

# Green Voter Guide

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

Election Day: June 3, 2014

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## Governor - Luis Rodriguez

### *The California Governor's Race: The Politics of Illusion and the People's Alternatives*

The U.S. and California political system is dominated by big corporate or wealthy individual donors and the main media generally refuse to even acknowledge that there are non-corporate controlled candidates. To hide the fact of a phony "democracy," which is actually rule by the rich, an army of capitalist class supported politicians, spokespeople, and "experts" are deployed to try to keep the mass of the people illusion filled, confused, powerless, apathetic and cynical. It is difficult to overcome the power of these forces, but two people's candidates for California Governor have stepped forward to help build the mass movement needed for eventual victory.

### *Two People's Candidates*

Green Party candidate, Luis J. Rodriguez, has a new vision for California, which, as a skilled poet and author, his own words can best explain: "...our state is rich in resources, human capacity, technological advances, and social innovation, yet has some of the worst poverty and imprisonment rates. There have always been two states – one ripe for developers, corporations, financial institutions, and robber barons. The other state consists of the working class and poor... One state is beholden to the wealthier, and more powerful part of the population, far smaller in number. The other state consists of the vast majority and growing—hardworking people of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, and genders, many of whom have lost their livelihoods, their homes, their health, or are close to the edge.

"Here is the California story we can't cover up or push aside: Increased job eliminations, evictions, home foreclosures as well as cuts in welfare and needed services in the face of a deepening poverty-creating economic crisis. Which way for California? Which way for the country? We have to envision, strategize and organize for a singular integrated California that aligns its wealth, capacities and governance for the health and benefit of everyone. I'm convinced we need more voices to address our growing impoverishment, our deepening injustice system, and the continual poisoning of our environment... The solutions are in our hands. Let's realize our dreams of a better world; let's organize to make sure our needs are met with an economy and politics that are... accessible and adequate for all."

Luis J. Rodriguez is the author of 15 books of poetry, children's literature, fiction and nonfiction, including the controversial and best-selling 1993 memoir of gang life, "Always Running, La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A." He is also the co-founder of the nonprofit cultural space "Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural & Bookstore," as well as Chicago's "Youth Struggling for Survival," a gang and non-gang youth empowerment project. His writings have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Huffington Post*, and more.

Peace and Freedom Party candidate Cindy Sheehan became prominent in the popular movements against war and imperialism in August 2005 when her extended protest outside President George W. Bush's Texas ranch gained world-wide media attention. In 2010, she registered as a member of the Peace and Freedom Party. She was the party's candidate for vice president in the 2012 election. Sheehan wants to run for governor, "primarily because I believe that California should be leading the nation in peace, education, health care, sustainable/renewable energy and democracy... I have lived in a California that was in the vanguard of education and job creation. However, with the disastrous advent of corporate supremacy, those days are passed for the vast majority of Californians."

### *Three Corporate Candidates*

Jerry Brown has run for office more than a dozen times, won most of those races and occupied positions of

public responsibility for a total of over three decades. So he knows what he is talking about when he cynically says in regard to mainstream politics: "Politics is based on illusions." This has made Brown the ultimate flip-flopper in California political history, often switching his positions to the left or right depending which illusions are easiest to sell. One strain of consistency has been his continuous attempt to weaken government's power over the wealthy and big business. This has paid off for Brown; with \$20 million he is far ahead in fund-raising for the June primary. His money has come from big unions and corporations: one study found that one-third of all the Dow Jones-listed corporations have donated to Brown during this campaign cycle. Those who decry Brown's shocking support for fracking need look no farther than the fact that two oil majors—ExxonMobil and Occidental Petroleum—are both major contributors to Brown.

The second big business candidate is Republican banker Neel Kashkari. He became politically known because he worked on Wall Street for Goldman Sachs, and was hired by Goldman's former CEO, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, to work in the federal government during the Bush II Administration. This included using taxpayer funds to bail out the banks and their owners, including Paulson and Goldman. Kashkari has evidently decided that being a Goldman Sachs veteran does not create the right set of illusions to win however, so he conveniently leaves any reference to his years at Goldman out of the website advertising his candidacy. Given that his connection to Goldman is why he is at all prominent today, this omission is dishonest.

The Tea Party "grass roots" faction of the Republican Party supports the small business candidate, California State Assemblymember from Southern California Tim Donnelly. He goes out of his way to attack immigrants from Mexico. Donnelly is a founder of the gun-toting Minutemen in California, and plead guilty after being arrested in 2012 with a loaded Colt handgun in his luggage when trying to board a plane at Ontario Airport.

Also running for Governor are Democrat mathematician Akinyemi Agebe; Republicans: economist Richard Aguirre, CEO Alma Marie Winston, contractor Glenn Champ, and Laguna Hills Mayor Andrew Blount; and independents: psychologist Robert Newman, minister Janel Hyeshia Buycks, businessman Bogdan Ambrozewicz, golf course manager Joe Leicht, and Rakesh Kumar Christian.

We recommend and endorse Luis J. Rodriguez for Governor of California. You can support his campaign at: <http://rodriguezforgovernor.org>.

