

Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: March 5, 2024

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March 5, 2024: A Monumental Election for Northern Alameda County

In northern Alameda County (where the majority of these voter guides will be distributed), no incumbents will be running in three of the five most important local offices on this year's spring ballot, thereby creating an unprecedented electoral situation. This means that we, the voters, will almost certainly be setting the political direction for these key offices for many years to come. These three major open seats are US House, District 12 (incumbent Barbara Lee is running for a US Senate seat), State Senate, District 7 (incumbent Nancy Skinner is termed out), and County Supervisor, District 5 (incumbent Keith Carson has decided to retire).

For State Senate, we are supporting AC Transit Director and former Richmond City Council member Jovanka Beckles, and for County Supervisor, we have endorsed Nikki Fortunato Bas, but for US House we encourage you to read our article about the race, to help you make your choice. There are also a number of other important races and ballot measures to vote on which we've covered in this Voter Guide, including excellent challengers running to unseat conservative or mediocre incumbents.

So please be sure to vote! Please join us in helping to make sure we elect the most progressive local officeholders possible. If you have questions about voter registration, your polling place, or your ballot, please call the Registrar of Voters at 510-272-6933. And please encourage your friends to vote too!

State Senate, District 7 Jovanka Beckles (Recommended) Don't vote for Arreguin

Jovanka Beckles has been a beacon of light not only locally, but on issues of state, national and international import. She has stood up, when a council member in Richmond, for tenants rights, for police accountability and against the power of Chevron, to run the city. She was slandered for being an outspoken LGBTQ+ feminist Black activist.

She was a key part of the Richmond Progressive Alliance in implementing a progressive agenda on so many issues. She is also a member of DSA. Though we must always note our reservation of endorsement wearing the Democratic Party label, her refusal to accept corporate donations, certainly sets her apart from the other progressive Democrats.

She went on to become a commissioner of AC Transit, and advocated free access for riders and worked very closely with the transit workers and their unions. Beyond those labor groups, she has continually stressed labor rights and been out in the picket lines for teachers, health care workers and others in contract battles, including the UPS campaign (she is a member of the Teamsters).

She has been very active around health care issues (she's a strong supporter of Medicare for All), especially around mental health care. We could go on around her clear defense of women's reproductive rights, free child care, and free time off for parents. She is also a strong advocate for environmental justice, being endorsed by noted grassroots organizations, such as California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) and the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN).

So there's no doubt why we support Jovanka. But this is still a complicated race, considering the crowded field. There are two other candidates we wish to note for positive acknowledgment.

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County Supervisor, District 5 Nikki Fortunato Bas (Don't Vote For Bauters)

In the Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 5 race, we urge a vote for Nikki Fortunato Bas. Although she is a registered Democrat, she's a genuine progressive. She told the Green County Council, "I share the California Green Party's vision of creating communities based on grassroots democracy, social and economic justice, non-violence and ecological wisdom." Her record on the Oakland City Council since 2018 supports this claim. There are no registered Greens running for the seat.

Nikki Fortunato Bas, the daughter of Philippine immigrants, has long supported immigrant rights in her public advocacy. Early on, she showed strong support for working families, notably her help she provided to garment workers in Oakland's Chinatown as a young activist.

The former Executive Director of both the Partnership for Working Families and the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE), Nikki has used her Oakland City Council position in the cause of worker rights. She authored a COVID-19 grocery worker hazard pay \$5 wage bonus covering 2,000 frontline workers in Oakland's largest grocery stores and she sponsored the creation of the Oakland Department of Workplace and Employment Standards to educate workers and enforce local labor laws.

Council member Bas authored California's strongest city-level COVID-19 eviction moratorium which helped to prevent displacement and homelessness during the COVID pandemic and fair chance housing law to help formerly incarcerated residents access rental housing. She also co-authored legislation to ensure all electric infrastructure and appliances will be used in newly built homes, restaurant and shop buildings, and offices throughout Oakland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve public health.

Recognizing the need for better wealth redistribution in Oakland, Nikki used her position of power on the Council to author a progressive corporate business tax ballot measure to raise critical revenue for city services and provide relief to the smallest businesses. The measure was popular with Oakland voters, who passed it, raising \$17 million in its first year. She played a central role in crafting Oakland's 2023-2025 budget, balancing a \$360 million deficit in the general fund.

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County Supervisor, District 4 Jennifer Esteen

Alameda County's Fourth Supervisor District includes portions of Oakland, from Montclair in the north to Oracle Arena and the Coliseum area in the south, and the communities of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, El Portal Ridge, Fairmount Terrace, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and Pleasanton. Nate Miley has represented the district since 2000, and he is now up for re-election for his seventh term.

Although he has done good things in areas of health, education and welfare for the county, he has also taken some strongly conservative positions. He has alienated progressives with his early and clear opposition to maintaining the eviction moratorium in the County, calling it "unconstitutional and a taking of private property by the government." He is also opposed to ranked-choice voting.

Despite public concerns about County Sheriff Ahern's policies and his department's budget management, Miley endorsed Ahern's re-election in 2022. He supported Urban Shield, Ahern's paeon to militarized policing, until its death in 2019. Miley has continually supported increasing the Sheriff's budget (which include the monies to run the Santa Rita Jail) and has resisted diverting any of said funds towards outside-of-jail mental health treatment. While he

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Outraged about Gaza? Register and Vote Green Party!

If you are outraged that Biden hasn't called for a ceasefire in Gaza, then take a strong action and register and vote Green Party in the upcoming presidential primary election! Because California has a Top Two primary, registering Green won't affect your ability to vote for any other public office.

The Green Party is the only progressive political party with ballot status in states across the country. Most libraries and post offices have postage-paid voter registration cards, or you can register Green via the Secretary of State's website: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. The deadline to change your voter registration status is February 20 — act now!

President (Green Party primary) Jill Stein

The 2024 election is promising to be an unprecedented moment in U.S. electoral history as third party and independent candidates continue to capture more media attention than ever before, along with the hopes and imaginations of so many voters.

It is no wonder that voter confidence and support for the two corporate parties has reached all time lows, as the Biden administration has solidified its legacy for ignoring peoples' material needs while laser focused on serving the billionaire class.

Will the U.S. government's funding for the horrific Gazan genocide finally be what pushes the American voters to the realization that "As Gaza goes, we all go" as Jill Stein noted recently?

Based on the decision of the Green Party of California (GPCA) General Assembly delegates, Jill Stein was the only Green Party presidential candidate recommended for inclusion on California's Primary Ballot. No other candidate met, or attempted to meet, the California Secretary of State's other criteria to be included on the Primary ballot. The March Primary Official Contact List of Candidates was finalized late last year.

Jill Stein is no stranger to the United States Green Party, having run for president in 2012 and 2016 on the core principles of the Green Party. In 2016, Jill's campaign, centered around Medicare for All, student loan forgiveness, climate justice, the wage gap, and workers rights, resonated with Greens and other progressives.

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Protect the Win! Vote NO on the DA Recall!

Vote No on the proposal to recall Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price. Signatures have been gathered for a recall election, which if it qualifies will not be on the March 5 ballot, but will be on a separate election sometime after March 5.

In our November 2022 Voter Guide we recommended that you vote for Pamela Price, and we were glad to see her receive over 53 percent of the votes, winning clearly in a democratic election. Since taking office she has taken clear steps to clean up what has been for a long time a dysfunctional and badly managed public office.

With a career spanning over four decades as a civil rights attorney, District Attorney Pamela Price has emerged as an unwavering advocate for a legal system rooted in fairness and equity. Her journey is not only defined by legal prowess but also marked by personal resilience and an unyielding commitment to justice.

Pamela Price's commitment to justice is profoundly personal, stemming from her own ordeal as a survivor of sexual assault. In 1981, she faced malicious prosecution by

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The Green Party of Alameda County

The "GPAC" is one of the few County Councils that produce a Voter Guide for each election. We mail about 5,000 to Green households, and distribute another 10,000 through cafes, BART stations, libraries and other locations. Please read yours and pass it along to other interested voters. Feel free to copy our "Voter Card" to distribute it as well.

Your Green Party

The things you value do not "just happen" by themselves—make a commitment to support the Green Party. Call us to volunteer your time during this election season and beyond. Clip out the enclosed coupon to send in your donation today.

During these difficult times, individuals who share Green values need to stand firm in our principles and join together to work to make our vision of the future a reality.

The Green Party of Alameda County is coordinating tabling, precinct walking, phone banking, and other volunteer activities.

The Green Party County Council meets in the evening on the 2nd Sunday each month at 6:45pm. This is the regular "business" meeting of the Alameda County Green Party. We have several committees working on outreach, campaigns, and local organizing. Please stay in touch by phone or email if you want to get more involved.

