was not supportive of Prop. 15, which then ended up being defeated by less than 4 percent of the vote (with slightly more than 48 percent in favor and slightly less than 52 percent opposed).

We are also concerned with the influence that the en- trenched Democratic Party machine may wield to unseat Assessor La given that in the last election his campaign website featured endorsements from such politicians as Gavin Newsom (who was then Lt. Governor), Rob Bonta (who was then a State Assemblymember), Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Abel Guelin (who was then an Oakland City Councilmember), former Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, Berkeley City Councilmember Barbara Bry, Alameda County Mayor Elhuyar Harris, District Attorney Nancy O’Malley, and Scott Haggerty (who was then a County Supervisor.) In addition, a few weeks before the November 2018 election, candidate Phong La had the backing of the County’s proponent’s war chest of less than $10,000, of which is considered typical of how big-money is used by the local machine to maintain its power.

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

Election Day: June 7, 2022

Green voter guide
Alameda County Offices • Local Ballot Measures

Election Day: June 7, 2022

Green voter guide

District Attorney Pamela Price, with reservations

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

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

Pamela Price has a very strong legal background and commitment to civil rights, and early in her career she worked as a criminal defense attorney. For at least the last thirty years, her practice has been in civil litigation, particularly employer 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’s Office, and therefore embedded in that system. Neither of them returned our voter questionnaire, however we examined their websites to glean a bit more about them. Price and Steward present herself strongly as the most progressive candidate. Accordingly we endorse Pamela Price, but with reservations.

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

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

This measure is very similar to one we supported in Oakland in 2020. Such funding is not linked to Prop. 98, though there have been proposed state measures to strengthen physical infrastructure. This proposal would authorize $298 million in bonds, providing roughly $14.7 million annually to the Alameda Unified School District. This would provide funding for new/renovated classrooms, improved water/plumbing systems and air quality, student health, cleanliness and safety measures, including equipment/technology which has been made more pressing during the pandemic. This would also allow for updated physical equipment for curriculum needs. These funds could not be used for staffing, including added administration. There would be an annual audit of expenditures and an independent oversight committee, in line with the legal requirements passed in Prop. 39. Also in line with that initiative, the percentage needed to pass this measure would be 55 percent. All funds would be expended locally and none allowed to be deferred to state spending. Though Alameda has just 4 charter schools, they could have access to such funds as mandated by the state. The monies which will be raised by this bond are desperately needed, and even though we would have preferred a different funding mechanism, it’s still important to vote YES, so that these critical needs can be met.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We recommend you vote YES on MEASURE C.

Green Sundays

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

When: Second Sunday of the month, 5:00-6:30pm
Where: Online, on Zoom

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

Ten Key Values of the Green Party

Ecological Wisdom
Nonviolence
Social Justice
Grassroots Democracy
Decentralization
Community-based Economics
Feminism
Respect for Diversity
Personal and Global Responsibility
Sustainability

Also please see: https://www.cagreens.org/ten-key-values
Election Day: June 7, 2022

Judicial Offices
- Superior Court Judge, Office #1: Tamiza Hockenhull
- Superior Court Judge, Office #12: Pelayo Llamas
- Superior Court Judge, Office #21: No Endorsement, please see write-up

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

Local Measure
- B: Alameda School Facilities Bond: Yes, with standard bond reservations
- C: Oakland Library Parcel Tax: Yes, with standard parcel tax reservations

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

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

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