## Secretary of State David Curtis

We are fortunate to have a Green Party choice in the California Secretary of State race, David Curtis. David Curtis is easy to talk to. His cell number is on his website, call him and ask him something. To date, David Curtis has received 60 donations from actual humans, so he has zero obligation to get on his knees for corporate America. He has made a career of not being a yes man. If elected, can he certify the results of an election? Yes! But... elections? The whole thing has been priced out of our range by the SCOTUS ruling. So a vote for David Curtis is basically for "No, money is not speech."

David's goal for the office is to make elections as open and fair as possible, and remove obstacles to participation so that we can get representatives who are our peers. If elected, David will oversee an office of 500 people. He was an associate of TSA, the Stubbins Associates, a firm that grew from 100 to 700 people. He would also be a trustee of the state archives and the CA Museum. David was a design leader on two Guggenheim Museums and the Nevada State Museum, and is a licensed residential designer who has worked in architecture since 1989.

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## General Overview of Alameda County Offices

The Alameda County government has many important responsibilities. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has responsibility for welfare and health care services. In addition, it has nominal oversight over the Sheriff, District Attorney, and other departments. Yet it consistently flies below the radar, receiving much less scrutiny than the Oakland or Berkeley City Councils. Most of the time the County BOS meeting room is empty, except for businesspeople who want money from the County.

When progressive issues come before the Board, they rarely attract protestors with demands. As a result, the County BOS is even more impervious to being influenced than the City Councils. For example, when the foreclosure crisis started, people realized that the Sheriff is responsible for evictions. The Sheriff could have done something other than being the hired hand of the banks. In other jurisdictions Sheriffs were known to refuse to evict people.

When the Sheriff decided he wanted a drone, there  
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## Lieutenant Governor Jena Goodman

In a state where chronic underfunding of higher education and the inequities it produces has become a rallying cry for students statewide, Jena Goodman, the Green Party candidate, plans on focusing her campaign on college and university campuses. "It's time for a greater student voice in our state's politics," says Goodman.

Jenna Goodman lives in Vallejo and served as president of the Associated Students of Napa Valley College from 2012-2013, representing approximately 8,000 students. Today she attends UC Davis, studying biodiversity and ecology. At 28 years old, she will be the youngest candidate and the only woman on the ballot for Lieutenant Governor. She will also be the best candidate to represent the interests of students and youth, and to inspire lots of them to become involved with the Green Party. Goodman was formerly Chair of the Solano County Green Party.

Goodman's vision for a Green California includes free higher education, living wage green jobs, and protecting California from climate change. "I believe higher  
*continued on page 3*

## STATE PROPOSITIONS Proposition 41 – NO Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond

Generally, the Green Party is very cautious about the use of bonds. Specifically, because bonds are largely purchased by the very wealthiest (the "1%"), as they are paid off, there is a deplorable transfer of money from working class taxpayers to the rich. Bonds should therefore only be used when there is no other alternative, and now that forming public banks as an alternative is being actively pursued in dozens of states, it's time for California to also move away from this very regressive form of financing. Furthermore, we can find no provisions within this proposition which will prevent (or even reduce) "profiteering" by the private builders, developers, and financiers who will be involved, nor any requirements that the proposed housing be close to jobs and transportation, with considerations for liveability and community.

In the November 2008 general election, Californians passed Prop 41—the Veteran's Bond Act—with 63 percent of the vote. As had happened more than twenty times prior, this allowed for the sale of bonds to support the Veterans Farm and Home Purchase Program which has been around since the early 1920's. Prop 41 allowed for the sale of up

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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 7,000 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 the back "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](http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com)

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

[GreenPartyofAlamedaCounty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GreenPartyofAlamedaCounty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) (all one word, no spaces, but a dash between County-subscribe). To get occasional announcements about current Green Party of Alameda County activities send an email to: [announcementsGPAC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:announcementsGPAC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

### Locals:

**Alameda County Green Sundays:** 2nd Sundays, at 5 pm (followed by a 6:45 pm County Council business meeting); Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. at 65th St., Oakland. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AnnouncementsGPAC>. (510) 644-2293

**Berkeley Greens:** We are working on a number of November candidate and ballot measure contests. To join our email list, and for more information, contact: <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/berkeleygreens>; (510) 644-2293

**Oakland-Emeryll-Piedmont Green Party:** We are running at least one candidate in the November election. Please join us as soon as you possibly can. For additional info, please see our website, YahooGroup, or telephone us: [www.OaklandGreens.org](http://www.OaklandGreens.org), <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oaklandgreens>, (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 Maxine Daniel (510) 459-7610, [maxine.daniel@gmail.com](mailto:maxine.daniel@gmail.com).

### Credits:

Our voter guide team includes: Peter Allen, Jan Arnold, Victoria Ashley, Bill Balderston, Paul Burton (page layout), David Curtis, Maxine Daniel, Brian Geiser, Dave Heller, Greg Jan, Tina Kimmel, Anita Lee, Mike Murphy, Michael Rubin, John Selawsky, Alex Shantz, Larry Shoup, Pam Spevack, and Laura Wells.