Ways to reach us:

County Council:

Phone: (510) 644-2293

Website: www.acgreens.wordpress.com

Email lists: To join a discussion of issues and events with other active Greens, send an email to: acgreens2012@gmail.com.

To get occasional announcements about current Green Party of Alameda County activities send an email to: greenpartyalamedacounty-subscribe@lists.riseup.net.

Locals:

Alameda County Green Sundays: 2nd Sundays, at 5pm, online. <http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com>. (510) 644-2293

Albany and Berkeley Greens: We are working on a number of November candidate and ballot measure contests. For more information, please contact: acgreens2012@gmail.com or: (510) 644-2293

Oakland-Emeryville-Piedmont Green Party: We are working on November candidate and ballot measure contests. Please join us as soon as you possibly can. For additional info, see our website, <http://oaklandgreens.org> or telephone us: (510) 735-7361.

East and South County Greens: We are looking for east and south Alameda County Greens interested in helping re-activate an East County and a South County local. If interested, please contact our office at acgreens2012@gmail.com.

Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: Peter Allen, David Arkin, Bill Balderston, Paul Burton, Brian Donahue, Patricia Fontana-Narell, Greg Jan, Ralph Kanz, James McFadden, Debbie Notkin, Nassim Nouri, Justin Richardson, John Selawsky, Kent Sparling, Phoebe Thomas, and Laura Wells.

Taxes and Bonds:

Due to space limitations, we weren't able to include our usual "Taxes and Bonds" article here, so please see page 2 of our November, 2022 Voter Guide online at: <https://acgreens.files.wordpress.com/2022/10/gpac-vg-11-22-web.pdf>

Voter Guide Contributions

We would like to thank the campaigns, businesses, and individuals whose donations allowed us to produce this voter guide. For the candidates and campaigns, please be assured that we conducted our endorsement process first. No candidates or measures were invited to contribute to the funding of this publication if they had not already been endorsed. At no time was there a discussion of the likelihood of a candidate's financial support during the endorsement process. The Green Party County Council voted not to accept contributions from for-profit corporations. If you have questions about our funding process, call us at (510) 644-2293.

Enjoy politics? Missing a race?

If you're interested in political analysis or campaigning, we could use your help. Or if you are wondering why we didn't mention some of the local races, it may be because we don't have analysis from local groups in those areas. Are you ready to start organizing your own local Green Party chapter or affinity group? Contact the Alameda County Green Party for assistance. We want to cultivate the party from the grassroots up.

Some races aren't on the ballot

Due to the peculiarities of the law, for some races, when candidate(s) run for office(s) without opposition they do not appear on the ballot—but in other races they do. We decided not to print in your voter guide write-ups for most of the races that won't appear on your ballot. Where we have comments on those races or candidates you will find them on our blog web site (www.acgreens.wordpress.com). Please check it out.

Our online Voter Guide

You can also read our Voter Guide online at <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides>

Our endorsement process

For many of the candidates' races, we created questionnaires for the candidates and solicited their responses. For others we conducted over-the-phone or in-person interviews. We also gathered information from Greens and others working on issues in their communities and from the public record. For local measures we gathered information as comprehensively as possible. The Green Party of Alameda County held endorsement meetings to consider all the information and make decisions. Our endorsements are as follows:

When we list "No endorsement," either we had unresolved differences that prevented us from agreeing on a position, or no position was warranted.

We only endorse bond measures for essential public projects that are unlikely to be funded otherwise. Our endorsement "Yes, with standard bond reservations" reflects our position that funding through bonds is more costly and therefore less fiscally responsible than a tax.

Where no recommendation appears, we did not evaluate the race or measure due to a lack of volunteers. Working on the Voter Guide is fun! Give us a call now to get signed up to help on the next edition!

Vote NO on the DA Recall!

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the Alameda County District Attorney's office in connection to her experience as a survivor of domestic violence. However, she emerged triumphant, successfully acquitted at trial. This unique perspective fuels her passion for championing the rights of victims and their families, driving her to work tirelessly to dismantle inequalities within the legal framework. Her historic achievement as one of the few Black women to successfully argue a case before the United States Supreme Court stands as a testament to her legal acumen and trailblazing spirit.

In her pursuit of a more equitable legal system, DA Price has undertaken initiatives addressing the root causes of crime. Her focus extends beyond the courtroom, aiming to eradicate racial, economic, and gender disparities inherent in the justice system. She has hired over 120 new lawyers and advocates since taking office. She has increased the number of advocates for victims by almost 35 percent and served over 6,000 victims, while also expanding the mental health courts and creating a community-based Mental Health Commission.

The challenges faced by District Attorney Pamela Price extend beyond legal battles to the realm of politics, where she finds herself embroiled in a recall effort funded

by powerful real estate developers and tech investors. As the first Black woman to serve as Alameda County DA, Price faces a formidable fight against a recall campaign built on a false narrative. With over \$740,000 poured into this undemocratic recall, the voters who elected her are rallying under the banner of "Protect the Win" to preserve the legitimacy of her victory. We encourage you to support the campaign (<https://www.protectthewin.org/>) and pushback against disinformation spread by the recaller.

The recall attempts, initiated from the early days of Price's tenure, highlight a disconcerting trend rooted in the motivations of wealthy individuals rather than genuine community concerns for public safety. The recall effort seeks to undermine the democratic process and dismiss the voice of the people who entrusted Pamela Price with their votes.

The significance of Price's electoral victory goes beyond personal triumph; it represents the trust and confidence the majority of Alameda County residents placed in her ability to lead as District Attorney. The recall attempts are a stark reminder of the persistent struggle for justice and equity, both within and outside the courtroom. DA Pamela Price, undeterred, continues to advocate for the best interests of Alameda County, reaffirming her commitment to a legal system that prioritizes fairness, rehabilitation, and community well-being.

As the recall campaign unfolds, DA Pamela Price stands as a symbol of resilience against powerful interests seeking to erode the foundations of democracy. Her unwavering dedication to justice, coupled with her groundbreaking achievements, paints a portrait of a leader whose legacy extends far beyond the courtroom – a legacy rooted in the ongoing fight for a legal system that truly serves and represents all.

In November 2022 we wrote: DA Price "is well qualified and clearly has a sophisticated understanding of the criminal justice system, presents a detailed and comprehensive platform, and presents herself strongly as the most progressive candidate. Accordingly we endorse Pamela Price without reservations." And since her election our conviction in her legal knowledge and expertise in managing a complex bureaucracy has increased. Accordingly we recommend you vote NO on the DA Price recall, if and when it will be voted on.

Support Your Green Party!

The Green Party cannot exist without your help. Unlike some political parties, we do not receive funding from giant, multinational 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 clip the form to the left and mail it today to help your Green Party grow.

Green Party of Alameda County

2022 Blake Street, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94704-2604

(510) 644-2293 • www.acgreens.wordpress.com



Name: _____

Phone (h): _____ Phone (w): _____

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

email address: _____

Enclose your check made out to "Green Party of Alameda County" or provide your credit card information below.

Credit card #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____ 3-digit code on back of card: _____

Include your email address if you want updates on Green activities between elections.

If you'd like to volunteer your time, check here and we'll contact you.

There's much to do, and everyone's skills can be put to use.

State law requires that we report contributor's:

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Thanks for your contribution of:

\$1 \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$ _____

State and Federal Offices

President

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In 2024, Jill Stein is running to dismantle empire and her message is far more poignant as outlined in her campaign announcement video. Her campaign aims to be the choice for all the people outside the failed two-party system and to put a pro-worker, anti-war, climate action agenda front and center on the ballot in November.

Jill's strong position against the Israeli war waged on Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the U.S. complicity and funding of this ongoing genocide has inspired many supporters who already are signing on to her campaign's "STOP GENOCIDE PLEDGE" to withhold support from candidates supporting genocidal wars and to only give support to peace candidates. If nominated by the Green Party of United States at its Presidential Nomination Convention in July 2024, Jill Stein will have the widest national ballot reach among the progressive left-leaning presidential candidates running in November 2024.

Jill Stein is a Harvard-educated doctor, a pioneering environmental health advocate, and an organizer for people, planet, and peace. She has helped lead initiatives to fight environmental racism, injustice, and pollution, to promote healthy communities, and to revitalize democracy. She has helped win victories in campaign finance reform, racially-just redistricting, and the clean-up of incinerators, coal plants, and other toxic threats. She was a principal organizer for the Global Climate Convergence for People, Planet, and Peace over Profit. Here is Jill's official campaign statement, submitted to the California Secretary of State:

The political system is broken. The two Wall Street parties are bought and paid for. Both are abandoning working people, worsening the climate crisis, undermining democracy, and squandering trillions on the endless war machine while tens of millions of Americans lack basic needs like housing, food and healthcare.