### 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](http://www.acgreens.wordpress.com)). Please check it out.



## 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!

## Taxes, Bonds, Fiscal Responsibility and the Green Party

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 responsible and progressive financing impossible.

Our budget problems took a turn for the worse in 1978 when California's most famous proposition, Prop 13, was approved by voters. Fourteen years later, in 1992, the Green Party achieved ballot status in California and we've been fighting for a fairer tax system ever since.

Voters overwhelmingly approved Prop 13 to keep people, especially seniors on fixed incomes, from losing their homes due to escalating property taxes. Other less-understood parts of Prop 13, however, have increasingly damaged California's legacy of great schools, parks, highways, health care and quality of life.

Prop 13 flattened property taxes and prohibited imposition of any new "ad valorem" (according to value) taxes on real property. Prop 13 also requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature to increase state taxes. This super-majority is a steep hurdle to jump, especially when slightly more than

1/3 of our legislators have pledged to vote against any and all taxes.

Taxes are now less progressive and more regressive, taxing the poor more than the rich. California can keep the good and fix the bad in Prop 13, but neither majority Democrats nor minority Republicans use their power to promote real solutions.

Bonds have been sold to voters as "no new taxes" rather than "spend now and make kids pay later, with interest." Bonds meanwhile enrich and give tax breaks to wealthy investors, and encourage scams by casino capitalists on Wall Street. Super-rich individuals and corporations avoid paying taxes, and instead loan money to the government in the form of bonds, and get even richer from the interest. Implementing a publicly-owned State Bank is one way California could use its own capital to fund public projects, and invest the interest savings back into California.

Property taxes before Prop 13 came primarily from commercial properties, and now primarily from homes. Homes are reassessed upon sale, whereas tax loopholes allow corporate properties to escape reassessment.

Parcel taxes are often the same for large properties and small condos. For some voters parcel taxes are outstripping their basic property taxes.

Sales taxes have been relied upon for balancing budgets, and weigh heavily given that, as updated annually by the California Budget Project, when looking at family income, the poorest 20 percent pay more in state and local taxes than the richest 1 percent. This continues to be the case even after Proposition 30's tax rate increases. Those who average \$13,000 pay 10.6 percent and those who average \$1.6 million pay 8.8 percent.

With Reservations we endorse funding when needed for vital services, and at the same time we educate and organize for better ways of raising revenue in the future.

## 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 since our last issue, for the November, 2012 election. Please send 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.*

### Green Party of Alameda County

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

(510) 644-2293 • [www.acgreens.wordpress.com](http://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  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Statewide Offices

### Secretary of State

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Human activity is stressing nearly every species on Earth, Greens in office acknowledge this reality. David Curtis is a father, he lives with his partner and three children in the Lucas Valley of Marin County. He first registered Green Party in 2000 when Ralph Nader ran for president. David has been working actively with the Green Party since 2006 as they try to become the cleanup crew for a failing two party system. David can deliver actual political reform; his campaign is already doing it. His financials are reported in real-time on his website. Don't give your vote to a "more of the same" duopoly candidate... same rape of the planet, same pre-loading of the race with cash-on-hand displays, same monopoly interests, same corruption, same inadequate representation of actual people.

Other candidates are Democratic State Senator Alex Padilla, a known guy, who will likely maintain monopoly interests. Derek Cressman is the "back up" Democrat in case Padilla stumbles, although it is pretty hard to top the bribery and gun running charges Leland Yee faces. (Yee is still on the ballot so don't accidentally vote for him because you "remember his name from somewhere"). There's Dan Schnur, a former Republican re-branded as "no party preference," but who is perhaps 100 percent subsidized by GOP money. There is also Pete Peterson, the media talks about him because he is a registered Republican. There are also two lesser known candidates but they don't seem to be actually running.

We recommend and endorse David Curtis, the Green, for Secretary of State. Support him at: <http://www.votedavidcurtis.org>.

### Lt Governor

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education is the key to solving a multitude of crises facing California," Goodman explained. "I will use my position as Lt. Governor (on the University of California Board of Regents, California State University Board of Trustees, and Chair of the Commission for Economic Development) to promote a green vision for investing in free higher education to prepare workers for the green economy, coupled with a Green New Deal program to create tens of thousands of living wage green jobs. By investing in education, we can expand opportunity, pull people out of poverty and shift California from fossil fuel dependency to a new green economy... My campaign is about grassroots democracy. It's about giving voters a real choice to vote for a green vision for California."

Jena Goodman's top challengers for the race will be incumbent Democrat Gavin Newsom, and Republican Ron Nehring. Gavin Newsom almost lost to Green Party member Matt Gonzalez during the San Francisco Mayoral race in 2003. Newsom is accepting contributions from big corporations such as Microsoft, PG&E, Nike, Sony, and Facebook. Newsom has stated that he believes government should operate more "entrepreneurial", which is code for like a business. Ron Nehring is the former chair of the Republican Party of California. He served as a Governing Board Member of the Grossmont Union High School District.