Over 60 percent of us now say the two-party system has failed us and we need a party that serves the people. I'm running for President to offer that choice for the people: a pro-worker, anti-war, climate action campaign on the ballot nationwide.

Political insiders smear voters who want better choices. But without freedom of choice in elections, there is no democracy. So forget the elites who tell you to ignore your struggle and to keep voting for the politicians who caused it. Change won't come from them; it has to come from the people.

If we come together, we can create an economy that works for all of us with living-wage jobs, healthcare, housing, food, and debt-free education as human rights.

We can create a Green New Deal with millions of jobs to fight climate collapse and protect Mother Earth.

We can end endless war and launch a new foreign policy based on diplomacy and international law.

We can revive our democracy and ensure our rights, freedoms, and justice for all.

We have the power - and we can use it in 2024 to start building an America and a world that works for all of us.

To learn more and connect with the Jill Stein 2024 campaign: <https://www.jillstein2024.com>

X - FB - Instagram - TikTok: @DrJillStein

YouTube: @JillStein2024

Interviews and news:

<https://www.jillstein2024.com/News>

Vote for a candidate whose positions you support! Given the electoral college, especially do so in "deep blue" states like California. Register Green: most libraries and post offices have free, postage-paid voter registration cards, or you can register online here: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> Be sure to register Green before the February 20 deadline so you can vote for Jill Stein!

US House of Representatives, District 12 No endorsement

This race is a disappointing case study in machine and congressional politics. First, in the 53 years between 1971 and 2024 there were only two Congresspersons: Ron Dellums for 27 years, and then Barbara Lee for 26 years. Dellums retired before his last term ended, enabling his chief of staff Lee to win in a special election and become the incumbent.

Two major tasks of Congress are to enact legislation and declare war (which Congress has not done since 1942, though the US has waged wars). The reputations of both Dellums and Lee were strongly based on being peace candidates, Dellums during Vietnam, and Barbara Lee after 9/11. This district is in Alameda County and includes Oakland,

Berkeley, Emeryville, Alameda, Albany, Piedmont, and most of San Leandro, and it is one of the most progressive and peace-oriented congressional districts in the nation, so who is the peace candidate in this race? As to legislation, which candidate will fight for having the US join the other wealthy (and some not-so-wealthy) nations that provide healthcare as a human right to their people?

The candidate most likely to succeed and become one of two survivors in the terrible Top Two primary is **Lateefah Simon**, partly because she has raised, as of the most recent report, over \$860,000, as compared to less than \$100,000 for the next-highest candidate, with most of Simon's largest donations coming from outside of District 12. With only two months before the March election, her website did not even have a tab for Issues, but it does highlight a huge list of endorsements from Democratic Party officials around the state. In other words, the candidate is "anointed by the machine" without needing to declare policy positions to the public. Of the nine candidates that will be on the ballot, Simon was one of three candidates (along with Jennifer Tran and Eric Wilson) who did not return our questionnaire, refusing the opportunity to supply specifics. Of the other two non-responders, **Jennifer Tran's** website doesn't even address the military, and although she uses the phrase Medicare for All, the details do not point toward the kind of healthcare other countries take for granted. Information from **Eric Wilson** is almost nonexistent.

Six candidates did return the questionnaire, and they are listed roughly in order of weak to strong.

Republicans **Stephen Slauson** and **Ned Nuerge** are strong on reducing the military budget and foreign military bases. Slauson, however, calls climate change a scam and believes there is no extreme income inequality in America. Nuerge has reasonable views on financial matters such as reinstating Glass-Steagall, but he's anti-choice and not on board with Medicare for All.

Andre Todd expresses general support for healthcare, climate action and other Green ideas, but he believes that "America is an entrepreneurial free country" and that the wealthy are taxed enough already. His position on US foreign policy closely reflects existing US policy related to Israel/Palestine.

Glenn Kaplan writes lengthy opinions, and seems to agree with many Green positions on healthcare, tax, universal basic income (UBI), and others, and then he undoes this alignment with his strong support for recalling District Attorney Pamela Price, a recall the Green Party is actively working against. He wants Governor Newsom to "call in the National Guard to quell the massive crime wave that is eroding communal trust in our district." His foreign policy seems to be directed toward making enemies not peace when he says, the U.S. should "adopt policies to make Russia a pariah state like Iran or North Korea until it ceases its war of aggression and abides by international law," and should "push China to play by fair international economic rules." He does not mention diplomacy.

The two whose overall positions are most worthy of support, although not endorsement, seem to be **Abdur Sikder** and **Tony Daysog**. Abdur Sikder's responses, however, are very general, for example, when asked about what specific level of military spending he'd advocate for, he merely writes that he'd "support a strategic reduction in military spending." In addition, his website doesn't address military spending or foreign policy whatsoever.

Tony Daysog has more specifics. For example he supports the goal of universal healthcare, and advocates an initial step of instituting a government-run "public choice option," an essential option that Obamacare weakened and then dropped completely. Of the nine candidates, his statement related to war and peace is the strongest. Per his website, he would "reduce defense spending not just by finding/cutting waste but via outright reductions" and "reduce significantly military footprint in Europe." Daysog would increase some taxes on the rich, but somehow finds universal basic income (UBI) "gimmicky" (does he consider social security monthly payments, which are like a UBI for retirees — gimmicky?). Daysog is only a "maybe" on reinstating Glass-Steagall, the act which had separated normal banking from speculative investments until Clinton killed it in 1999, helping to bring on the 2008 global financial meltdown.

The bottom line problem in this race and so many others, is that the two-party "pay-to-play" electoral system (for example, a ballot statement which used to be free now costs \$13,000, flat fee) makes it extremely difficult for candidates who put people, planet and peace over profit to even run. We recommend that you decide for yourself which candidate to vote for, based on this review, and if needed, some additional research of your own.

US Senate (Full term and Partial term) Consider Lee or Porter; definitely NOT Schiff or Garvey

Over two dozen candidates will be on the ballot to vie for the seat currently held by Laphonza Butler, who was appointed to this office after the death of Dianne Feinstein last Fall. However, since we don't have public campaign financing, only a handful of candidates will have enough funds to reach very many voters, with top fundraiser Adam Schiff having taken in over \$40 million as of last September, which is the most recent available report as we go to press.

In this "pay-to-play" situation, no Green or Peace & Freedom Party candidates decided to file, leaving only "No Party Preference" (NPP) candidates as the ones not affiliated with corporate-financed political parties. But unfortunately, because the policy positions of each of these NPP candidates significantly conflicted with our platform, online at either www.cagreens.org/platform or www.gp.org/platform, we are not able to endorse any of the candidates for this seat.

Yet we also recognize that some will want to vote for a "lesser of the evils" candidate, so we offer this brief analysis of the candidates who are running with one of the corporate-funded parties. **Congressmembers Barbara Lee and Katie Porter** are the two current Congressmembers polling over 1 percent who are better than the current machine candidate frontrunner, Democratic Congressman Adam Schiff. **Don't vote for Adam Schiff.** To her credit, Lee was one of the first Congressmembers to call for a ceasefire in Gaza, while Porter lagged far behind, and only supported a conditional ceasefire. However, Lee only has two policy positions on her website while Porter has 17. Links to websites for most of the candidates is on this webpage: www.politics1.com/ca.htm?links=false#google_vignette.

Since this is a "Top Two" race, voters may also want to check the polls just before they vote (see about halfway down the page here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_United_States_Senate_elections_in_California), and then cast their ballot for whichever of these two "somewhat more progressive candidates" are ahead at that time, so that at least one of them will be on November's ballot. (Note: As of the most recent poll as we go to press, Schiff is far ahead of the second place candidate, Republican Steve Garvey. However, Porter is just two percentage points behind Garvey, while Lee is five points behind Garvey). See the candidate statements in the official voter information guide, page 21, here: <https://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2024/primary/pdf/complete-vig.pdf>

State Senate

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First is Kathryn Lyberger, a long time leftist and leader in the militant AFSCME local at UC. She will garner most of the union endorsements (except the ATU and Teamsters) because she is currently the president of the state AFL-CIO, and holds many similar policy positions as Jovanka; she has been certainly a voice for workers rights and is very visible around reproductive rights. Our preference for Jovanka is more about the role she plays as an activist.