The Peace and Freedom Party is running college student Amos Johnson. We are happy to see third party candidates involved in creating a real democracy. Also running are Democratic businessman and engineer Eric Korevaar, Republicans David Fennell and software engineer George Yang, and Independent engineer Alan Reynolds.

We recommend and endorse Green Party candidate Jena Goodman for Lieutenant Governor. Support her campaign at: <http://jenagoodman.com>.

### Controller Laura Wells

The California State Controller race is crowded with six candidates running for the position of California's Chief Financial Officer. The Controller oversees the receipt and disbursement of billions of taxpayer dollars and has the ability to audit state government for fraud and other fiscal abuses.

Green Party candidate Laura Wells is a founder of the "No Corporate Money" Campaign, in which candidates pledge to take no corporate money and a critical mass of voters declare their intention to vote for no-corporate-money candidates. Wells's focus is on solutions, such as implementing a State Bank to save money on interest and to invest in California, not Wall Street bankers. She would tax the super-rich the way California did decades ago, when the rich could still get richer, and it was a state filled with great opportunities. Laura Wells believes we can change our spending priorities from prisons to schools.

Laura Wells is running again for State Controller in 2014. She was the Green Party candidate for State Controller in 2002, where she received a record-breaking half million votes, and for Governor of California in 2010, where she advocated establishing a State Bank for California and implementing fair taxation policies. At a gubernatorial debate which excluded all third party candidates, Wells was arrested upon attempting to enter the building to watch the debate, and charged with "trespassing at a private party." In 2006, she was on the executive committee of the campaign that gained voter approval for Instant Runoff Voting in her hometown city of Oakland.

Wells 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 financial industry for 20 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.

Democrat State Assembly Speaker John Perez's contributors include ALEC member corporations, health insurers and healthcare providers including Catholic Bishop controlled conglomerates. *The Los Angeles Times* in 2010 observed that John Perez has "deep pockets." In Sacramento Perez is jokingly called "gift" and according to California Common Cause, "Speaker Perez outpaced his leadership colleagues by accepting gifts valued at nearly four times of those gifts given to other leaders." Patricia Bellasalma, J.D., President of California NOW, says "A complex matrix of money and influence has been built out of the weakest campaign finance laws in the country where money and influence flow in and out of state and local government, as well as non-profits. The political corruption that permeates local and state government has risen to exponential levels since John Perez became Speaker." It is expected that as Controller, Perez's platform would continue to favor those who "gift" him and his donors, instead of the people who he is charged with serving.

Betty Yee, who can no longer run for state Board of Equalization due to term limits, suggested recently in the Sacramento Bee that the Democratic state party leadership has become too heavy-handed and is disconnected from grassroots activists—many of whom are "Greens" but who register as Democrats still "Hoping for change." However, an LA Times article on February 1, 2014 stated that Yee's campaign has raised about \$1 million (compared to Perez's 3.8 million). Yee's sponsors include a host of "nongrassroots" corporate donors, including PG&E, Comcast, Pfizer, JP Morgan Chase, Genentech, Anthem Blue Cross, Clear Channel, Visa, Bechtel, and Bank of America.

Ashley Swearengin, the pro-growth Republican candidate who is currently serving a second term as the Mayor of Fresno, has received large donations from anti-labor donors. She is in favor of cutting services to improve fiscal health.

Two corporate party candidates on the ballot who do not have significant campaigns are: Democrat Tammy Blair, a business administrator from Los Angeles, and Republican David Evans, a Redwood City Real Estate Broker and CPA.

We recommend and endorse "No Corporate Money" candidate Laura Wells for Controller. For more info on Wells's platform, please see: [http://www.laurawells.org/what\\_is\\_your\\_platform](http://www.laurawells.org/what_is_your_platform).

### Treasurer Ellen Brown

California State Treasurer candidates Ellen Brown, John Chiang, and Greg Conlon are currently battling for the office responsible for the state's investments and finance.

Ellen Brown, the Green Party candidate, is an attorney, founder of the Public Banking Institute, and the author of 12 books and over 200 articles. She is running for Treasurer on an innovative platform that she believes can take California from austerity to abundance. In her book *Web of Debt*, she showed how a private banking cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. In *The Public Bank Solution*, the 2013 sequel, she traces the evolution of two banking models that have competed historically, public and private; and explores contemporary public banking systems globally. She announced in January:

"I am running for California State Treasurer on a state bank platform, along with Laura Wells, who is running for Controller. Our vision is to transform California, the world's eighth largest economy, into a financially sovereign state. We are running on the ticket of the Green Party,

because it takes no corporate money. Candidates who take corporate money—and that means nearly all conventional candidates—are beholden to large corporate interests and cannot adequately represent the interests of the disenfranchised 99 percent.

"There is another way to balance a state budget, one that leads to prosperity rather than austerity. California can stimulate its economy and the job market, restore low-cost higher education, build 21st-century infrastructure, preserve the environment, and relieve the state's debt burden, by establishing a bank that is owned by the people and returns its profits to the people."

Democrat John Chiang has termed out as Controller. He ruffled feathers while in office by delaying tax payments and welfare checks, and in January of 2014 a state Appellate Court ruled that Chiang had "...overstepped his power with his 2011 decision to dock legislators' pay after he concluded the budget they passed was not balanced. A Superior Court judge ruled in 2012 that Chiang lacked authority to take such action involving the budget, and a three-judge panel of the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento agreed."

Republican Greg Conlon is a frequent candidate and ex-Public Utilities Commissioner, accountant and USAF Veteran who is in favor of repealing Obamacare, solving the healthcare crisis with tort reform, and reducing health insurance companies' interstate barriers. Conlon supports building more nuclear reactors to reduce carbon emissions and our dependence on foreign oil. He advocates solving the unemployment crisis by creating jobs through tax incentives.

We recommend and endorse Ellen Brown. Help support a Public Banking expert as California's next State Treasurer at: <http://ellenbrown4treasurer.nationbuilder.com>.

### Attorney General No Endorsement

The field for California Attorney General is thin this election year. No Democrats are challenging incumbent Democrat Kamala Harris, who barely pulled out a squeaker over Republican Steve Cooley in 2010, despite (or perhaps only because of) Cooley's lackluster campaign. Harris is the perfect Democratic candidate—attractive, articulate, not a white male, and she can talk in superficially progressive terms to attract liberal votes. But will happily take corporate money and shift her position for political expediency. As San Francisco District Attorney she was loudly anti-death penalty, but when running for Attorney General in 2010 she shifted to being quietly pro-death penalty.

Since then, Harris has honed her skills for shameless self-promotion while avoiding taking any controversial (or truly progressive) positions. While she masterfully grandstanded her own role in the national foreclosure litigation, she has avoided prosecuting police officers for abuse and shootings. And she has raised some big money. Much of that is from unions (the State Building and Construction Trades Council of CA PAC gave her over \$25,000) and the entertainment industry. But she has also taken a lot of money from big agribusiness and water developers, such as the Resnicks (of the Kern County Water Bank, pistachios, almonds, POM and Fiji Water) and Cadiz, Inc., a land and water development corporation. And she got \$1,000 from Donald Trump.

Harris' four Republican challengers are a motley crew. Phil Wyman, a former state legislator, identifies as his major achievements that he was author of the "three-strikes" law, and his support for school uniforms. He does not appear to grasp that he is running for statewide office, as part of his platform consists of bringing pork-barrel projects, such as highway improvements, to his High Desert district.

David King, an attorney with experience working for law firms and public agencies, does not really appear to have a specific platform, although he appears to be willing to sue the NSA and CIA over their domestic surveillance programs, and to support efficient use of water, he wants to streamline permitting for development projects.

Attorney John Haggerty embraces the typical conservative and far-right positions, such as accelerating the use of the death penalty, opposing "illegal immigration," protecting unborn children, and defending Prop. 8, which banned same-sex marriage.

"Republican for the People" Ron Gold, a former Deputy Attorney General but apparently currently unemployed, perhaps oddly supports legalizing marijuana, legalizing undocumented residents, limiting the power of money in election campaigns, protecting privacy against government and corporate intrusion, and fighting elder abuse.

Jonathan Jaech, the Libertarian candidate, is vague

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## State Offices

### Attorney General

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about his background and experience, but does set forth a fairly detailed platform, which is generally consistent with Libertarian views.

Finally, there is one non-party candidate, the notorious “birther,” Orly Taitz, who has gained notoriety for both her extreme and bizarre positions and her incompetence as an attorney.

Sorry, but you really don’t want to vote for any of these people.

### Insurance Commissioner Nathalie Hrizi

Nathalie Hrizi is the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for California State Insurance Commissioner. Hrizi previously ran for Congress in the 8th Congressional District of California in 2008, and received more than 5,000 votes. Hrizi is running on a platform primarily demanding health care for all regardless of income, gender or immigration status, and the abolition of the parasitic insurance companies.

Hrizi supports the creation of “Medicare for All,” a single-payer health care system, with the state or federal government as the payer for health care services. Healthcare today makes up nearly 20 percent of the U.S. economy. The Healthcare-Industrial Complex—Big Pharma, the insurance companies, medical equipment makers, private hospital and nursing home corporations, etc.—are reaping ever-greater profits while millions of working people are pushed to, or over, the brink of bankruptcy. According to Hrizi, the only real long-term solution is the nationalization of the entire healthcare industry under the democratic control of elected committees of health workers and consumers. What exists today is not a system in any sense, and the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”), while it will provide health insurance at a (sometimes exorbitant) cost for millions who today have no coverage, will not create a health system.

Cuba, a country that has far fewer resources than the U.S., has been able to build a real health care system. Every neighborhood has a doctor and small clinic. The doctor is pro-active and the emphasis is on prevention: if patients do not come into the clinic, the doctor visits them. If patients’ needs cannot be met by the doctor or clinic, they go to a regional hospital. Then there are specialized hospitals for advanced treatment. Health care is considered a basic human right in Cuba.