The other is Sandre Swanson, who has had a long progressive history. He was an advisor to Congressman Ron Dellums and chief of staff for Congresswoman Barbara Lee. He served in Sacramento from 2006-2012, representing the 16th Assembly District. He stood up to Governor Jerry Brown, on budget cuts to the most vulnerable, and was punished by the Democratic leadership by forcing him from his role in the Assembly labor subcommittee. He also was an advocate for canceling the outrageous debt for the Oakland School District, run up by the state takeover. He has been endorsed by a number of leading African American leaders and organizations, including the Oakland Post paper. We still believe Jovanka is in a better position to provide progressive leadership, but salute Sandre on his honorable record.

There are three other candidates, The Republican, Jeanne Solnordal did not respond, and will not be considered. The other two are local officials who have had mixed histories. One is Dan Kalb, an Oakland City Council member. While he has had a rather positive record on tenants rights, he is less so regarding police accountability and the city budget. He did recently eventually support a Gaza cease fire measure, initially trying to amend it. We have given him some critical support in the past, but this does not add up to backing for the state senate.

We strongly recommend NOT voting for Jesse Arreguin, the apparent machine candidate for the Democratic

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State Senate

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Party. Following his 2016 shift from a progressive voice as a Berkeley City Council Member, Mayor Arreguin's opportunist policies now serve major sources of wealth and power in California. Based on Arreguin's voting record for the last six years on local and regional issues, **Arreguin now acts as if his primary constituents are real estate developers and police rather than the people living in his community.** Such fealty to outside power interests is not what voters should choose for their District Senator.

Mayor Arreguin has shifted from a strong advocate of affordable housing to a proponent for market rate housing. As President of ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) Jesse led the drafting of the distribution of Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), never questioning the faulty housing growth targets (+9 percent for Berkeley) that benefit market rate developers at a time when population growth in California was flat (2017-2020) or in decline (2021-2023). This sets the stage for developers to bypass local planning commissions should cities fail to meet goals, and with Arreguin doubling down and declaring support for 15,000 new housing units instead of the assigned 8,934 for his community.

As Berkeley's Mayor, Arreguin shifted from a strong advocate for police oversight and policies to help the homeless, to an apologist for police raids on the homeless. Arreguin's pro-police switcheroo began with his voting against a Council resolution to shut down Urban Shield's police militarization training. Arreguin's pro-police fealty continued with his support of City Manager policies which brought police militarization to Berkeley and has allowed abusive police tactics directed at Blacks and the homeless.

Arreguin's lack of a moral compass was most clearly demonstrated recently in his opposition to a vote on a resolution calling for a Gaza ceasefire. Arreguin did this despite hundreds of attendees at multiple Council meetings demanding a resolution calling for an end to the massacre of women and children in Gaza. For the above reasons we rate Arreguin the worst of the candidates for state senator.

Please vote for **Jovanka Beckles**, and if possible, for this key office, please support her campaign by volunteering and/or donating; see: <https://jovanka4casenate.com>.

State Assembly, District 14 Margot Smith (recommended)

Margot Smith is a social scientist with Green values, integrity, and strong leadership whom we strongly recommend voting for. Californians have a terrible shortage of low-cost housing for moderate and low-income people, housing desperately needed by families with children, seniors, students, and workers who provide the food, goods and services everybody needs. Assemblymember candidate Margot Smith does more than empathize with the plight of those who must travel long distances from home to work, couch surf, camp on the street, or live in cars because affordable housing is not available; she took in a previously houseless UCB student for two years until he graduated. If elected as our Assemblymember, she will work to legislate needed housing and will continue opposing current housing laws that favor developers who build high-rise market-rate housing for the wealthy.

Margot Smith's doctorate is in Public Health from UC Berkeley. For decades she worked for the State Health Department and Stanford in research on the environment and improving access to health care. A brilliant social scientist, she studies data carefully and is appalled that lawmakers use obsolete high-growth population predictions to justify housing laws that favor developers instead of using the latest Department of Finance low-growth predictions. These laws also permit developers to bypass our democratically elected city councils who best understand local conditions: dangerous fire, landslide, and flood areas; evacuation routes; earthquake faults, steep hills, and narrow streets. City councils should decide where housing can be safely built.

Other issues she is tackling include tenants' rights and rent control (repeal Costa-Hawkins), healthcare for all (Single Payer,) fixing Prop 13 to tax big corporations much more, the environment and sustainable energy, saving People's Park (more green space, not less!), public transit, increasing the minimum wage to a livable wage, education, affirmative action and reparations, women's rights, racism and other bigotry, police reform, and protections for small businesses and small rental property owners.

A Bay Area native, Margot Smith has lived in Berkeley since 1969. With four children, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, she is heavily invested in a healthy, sustainable and just future.

In the last election, Democratic Party machine candidate Buffy Wicks raised over 90 percent of her campaign war chest from outside the district. This is a microcosm of the corporate takeover, about one-party politics controlled by big money: developers, real estate, tech, finance and others feeding at the Democratic Party trough. Buffy Wicks is a cog in the Corporate Machine, a machine uninterested in the public good, only interested in campaign donations to maintain power. Buffy moved to this district at the start of the 2018 election season with \$1.2 million in spending on her behalf for that primary, a record amount.

Political donations by corporations provide a huge return on investments, true for Buffy. Developer and real estate investments resulted in her co-sponsoring SB9 and SB10 which gutted local control over zoning and planning, opening the gates for East Bay gentrification, and creating a housing bubble benefiting the financial sector (loans), and a tech industry unwilling to house employees in the South Bay. Neoliberal free-market (monopoly market) politics ruled, removing communities' ability to demand affordable housing.

Buffy is an incumbent apparatchik in a Democratic Party controlled state. She was easily re-elected in 2022 with a war chest of over \$460,000. Margot Smith will be hugely outspent. Money talks but sometimes miracles happen and justice prevails.

Please peruse Margot Smith's campaign website at: www.margotsmithforassembly.com, support her, and vote for Margot Smith, Dr.P.H. Her ethical and compassionate leadership is sorely needed. Sell-out Buffy Wicks has been an even bigger disappointment than had been anticipated. Neither she nor the Republican candidate returned our questionnaire despite multiple requests. Read Smith's questionnaire answers at: acgreens.wordpress.com/?page_id=1491 to see that her values are aligned with Green Party values. Because she is not a registered Green, we may not endorse her but we highly recommend her. As no Green is running for this position, we are very grateful for Smith's courageous candidacy.

State Assembly, District 18 No endorsement

This district encompasses Alameda, San Leandro and most of Oakland, except for the northern portion. Democratic incumbent Mia Bonta will handily be one of the top two vote-getters along with one of three challengers: Republican **Cheyenne Kenney**, Republican **Mindy Pechenuk**, or American Independent Party member **Andre Sandford**. None of the four candidates returned our questionnaire, so we can only glean insight on their positions from public statements or actions and the candidates' websites.

Kenney favors limited government, individual liberty, deregulation of business, and preservation of gas power, among other issues. **Pechenuk** endorses Donald Trump and states that many of Trump's plans for the US can work for California, too. **Sandford's** website, while light on details at time of publication, promotes reparations for Black Americans while mainly emphasizing public safety including upholding the Second Amendment right to bear arms. There are a couple points that frame our assessment of **Ms. Bonta**.

First, District 18 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, **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. This being a partisan race, her role in supporting the Democratic Party apparatus and leadership will most often override her personal positions, if they conflict. In addition, **Bonta** continues to be funded by corporations, such as Amazon, JP Morgan Chase, AT&T, T-Mobile, Union Pacific Railroads, Home Depot, Blue Shield, Comcast, Charter and Sempra Energy, again landing her in the category of a corporate Democrat; so, we definitely will not be giving her an endorsement.

But there is an added matter. Bonta not only faces pressure from the Democratic Party establishment, but she is also at the center of a recent "machine" that is trying to concentrate and centralize power, focused around herself and her husband (State Attorney General, Rob Bonta), other left-centrist elected leaders, and the labor establishment, especially the Labor Council and CTA. This manifested as a conflict-of-interest question about a year ago when **Ms. Bonta** was appointed to chair a committee that oversees the budget for the California Department of Justice, headed by her husband. **Bonta** recused herself only after facing public pressure. So, this not only has implications for the County, but for the State as well.

County Supervisor, District 5

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We Zoom eavesdropped on the Democratic Party of Alameda County's endorsement meeting for this race and Nikki's leadership skill and progressive values made her outshine the five others. We were also particularly impressed with candidate Greg Hodge who unfortunately didn't answer our endorsement questionnaire. One softball question thrown at the Democratic candidates was if they in general supported local government resolutions advocating for a ceasefire in Gaza. Nikki answered affirmatively as one would expect anyone but the most corporate of Democrats. What was shocking were the two candidates, Ben Bartlett and John Bauters that said NO to this.