Creating such an actual health care system in the U.S. would be relatively easy. Existing facilities would be incorporated and the building of a vast network of local clinics would provide millions of construction and permanent staffing jobs. What stands in the way is corporate capitalism, a system which prioritizes profit over the most basic human needs and indeed the future of life on the planet. That is

why in addition to “Healthcare for All,” and “Abolish the Insurance Companies,” the Nathalie Hrizi for Insurance Commissioner campaign says “Vote Socialist 2014!”

Hrizi is a public school teacher in San Francisco, where she lives with her four-year-old son. She is also an organizer with the recently formed organization WORD—Women Organized to Resist and Defend. She has been an antiwar and anti-racist activist for many years.

Another candidate, David Jones, the incumbent insurance commissioner, is from the liberal wing of the Democratic party and has carried out some progressive reforms while in office. But he is also a supporter of the existing broken system of private health care and insurance. Ted Gaines is the Republican Party candidate. He currently owns an independent insurance agency based in Sacramento. Gaines’ campaign is predicated on attacking David Jones personally—claiming that the California Department of Insurance (CDI) and Jones himself are ineffective. Gaines has personally sued the CDI because it is not allowing insurers in the California healthcare exchange to continue selling plans that do not conform to Affordable Care Act requirements.

We recommend and endorse the only non-corporate candidate in this race, Nathalie Hrizi, of the Peace and Freedom Party, for Insurance Commissioner. Support her at: <http://hrizi2014.org>.

### State Superintendent of Public Instruction Don’t vote for Gutierrez or Tuck

This election is nominally a non-partisan race but involves three candidates who all are clearly aligned with the two parties of business. That said, there are significant differences in their policies.

Tom Torlakson is the current office holder and is one of the main representatives of the so-called “Labor Democrats.” He is heavily backed by the two main educator unions, the California Teachers Association and the California Federation of Teachers, as well as the state AFL-CIO. He opposes the testing regime (at least in opposition to the federal guidelines, for which there is currently a moratorium in California) and the expansion of charter schools. Also important is his opposition in the Vergara case, which would undermine seniority and due process for 275,000 teachers in the state.

The other two candidates are abysmal. One is Lydia Gutierrez, who, while a former teacher, is a Republican who ran in 2010 and a former aerospace administrator. While she opposes the current Common Core program (which seems reasonable but further expands testing), she does so from a position of simply rejecting any federal involvement in education, and is a corporate advocate.

The third candidate, Marshall Tuck, is clearly a “corporate Democrat.” He is a former investment banker for Salomon Brothers as well as the president of Green Dot Charter Schools. This network entered into a partnership in the Los Angeles school district, aided by the former mayor, Antonio Villaroigosa; in addition, he is backed by such anti-union education “deformers” as Michelle Rhee, formerly head of the D.C. schools. He is certainly an advocate for extending regressive testing criteria and overt privatizing.

We are not endorsing Torlakson. We regret that no non-corporate candidate is running this time. However, we strongly urge you NOT to vote for Gutierrez or Tuck.

### Board of Equalization, District 2 No Endorsement

Democratic Party candidate Fiona Ma is running to replace another of San Francisco’s Sunset/Parkside District former residents, Betty Yee, who is running for Controller. Ma, who was both appointed and elected to SF’s Board of Supervisors, also follows in the shadow footsteps of indicted State Senator Leland Yee, whom she first replaced in Yee’s Supervisor district, and then in his State Assembly district.

Ma worked the SF money mill as the District’s Supervisor. Her Supervisorial term raised eyebrows and ire among local Greens in the neighborhood where she claimed to reside. Ma remained obedient to the party machine as a Mayoral (Willie Brown) appointee, was then bankrolled as an appointed-incumbent, and was, after less than one term, bumped up to Sacramento to the assembly for 3 consecutive terms. Ma set the standard for a series of Mayoral Supervisor appointees to come: Ed Jew, appointed, elected, convicted twice—for extortion and for perjury for lying about his place of residence—and sent to jail; Carmen Chu (appointed, elected to term limit, elected SF City Assessor/Recorder); and Katy Tang, (appointed, elected, ?).

Ma, like her predecessor, Leland Yee, is a fan of the recently-indicted Raymond “Shrimp Boy” Chow (who served some 18 years in prison for robbery, attempted murder, racketeering, etc. between 1978 and 2003), and she arranged to award a Certificate of Honor to him. Ma is responsible for AB 1925 which limited renter’s rights in SF, which is under rent-control.

We can not be sure of what Ma would do to taxpayers’ checkbooks if elected to the Board of Equalization, which is charged with administering upwards of \$50 billion in tax money. To date, her obedience and record of service to those who paid for access in our checkbook democracy stands on its own.

Ma’s opponent, Republican James Thies, is an “invisible candidate” who does not have a website, nor a statement in the voter information guide pamphlet. Although the Board of Equalization is arguably a somewhat “obscure” office, it’s still very disappointing that we don’t have better candidates for this seat.