Berkeley City Council watchers will know what we mean when we say Council member Bartlett is a bit low on the enthusiasm scale. Is he a nice guy stuck in a job he doesn't really want? As a supervisor, we doubt he would be much better suited to the task than as a Council member. Fairly or unfairly, he has been called a "Democratic Party placeholder" by some Greens.

Lorrel Plimier responded to our questionnaire with assurances of her progressive bonafides as did Ken Berrick but Plimier, by showing her zeal to go all in with the trickle down nostrum of deregulating city's housing policies, reminds us of the 'housing emergency' meme so often used by private developers to strip us of agency in our housing policy making. Mr. Berrick, while listing former Oakland mayor Libby Schaaf and conservative Council member Pat Kernighan as primary endorsers equivocated on our straight forward question about corporate donations. It was a simple question and we expected a simple answer. On the question of free AC Transit in Alameda County, and unlike most of the other candidates we queried, Ken was clear, he is against it. The remaining three candidates, Omar Farmer, Chris Moore, and Gerald Pechenuk did not return our questionnaire and do not seem to have significant campaigns.

Nikki Bas's priorities as our County Supervisor will be: "three H's": Homelessness, Housing, Healthcare, she says. She said she believes bold leadership is needed to end homelessness, expand job creation, provide comprehensive mental health/substance abuse programs and to provide transitional housing. She told the Green County Council she will fight for housing that working families can afford and ensure every family has access to quality healthcare. The Green Party of Alameda County got it right when we endorsed Nikki in 2022 as she sought re-election to the Oakland City Council. She shares our Green values. We endorse her again today because we think she is the best and 'Greenest' candidate running for the Alameda County District 5 Board of Supervisors seat.

Donate or volunteer for Nikki Fortunato Bas on her campaign website: <https://nikki4supervisor.com/>

Don't Vote For John Bauters

You know the progressive/left cause is the dominant discourse when Corporate Democrat pols try to deny their records and appear as if they were progressive/lefties. Such is the case with Emeryville City Council member John Bauters who's running to replace Keith Carson for District 5 Alameda County Board of Supervisors. If you listen to Council member Bauters, he's the rightful inheritor of Carson's seat, progressive through and through. While it is true Bauters has been good for helping deliver affordable housing in Emeryville by use of a municipal bond he championed, beyond that, it's just the same old Corporate Democrat shtick.

Council member Bauters listens to the business community first and foremost:

- Working on behalf of the business community, in 2019 he led a drive to roll back the wages of the poorest of the working poor in Emeryville. He was stopped only when the Alameda County Labor Council started up a successful door-to-door ballot petition signature drive to end Bauters' wage roll back.

- He has been a faithful enabler of the developer lobbying group YIMBY who has been overturning democratically vetted municipal housing policy to help developers maximize profits building unwarranted rental only apartment towers without regard to neighborhood voices.

- Bauters told the people of Emeryville they will not get any more new parks because parks come at the expense of new rental housing. He says he won't ask developers to help pay for new parks.

- As mayor, Bauters led a City Council drive to disallow even a discussion of a resolution in support of a ceasefire in Gaza brought by Council member Kalimah Priforce. Bauters told the Alameda County Democratic Party a cease fire in the war that has killed 22,000 Palestinian civilians including 10,000 children is "too divisive."

Alameda County Offices

Mr. Bauters actual record is to support corporate power over people power. YIMBY California was so appreciative of all his work helping developers, they recently gave him their coveted “Developer Shill” award.

All of his bloviating to the contrary, John Bauters’ record is clear. People paying attention in his town know him but outside little Emeryville, some may get hoodwinked by all his progressive talk. People are encouraged to read the Emeryville Tattler to check Mr. Bauters’ record: <http://tinyurl.com/4rdthafw>.

County Supervisor, District 4

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does cite the Sheriff’s Department at Santa Rita Jail as “not doing an acceptable job,” and he supports an oversight agency for the Sheriff’s Department, he has never spoken out against the tens of millions of dollars in lawsuit settlements Alameda County’s taxpayers have had to shoulder due to Santa Rita jail’s mistreatment of its jailed residents nor proposed measures to curb these abuses.

Miley’s response to air pollution issues in his district may be the most important criticism he faces. Miley has represented the district where AB&I Foundry is based for 21 years. He has also been on the board of the Air District for the past 20 years, where he is currently vice-chair of the Community Equity Health and Justice Committee. Nonetheless, he has done little or nothing to combat the known air pollution contribution of AB&I, which is believed to be a significant factor in making AB&I’s zip code responsible for the third-highest number of child hospital visits for asthma in Oakland. Miley and AB&I have worked together closely on illegal dumping issues in Oakland, and it may be notable that clean air, as well as any other green issue, does not show up on the list of initiatives on Miley’s website, or the list of critical issues he submitted in response to our questionnaire. In that questionnaire, he does mention ValleyLink as a potential improvement of air quality, and also his efforts to retrofit Port of Oakland drayage truck and cargo vessels.

Miley’s endorser list consists primarily of individuals who currently hold Bay Area elected positions, though he also cites unions: Firefighters Local 55, Laborers Local 304, and the Alameda Building and Trades Council (a coalition of construction unions).

Jennifer Esteen, RN, ran for Assembly District 20 in 2022, missing the runoff target by 1.7 percent of the vote. She is a registered nurse with a background in psychiatric care, and currently is a nurse organizer of Service Employees International Union 1021, and is Vice President of the Alameda County Health System Board of Trustees. She also serves on the Eden Area Municipal Health Council and is a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Public Bank East Bay, pending approval by bank regulators. If elected, Esteen will be the first openly LGBT member of the Board of Supervisors and, perhaps more important, the first health care professional to serve on that body.

Esteen cites her four main priorities as housing, health care, jobs, and justice. She champions localized housing policy, strong transit infrastructure, net-zero buildings, publicly owned and operated utilities, and the California Green New Deal. Where Miley is mealy-mouthed on raising general assistance (“it’s low,” but “we do not want to incentive people to be on general assistance for extended periods of time”), Esteen is full-throated: “These funding levels are far too low and must be reevaluated and raised immediately.”

She supports free public transit both for the homeless and indigent and for everyone. She supports ranked-choice voting with the caveat that voter education is needed to make the process work well. Unsurprisingly, given her background as a psychiatric nurse, she strongly supports diverting monies from law enforcement and correction to mental health support and alternative approaches to public safety issues involving people with mental illness issues. In short, Esteen is almost a template Green Party candidate, embedded in the community and committed to real improvement. She lives in the unincorporated areas of the county, which are among the most impoverished. And her experience with SEIU and the Alameda County Health System demonstrate her ability to work with large organizations to make change. Among other individuals and groups, she is endorsed by the Working Families Party, Oakland Rising Action, and APEN (Asian Pacific Environmental Network) Action.

Jennifer Esteen presents a strong opportunity to replace Nate Miley and move the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to a more progressive position; you can volunteer with and donate to and her campaign via her website, at <https://www.jenniferesteen.com/>

County Supervisor, District 1 No Endorsement

Only the incumbent, David Haubert, will be on the ballot. Mr. Haubert declined to fill out our questionnaire, and he also did not fill it out four years ago when the seat was actively being contested among four candidates. At that time, in 2020, we decided not to endorse him, and instead endorsed one of his opponents, Vinnie Bacon, who had provided strong answers in his completed questionnaire. However, because there are no other candidates to consider for this year, and because Mr. Haubert has yet to fill out our questionnaire, we are not making any endorsement in this race.

County Supervisor, District 2 No Endorsement

Only Elisa Marquez, who was appointed to this seat last April, qualified to be on the ballot. We endorsed Marquez for Hayward City Council in 2016 but did not have sufficient volunteers to consider that race in 2020 when she stood for re-election.

This year, however, the questionnaire responses which Marquez provided were quite mixed. For example, she provided strong answers regarding homelessness, including advocating for the county to take the lead in working with cities on the problem, and also regarding creating a County Sheriff Oversight Board and an associated office of inspector general. But she did not yet have an opinion about an East Bay Public Bank, keeping Alta Bates hospital open, the possibility of making AC Transit free for the indigent, or possibly for everyone, or other important county issues.

Although we recognize that Marquez had been serving as a Supervisor for less than nine months as of the date she returned our questionnaire, we still hope she can quickly inform herself about the issues in our questionnaire where she did not offer an opinion.

Fortunately for Marquez, no other candidate filed to run against her this year, but until she can inform herself such that she is able to respond to the rest of our questionnaire (which hopefully will be soon), we’re not able to offer her an endorsement.

Superior Court Judge, Office 5 No endorsement

For Alameda County Superior Court Judge, Office 5, there is an odd situation, which results in our recommendation to not vote for Terry Wiley, the only candidate whose name will be on the ballot for that seat.