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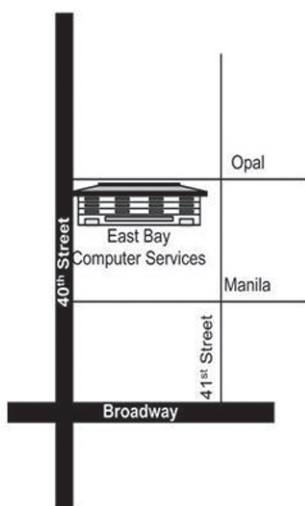
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## Green Sundays

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: Niebyl-Proctor Library,  
6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland  
(between Alcatraz and 65th St.)

Wheelchair accessible.



## State Assembly • State Propositions

### State Assembly, District 15 Eugene Ruyle

The 15th Assembly district covers the area from North Oakland through Berkeley, Richmond, and San Pablo, to Pinole. No Green Party candidate is contesting for this seat, to replace 3-term Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, who can no longer run due to term limits. However, one candidate from the other non-corporate party (Peace and Freedom) is running, retired anthropology professor Eugene Ruyle. Many of Ruyle's positions are solidly in line with Green Party positions, such as public funding of elections, health coverage for all, and strong environmental protections. For example, Ruyle wants to outlaw "destructive practices such as clear cutting, fracking, mountaintop removal, tar sands extraction, and offshore drilling." And for elections, he writes, "I have long supported the Green Party's 'No Corporate Funding' campaign." Although Ruyle provided strong answers to most of our questionnaire, there were two areas of weakness: funding of education and addressing the periodic state budget deficit, where Ruyle merely answered, "End the Wars and Tax the Rich." Nevertheless, Ruyle's overall positions are the best and most progressive among the eight candidates. In addition, he notes that his party (Peace and Freedom) has "also endorsed Ellen Brown, the Green Party candidate for State Treasurer, and her call for a State Bank."

The one other candidate who is not affiliated with either of the two corporate parties is scientist Bernt Wahl, who does not have a party preference. However, Wahl's answers to our questionnaire were very short and inadequate, and his website (as we go to press in mid-April) almost completely lacks any specific state legislative policies — he is simply not running a credible campaign. There is also one Republican in the race, San Pablo City Councilmember Rich Kinney, whose website (as of mid-April) also has an almost complete lack of any specific state legislative policies on it. Plus, Kinney decided not to even fill out our questionnaire — and of course, he's a Republican — 'nuff said!

Of the five Democrats, there was just one who declined to answer our questionnaire: former Small Business Administration administrator Elizabeth Echols. Which is probably somewhat understandable given that Echols is supported by the previous holders of this seat: incumbent Nancy Skinner,

current state senator Loni Hancock, and current Berkeley mayor Tom Bates—as well as the five most conservative members of the Berkeley city council. Echols's website (as of mid-April) only contains a handful of very general policy positions, and there is no indication at all that she would be better than previous officeholders Skinner, Hancock, or Bates. In other words, "same old, same old."

As of the most recent (March 17) campaign filing period, two other candidates (besides Echols) have raised over \$100,000: attorney Sam Kang and former Richmond City Councilmember and School Board member Tony Thurmond. Thurmond gave several good answers in our questionnaire, especially regarding health care (support for a single payer system) and on environmental issues, including his experience having previously taken on Chevron. He's also supported by three progressive City Council members: Berkeley's Max Anderson, Oakland's Lynette Gibson-McElhaney, and Richmond's Jovanka Beckles. However, in responding to our questionnaire, he didn't say whether he'd repeal the Costa-Hawkins act, which put limits on local rent control ordinances, or whether he'd push for further protections for the public from the use of drones. And he's also weak on getting money out of politics—he's taken corporate money as well as \$1,000 donations from gambling interests such as the Santa Ynez Indians and Emeryville's Oaks Card Club.

Sam Kang, who leads the legal team at the Greenlining Institute, responded with a number of strong and well-written answers to our questionnaire, including such positions as ending fracking, support for an oil extraction tax, reforming Prop. 13 via a "split roll" so commercial property could be taxed at current valuations, and support for proportional representation voting as well as a State Bank. However, it's not clear if he would work for single payer health care or for the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins act. He has also taken funds from corporations, although we didn't see any major ones on the list.

The remaining two candidates both entered the race late. They are small business owner Clarence Hunt and attorney Pamela Price. Price had generally weak answers to our questionnaire. Regarding health insurance coverage, she did not mention single payer; she thinks that the main answer to the problem of money in politics is "transparency;" and she did not say whether or not she would repeal the Costa-Hawkins act. Clarence Hunt had generally good, and sometimes even

idealistic answers to our questionnaire, but his understanding and approach to issues needs significant refining. For example, although he wants to reduce greenhouse gases, he only mentions increasing fuel economy; he says he is for universal healthcare but he doesn't mention single payer; and his long answer about getting money out of politics doesn't mention public campaign financing but instead concludes by merely saying, "I support a constitutional amendment to take money out of politics." He also (as of mid-April) has little about his policies on his website.