Not long after the filing deadline for the judge seat, it was announced that Wiley had accepted the new position of San Francisco’s Inspector General, overseeing the City’s Sheriff’s Department and two jails. (<https://www.postnewsgroup.com/former-alameda-county-prosecutor-named-inaugural-san-francisco-inspector-general/>). Given that Wiley has already been sworn in to this position and expressed that: “the enthusiasm he has for the job knows no bounds,” it appears highly unlikely that he actually wants to or would serve as a judge if elected.

In addition, while Wiley has long experience as a prosecutor, we noted several concerns when he ran for (and lost) the election for Alameda County District Attorney to Pamela Price, primarily that all of his years of experience were solely as a prosecutor, with no other legal experience, and secondarily that he did not respond to our questionnaire. It is also unfortunate that he put (and left) his name on the ballot for a job he does not really want, as the presence of a high-profile candidate likely discouraged other potential candidates from running for this seat.

Given that he does not appear to want the job and is unlikely to take the job, along with our previously-identified reservations, we cannot recommend a vote for Terry Wiley for Alameda Superior Court Judge. As a vacant seat (whether or not Wiley wins the election), it is most likely to be filled by appointment by the Governor’s office, similar to what occurred this past December when a former Alameda county judge was appointed to fill a court vacancy in Marin county (<https://www.marinij.com/2023/12/09/newsom-fills-vacancy-on-marin-county-superior-court-bench/>).

Superior Court Judge, Office #12 - Mark Fickes

There are two candidates for Alameda County Superior Court, Seat 12: Mark Fickes and Michael Johnson. Both candidates have extensive legal experience and long lists of endorsements, and both provided thorough answers to our questionnaire. In addition, both have lived experience as members of historically discriminated-against communities: gay (Fickes) and Black (Johnson). While both Fickes and Johnson are qualified for the position of Superior Court Judge, our nod goes to Fickes.

Fickes has a broader range of experience, including criminal law (primarily as a prosecutor, but also some defense work), civil white-collar fraud enforcement, and representing union members and whistleblowers.

By contrast, the vast majority of Johnson’s experience has been as in-house counsel for AT&T. While he also has some civil litigation experience, he appears to have no criminal law experience. Overall, his experience is not as broad as that of Fickes, and it also appears to be less progressively oriented. Finally, while Johnson was responsive to our questionnaire, his answers tended to be less detailed and thoughtful than those of Fickes.

Accordingly we give the edge to Fickes.

Alameda County Board of Education Area 2: Angela Normand Area 5: Guadalupe “Lupe” Angulo

These two races are discussed together not only because they both involve the County Board of Education, but because both endorseees have many commonalities. The main difference is that Ms Normand is an incumbent, while Ms. Angulo is new.

We endorsed Ms Normand in 2020 for reasons we have applied before in such races involving public education: she opposes charter schools and measures tied to privatization, has considerable experience as an educator, works for programs that improve equity for students, especially those most often underserved, and has shown good judgement in budgetary matters. In her years in office, she has not betrayed these goals. Thus she has been supported by education workers/ teachers unions as well as the whole labor movement, and progressive community groups like Oakland Rising. She again merits our support, so we again endorse her. Most of what has been said about Ms. Normand can be repeated as regards Ms. Angulo. Her district centers around Hayward, where she serves helping to coordinate public services. She also is an educator (in the Juvenile Hall) and has worked previously in helping to organize special education programs. Thus she has both certificated and classified experience. Her responses stress her focus on community engagement and matters dealing with mental help issues. She too opposes charter schools. She provided very detailed knowledge on budgetary matters (though we would have hoped for focused criticism of FCMAT).

She has the backing of the Hayward Education Association, as well as the Oakland Education Association and other CTA (California Teachers Association) affiliates (and the whole of CTA), the Alameda Labor Council and major constituent unions such as SEIU.

We assume Ms. Normand and Ms. Angulo will make a formidable duo on the County Board of Education. In Area 2, please vote for Angela Normand and in Area 5, please vote for Guadalupe “Lupe” Angulo.

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.

County Measure A - YES Civil Service Notifications

Alameda County Measure A proposes changing the minimum noticing for a County job from not less than 25 days to 14 days. Proponents argue that with the current competitive job market the 25 day minimum puts the County at a disadvantage in hiring qualified candidates. The opposition argument maintains that the change would favor insiders getting jobs. It is not clear that any deadline would change problems around job hiring favoring insiders. The opponents go on to raise concerns that the County does not have an ethics policy even though the County Grand Jury has repeatedly stated the need for one. As the 2023 Grand Jury report stated:

Alameda County has no ethics policy or code of conduct that applies to all county officials, employees, vendors and volunteers. The County also lacks a whistleblower program for use by employees and the general public. Despite repeated findings from prior Grand Juries on ethical violations, and a specific recommendation to establish an ethics policy and reporting mechanism in 2015, the Board of Supervisors has not acted for nearly a decade. Alameda County's lack of an Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct specific to the County indicates that ethical government is not a priority.

We agree with the Grand Jury, but see no reason to not support Measure A. Vote Yes.

County Measure B - YES Recall Procedures Amendment

Measure B proposes to amend the County of Alameda Charter to replace the current Charter language regarding the recall of elective and appointive County officers with Charter language that would instead rely upon California state law governing the recall of County elected officers. The current Charter requires people who circulate recall petitions for County officers to be registered voters of Alameda County, and states that voters must vote on the question of the recall of the officer for their vote for a candidate to be counted—both of which have been declared unconstitutional. The Charter states nominees to replace a recalled official must be placed on the same ballot as the recall question, and has short time limits for signature gathering, validation and organizing the election. These latter provisions make it difficult for the Register of Voters to organize elections and meet recall time lines. These provisions are somewhat relaxed under state law. The Charter sets the number of signatories of the recall petition to be equal to at least 15 percent of the entire vote cast within the County for all candidates for the most recent election for Governor of the State. This would be replaced by a percentage of registered voters, 10 percent for jurisdictions with greater than 100,000, 15 percent for 50,000-100,000, and 20 percent for 10,000-50,000. No county level recall has ever been attempted in Alameda County until the recent effort to remove District Attorney Pamela Price. This is an effort driven by outside money attempting to kill Price's reform efforts with a fake news driven fear campaign. It is unclear whether a change in recall rules will impact the DA recall effort. Overall this Measure changes outdated language in the Charter to bring it in line with California Law.

Although not perfect, we recommend voting Yes on Measure B. In the future, the Board of Supervisors could propose minor changes in the Charter that would improve on state recall procedures, but considering we are facing only the first recall in 97 years, there doesn't seem to be a rush.

Albany Measure G School Parcel Tax Yes, with reservations

If approved Albany's Measure G will replace Measure B, approved by Albany voters in 2020, which replaced an earlier measure set to expire in 2021. Measure B of 2020 imposed an education parcel tax at the rate of \$448 on each taxable parcel of real property within the District. Instead of a straight parcel tax, Measure G will tax parcels at the rate of \$0.55 per square foot of building area, or \$0.25 per square foot of vacant land; a roughly average Albany residence of 1500 square feet would pay \$825 annually, larger homes and buildings more, smaller ones less. Unlike Measure B which was set to expire after six years, Measure G will continue until it is repealed by voters. Like its predecessor, the measure includes provisions for exemptions and rebates for seniors and those on fixed incomes. The measure has clear language about the uses of funds raised, and good

accountability and accounting provisions.

The Green Party generally finds flat parcel taxes regressive, in that they impose the same tax on each parcel regardless of the difference in parcel values, and are therefore unfair to people with lesser-valued properties, who are taxed at the same rate as those with higher-value properties. By assessing on a "per square foot of building area" basis, Measure G addresses this to some degree. All property owners in Albany benefit from the value that the Albany Unified School District creates; the quality of education in Albany makes the community desirable for families with children in the public school system, thereby increasing property values of all homes in Albany. Arguments in favor of Measure G note the funds will help the District pay good wages and retain teachers.

There is no question the loss of funds, should the existing Measure B funding expire without being extended, would be detrimental to the Albany Unified School District, its employees and its students. Teacher and administrative positions would be lost, and programs and classes would have to be cut. This diminishes the community as a whole.

This parcel tax is an equitable solution to continuing to fund valuable education services within Albany, and its structure, oversight and exemption provisions make it a fair measure. As the State of California is unable to properly fund education, it falls upon local communities to do what they can to keep their programs and staff active and thriving, and nearly all agree Albany should continue to support a strong School District.

With reservations as outlined above, we recommend a YES vote for Measure G.

Berkeley Measure H - YES Parcel Tax Renewal for Local Schools

Measure H continues the essential local public school funding known as BSEP (Berkeley Schools Excellence Program), first enacted in 1985. It continues funding classroom teachers (one of the Measure's goals is to reduce class size), supports libraries in each school, and maintains a music program for every 4th through 8th grade student.

A school site selected District-wide Oversight Committee tracks, debates, and accounts for annual funding, sending recommendations to the Berkeley School Board for final adoption.

This Measure needs a two-thirds approval by the voters for passage.

BSEP funds have a long and much respected history of providing essential programs and services to our public schools, with an honored tradition of citizen oversight. It is perhaps the most important Berkeley Measure, and it is imperative for our schools, our students, and our teachers that it pass.

Measure H is endorsed by every City Council member, all members of the Berkeley School Board, and the leadership of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers. Vote YES.

Oakland Measure D – YES Increase Appropriations Limit

The California Constitution establishes an appropriation limit for local governments that only provides for cost of living increases. The Constitution further requires the limit on appropriations be approved by the voters, and that any limit on appropriations be limited to a four year term. Oakland has added new tax revenues, primarily through voter approved ballot measures since the appropriations limit was last approved. Without an increase in the City appropriation limit the City will be unable to use the funds for the purposes that the voters expected when revenue measures were approved. If approved the new appropriations limit will be in place until March 5, 2028. While we would like the City of Oakland to have a more progressive taxing system in place, we support this increase in the appropriations limit.

Taxes and Bonds:

Due to space limitations, we weren't able to include our usual "Taxes and Bonds" article within this election's voter guide, so please see page 2 of our November, 2022 Green Voter Guide:

<https://acgreens.files.wordpress.com/2022/10/gpac-vg-11-22-web.pdf>

State Proposition 1 Mental Health Facilities Bond YES, with standard bond reservations

We support Proposition 1. It would raise over \$6 Billion to build the infrastructure needed to provide a full continuum of care for those with serious mental illnesses, and institute reforms to the way counties use the revenue they receive from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), approved by California voters in 2004.

The promise of MHSA was that it would enable counties to deliver comprehensive care for children, adults and seniors living with the most serious and disabling mental illnesses, generally understood to include brain-based disorders like Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Schizoaffective Disorder, and Serious Depression. But despite the billions of dollars awarded to counties over the past two decades, those struggling with these illnesses continue to suffer, denied access to life-saving medical treatment and the supports needed to live in recovery in our communities.

Reform of MHSA is long overdue. If, as opponents to Proposition 1 claim, the existing programs being funded by MHSA are working so well, why are those with serious mental illness languishing on our streets visibly deteriorating, dying premature and preventable deaths, likelier to wind up in our jails and prisons than to find a treatment bed? The status quo is not working, especially for those who because of their ethnicity or the color of their skin have historically been the most marginalized and who suffer the harshest punishment for being ill, being the most likely to be incarcerated and the least likely to receive sustained care in our hospitals and communities.

Implementation of the original MHSA law left it to counties and their local mental health departments to determine their own rules for MHSA spending and programs. Unfortunately, this revenue stream has too often been diverted into social programs unrelated to Serious Mental Illnesses (SMI). Some of these programs may benefit the wellness of the general public or special segments of the public, but unless they are helping those with SMI, they should find their funding elsewhere. They should not be hijacking the funding that was dedicated for this very specific and very neglected population.

Those with these brain disorders need the same supports as those with any other medical illness: access to hospitals when warranted, the stability of a home to return to, and services in the community. But since its enactment two decades ago, MHSA has only funded community-based services. It has failed to provide for hospitals and sufficient housing, without which there is no continuum of care, there is no recovery. Brain disorders are some of the most complex illnesses to treat and sometimes the only way to monitor the effects of life-saving medications and other therapies is in an inpatient facility. This is not a call for re-institutionalization, as some opponents wrongly claim. On the contrary, treatment in a secure therapeutic setting at the right time and for the right length of time can stabilize a person with SMI, preventing dozens of returns trips through the revolving doors of emergency rooms for traumatic and costly 'crisis stabilization' that doesn't stabilize anyone and only leads to more crises. It also delays treatment, leaving people in untreated psychosis, which is known to cause irreversible damage to the brain and dim the chances for recovery. When people receive sustained treatment in therapeutic settings, they can more successfully transition back into the community and live safely in housing that provides an appropriate level of support and continuing access to treatment and services.

Proposition 1 also fixes the gap in service for those with the related problem of substance use disorder. The majority of those with untreated mental illness wind up self-medicating with street drugs; substance abusers often have underlying mental disorders or develop them as a result of their addictions. The Modernization Act requires that treatment providers and facilities prepare to deal with these intertwined disabilities. And most importantly, Proposition 1 imposes stricter accountability by requiring that outcomes are measured and spending audited, with penalties for failure to comply with the intent of the law. These reforms are needed to prevent the kinds of mission creep that has been occurring under the existing MHSA implementation.

Proposition 1 will not end all homelessness. But properly implemented, it can help the most vulnerable segment of this population: those with treatable but untreated mental illnesses. In the long run, it will reduce the burden on society; the billions that we currently pour into policing, emergency services, and incarceration. Most importantly, it will reduce human suffering and enable many to regain lives of dignity and hope. While we prefer other ways of financing these needs, it is important to take action on this urgent situation now. Vote Yes on Prop. 1.

Green Party County Council

Green Party County Council

Vote for up to 11 of the 12 candidates.

County Councilors are elected to make decisions for the Green Party of Alameda County (GPAC). The Council makes official endorsements, decides on spending and fundraising, appoints representatives to state and national Green Party conventions, etc. Below are short statements of the candidates for County Council. The Council does not endorse candidates in this race, but provides this space for candidates to inform you of their positions. We encourage you to vote in this important race—the winners will determine the direction of the GPAC for the next four years. County Council meetings are open to the public, and are generally held on the second Sunday of the month. All in attendance have full participation, including decision making. The only exception to this is if a vote is required (we attempt to reach consensus, and usually do), then only elected Councilors have a vote. Council members are elected at large, in compliance with Alameda County regulations.

County Council Candidates:

Bill Balderston

I have been a strong advocate for independent political action for several decades. It has been primarily through the Alameda County Green Party, but other efforts as well, such as the Labor Party Advocates and some races with DSA. With the Greens, I have run for state office (state insurance commissioner) in 2010 and been involved in many local races. With the County Council, I have frequently contributed to our voter guide and helped organize a good number of our Green Sunday forums. I am also a member of the Oakland Greens.

Much of my efforts with the Greens intersects with other political work: labor (I have been a long time leader and organizer with the OEA, the Oakland teachers union and have worked on a number of strikes), environmental justice (where I am active in groups such as System Change, Not Climate Change and in climate groups focused with educators), and peace and anti-imperialist organizing (focused years back on Vietnam and South Africa, and more recently, Central America and of course, Palestine). This is also connected with organizing around immigrant rights, especially with the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant.

It would be my honor to continue to work with and represent the Green Party of Alameda County.

Dale Baum

I am a Vietnam era veteran who became active in the antiwar movement during the 1960s. While living for many years in College Station, Texas, I served as president of the Brazos Valley Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas and advocated for workers' rights by volunteering for the Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network. As a longtime elected Democratic Party precinct captain, I gradually realized that the party would not bring about the changes that our nation needed. I voted in the 2012 election for presidential candidate Jill Stein. After retiring from teaching at Texas A&M University and moving in 2014 to Oakland, I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the County Council of the Green Party of Alameda County and in 2016 elected to it for a full term. I currently serve at the pleasure of the County Council as its official secretary. Working currently with the Oakland Greens, my top priorities for local political activism include the creation of affordable housing, decent jobs paying livable wages, improving the quality of the public schools, and working to shape what will effectively be a Green New Deal for the entire East Bay.

Diana Bohn

I am a Berkeley resident and have been an Alameda County Council member for two years. I am a long-time member of the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission, and as such, have submitted numerous resolutions, local, national, and international, that have been passed by the City Council, including the Sweatshop-free Berkeley resolution, which becomes an ordinance in 2006. I support the Green Party principles. What the Green Party represents is what the U.S. needs: no-corporate-money politics committed to the inter-connected values of peace, justice and ecology.

Ann Garrison

Vote for me and I'll set you free! I wish. Sometimes when I contemplate the endless wars, the military industrial complex, the climate emergency, and oligarchy's grip, I wonder how those of us with Green values get out of bed in the morning.

I do however, as we all do, and then I spend most of my time reading and writing for Black Agenda Report,

The Grayzone, Counterpunch and other publications or producing radio for Pacifica's Capitalism, Race, and Democracy. I've reported on Green Party politics on the local, state, national, and international level for nearly 15 years, and most recently interviewed our 2024 presidential candidate Dr. Jill Stein.

Although initially disheartening, Dr. Cornel West's decision not to seek the Green Party presidential nomination reminded me of the importance of working with an organization. Like many of us, I was grateful to Jill for stepping up to save the ballot access that Greens have labored to secure for decades. In that spirit I'm running for the Alameda Green Party Council.

Greg Jan

Over the years, I've helped coordinate much of our county Green Party work, including our Voter Guide endorsements, questionnaires, articles, and fundraising. I've also helped to find candidates for our County Council as well as statewide and local candidates, and have helped many of them with their campaigns, including qualifying for the ballot.

For decades, many Greens have consistently advocated for degrowth, cooperatives, municipalism, and/or eco-socialism, and now that many people are finally becoming aware of these ideas, we need your help to insure that this momentum can grow. Opportunities that simply haven't existed before are now emerging — and perhaps just in the nick of time, given military madness, social injustice, economic inequality, and deepening climate catastrophe.

So please "roll up your sleeves" and get involved! Whether it's registering voters, strategic planning, passing out voter guides, making phone calls, running for office, fundraising, and/or helping out with this November's voter guide, now is the time to take action! As an all-volunteer group, we need your assistance, even if it's just once every month or two — whatever you can spare. Please call us at (510) 644-2293. Thank you so very much!

Orlando Johnson

Orlando Johnson, a native of Oakland, California, has been an active participant in civic affairs since 1999 when he registered as a Green. His political journey includes a mayoral candidacy in 2006, a second attempt in 2010 (where he later withdrew to assume the role of campaign manager for Don Macleay), and subsequent involvement with the Oakland Green Party Chapter in 2011.

In 2012, Johnson played a pivotal role in a coalition that successfully established the first Oakland Municipal City I.D. Card, a pioneering achievement at the national level. Demonstrating his commitment to the Green Party cause, he served as a campaign buddy from 2012 to 2020, offering support to candidates across the spectrum. His dedication earned him a place on the County Council of the Green Party of Alameda County in 2021 and subsequently, he served as a state delegate from 2021 to 2023.

Building on his growing influence, Orlando Johnson reached new heights in 2023 by becoming a national delegate and securing a position on the Green Party Credentials Committee, further solidifying his impact on both local and national levels within the party.

Torger Johnson

Sustaining third parties like the Green Party is challenging yet vital for ensuring our diverse voices are heard. We should be proud to redouble our efforts to promote and sustain the Alameda County Green Party going forward. I like how effective our current County Council is and I am grateful for their achievements and excited about their continued success!

James McFadden

I have been a research physicist at UC Berkeley since 1985. I consider myself an anti-capitalist, anti-racist, and feminist. I believe that endless wars, racism, climate change, and economic inequality are rooted in capitalism which is supported by our one-party system, the "Business Party" with its Democratic and Republican wings. I believe a primary goal of the Greens must be revealing the corruption of one-party corporate control of the government in order to build a massive Leftist movement. I work with local groups promoting more democratic participation and against intertwined forms of oppression. I'm currently a member of the Alameda Green Party County Council and the KPFA Local Station Board. I joined the Greens about 12 years ago after reading their platform and deciding this was the Party for me. I started regularly attending Alameda Green Party meetings just over seven years ago. I would like to revive the Berkeley Greens and would welcome others joining me in this effort. In particular I would like to form an educational group to meet regularly and analyze local and global politics in an effort to develop strategies of resistance.

Justin Richardson

I devote time and energy to the Green Party because otherwise citizens would often have no way to vote against war, oppression, corruption, or our economic system in general that exploits people and nature for profit. I find satisfaction working alongside fellow Greens to create societal alternatives. If the only option was Democrats or Republicans, I simply would not be inspired to engage in civic life.

I presently serve on the County Council and regularly assist with logistics and moderation for our monthly "Green Sunday" educational speaker series and contribute to the Green Voter Guide before each election. I take on the critical role of Treasurer for many local and statewide candidates, including currently serving in this capacity for the State Green Party.

I work as a landscape architect in the Bay Area on affordable housing, streetscapes and other public spaces. In pursuit of social and environmental justice, as part of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) I serve on a statewide committee to monitor and lobby for bills in the California State Legislature. I also serve on a regional Climate Action & Biodiversity Committee to promote sustainable practices in the profession throughout Northern California.

Pamela Spevack

For the past 16 years I have been an At Large member of the Alameda County Council. I am now convinced more than ever that our grassroots approach and refusal to take corporate money is what will get corruption out of our political lives. Because more people are rising up for change, and examining the realities of the current system, it is an opportune time for us to grow The Green Party.

I come from a social justice background, having worked as an activist in NOW, Dyke TV; Women Organized for Employment, and currently involved in saving the environment and as a member of Older Lesbians Organized for Change and Move to Amend. All people are welcome to our monthly Green Party topical presentations and meetings happening on the second Sunday of each month. Please Vote for any eleven of the listed candidates.

Phoebe Anne Thomas (fka Sorgen)

I am on the Green Party National Committee, CA Coordinating Committee, and Alameda County Council. I am proud of our Voter Guide and Green Sunday programs.

A long time organizer, I was 2005 Outstanding Woman of Berkeley and 2015 Tom Paine Courageous Spirit awardee. I was on KPFA's Local Station Board, was a Berkeley Commissioner for 10 years, ran for City Council twice, am on Berkeley Citizens Action's Steering Committee, and co-chair BFUU's Social Justice Committee. I've worked for justice, peace, anti-nuke, eco issues, and getting the laws changed that empowered corporations to ruin our Earth. I made Berkeley the first city to oppose corporate personhood, first to challenge Citizens United v FEC, and helped make us first to pass a Cell Phone Radiation Right to Know law.

Think and act local AND global! As the only US representative to the Global Green Network, if not for Covid, I would have attended the June 2023 Global Greens Congress in Korea. I work with Greens internationally via a Global Greens Democracy Network.

Here in the belly of the beast, growing the Green Party is crucial to the global peaceful revolution necessary for a just and sustainable world.

Laura Wells

I am a candidate for County Council along with a great group of Greens. We run because we want to do what we can to keep the Green Party and its values alive and sustainable. The two Titanic Parties have been trying to kill us off since our birth as a ballot-qualified party in 1992, but they haven't succeeded because we won't stop. The Green Party's values are way too important: peace, justice, ecology, and real democracy, combined with the commitment to take NO CORPORATE MONEY.

The Green Party serves as an effective "progressive think tank," taking the lead regarding legalizing cannabis, legalizing same-sex marriage, public banking, the real Green New Deal, reparations and many other policies which at first seem unachievable.

I ran for statewide public office, especially state Controller, and for Governor in 2010, with the platform of tax the rich and public banking. I serve on the state Coordinating Committee, and I am continually grateful to be among the hundreds of Green Party colleagues who do vital behind-the-scenes work. I have been a spokesperson, edited local and state Green Party newspapers, and I write a monthly blog that you can find at my website <https://laurawells.org/>.

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Green Voter Card

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

Federal Offices

President (Green Party primary) - [Jill Stein](#)
 U.S. Senate (Full and partial term) - Consider Lee or Porter;
 definitely NOT Schiff or Garvey
 U.S. Representative, District 12 - No endorsement,
 please see article

State Offices

State Senate, District 7 - Jovanka Beckles (recommended);
 Don't vote for Arreguin
 State Assembly, District 14 - Margot Smith (recommended)
 State Assembly, District 18 - No Endorsement,
 please see article

Judicial Offices

Superior Court Judge, #5 - No endorsement,
 please see article
 Superior Court Judge, Office #12 - Mark Fickes

County Offices

Supervisor, District 1 - No endorsement, please see article
 Supervisor, District 2 - No endorsement, please see article

Supervisor, District 4 - Jennifer Esteen

Supervisor, District 5 - Nikki Fortunato Bas
 (Don't vote for Bauters)

County Board of Education, Area 2 - Angela Normand
 County Board of Education, Area 5 - Guadalupe "Lupe" Angulo

State Proposition

I - Mental Health Facilities Bond - Yes, with bond reservations

Local Measures

A - County Civil Service Notifications - Yes
 B - County Recall Procedures Amendment - Yes
 D - Oakland Increase Appropriations Limit - Yes
 G - Albany Schools Parcel Tax Renewal - Yes, with reservations
 H - Berkeley Schools Special Tax Renewal - Yes,
 with parcel tax reservations

County Committee

Green Party County Council - Please see article

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Green Voter Guide

A publication of the Green Party of Alameda County,
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 Pleasanton • San Leandro
 Union City

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Election Day:
 March 5, 2024



for the thinking voter