We recommend and endorse non-corporate candidate Eugene Ruyle, of the Peace and Freedom Party, for State Assembly, District 15. For more information see: <http://ru4peace.wordpress.com>.

### State Assembly, District 18 No Endorsement

The Democratic Party incumbent, Rob Bonta, is unfortunately less progressive than most of the constituents in the district which he is supposed to be representing, comprised of all of Oakland except for the northern portion, plus Alameda and most of San Leandro. Last May, the State Assembly voted on a bill which would have placed a moratorium on fracking and mandated a review of the risks it poses to the environment and public health. Incredibly, Bonta recorded a "No" vote on the moratorium (contrary to the actions of 24 Assemblymembers who did vote "Yes," including Berkeley Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner). He has also voted in favor of "enhanced" drivers licenses or ID cards which would include a radio chip that transmits information about you. And he has taken campaign donations from scores of corporations and corporate PACs, including PG&E, Blue Shield, Sempra Energy, Glaxo-Smith-Kline, Visa, Clorox, Amgen, Verizon, and the largest private prison company in the country, CCA.

Unfortunately, Bonta's only opponent is Republican Dave Erlich, who states that he is challenging Bonta "from the Right," thinks that the state Air Resources Board is "killing" the trucking industry, believes that the state should be run like a business which creates revenue by providing services or trade, and has received no endorsements. Ouch!

The 18th Assembly District has lots of great progressive people in it—we urgently need for one of them to run for this seat!

### Prop. 41

*continued from page 1*

to \$900 million in bonds. Unfortunately, NONE of this has been used during the intervening period. Hence, the State Assembly has returned with this restructured proposal which maintains \$300 million of Prop 41's original authorization while changing the remaining \$600 million to be directed "for the construction and rehabilitation of multifamily housing for veterans and prioritize projects that align housing with services". Essentially this will be apartment-type rental housing equally split between two groups: housing for low-income veterans (earning less than 80 percent of average family wages) and half for extremely low-income veterans (earning less than 30 percent of average family wages) with 60 percent of this half to be used for supportive housing.

A number of reasons have been provided by the state for the lack of Prop 41's use including "competitive" rates being offered by the private sector since the mid-1990's and governmental changes in the structuring of the bond program. Currently the Cal-Vet program is supposedly a dollar "neutral" program in which the CA Dept of Veterans Affairs (DVA) essentially purchases the farm/home requested by the veteran and proceeds to provide the veteran with a loan that is backed by bonds. If passed, half of the program will now engage local governments, non-profits and private builders/developers/financiers to renovate/build/manage rental units. While technically remaining dollar "neutral" the number of units will depend upon how much the private sector charges to renovate/build/manage. The more they charge, the fewer the units renovated/built/managed. Companies that provide parallel management services to seniors and lower income renters are notorious for shifting funds towards profits before providing the necessary housing services. Will the DVA be able to accomplish this major change in direction? They might need to expand staffing and oversight. The Federal Housing & Urban Development program was rife with corruption and over-charging for the construction and management of housing units.

The sale of bonds are intended to occur over the first five years. This will help to leverage financing of the housing. Then the occupants will be renters, making both the bond-holders and the property managers the rentiers. Will these buildings be placed close to jobs and transportation? The buildings will probably be of the modern "stack & pack" tenement type so favored by developers because of their supposed efficiency and higher profit. Liveability and community are never thought of in these densely built areas.

What will that do for these veterans, who just like all of us, need community?

It's important to remember that the federal government should actually have budgeted appropriate amounts from the huge Pentagon program to support the returning soldiers. As with everything, we the public are again asked to financially support the initiatives of those who rule from behind the scenes: in this case, through the general budget funds of the state. Socialize the losses, privatize the gains. Then again, 10% of the population controls 90% of the wealth. It will be those people who will have the extra dollars to purchase these bonds to support the capital costs of the building/renovating program and then reap the rents from the apartments. As mentioned above, it's time for California to end regressive bond financing and instead form a state bank, as is already being used in North Dakota, as well as in many other countries across the planet. This proposition should be re-written and brought back in November. Vote "No" on Prop. 41.

### Proposition 42 – NO Public Records, Open Meetings, State Reimbursement to Local Agencies

Local governments, such as cities and counties, have very tight budgets and very few options for raising revenue. By contrast, the state of California has a broad array of revenue choices, but usually does not avail itself of them and instead cuts public programs such as education and public assistance. Unfortunately, Prop. 42 would codify our state government imposing an unfair burden on local government.

The California Public Records Act (1968) and the duo of the Ralph M. Brown Act (1953) for local & county and the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (1967) for state agencies, boards and commissions are important laws to help the citizens access information of their incorporated governmental entities and the proceedings of their supposedly elected representative's meetings. Due to the "People's Initiative to Limit Property Taxation"—better known as Proposition 13 (1978)—and shenanigans on both sides of the one party duopoly, the State no longer has a balanced collection of personal wage, business income, property and sales taxes. Whenever the economy is periodically crashed, the State always finds itself unable to fully fund all of its mandates. The State often either dumps the responsibility onto the lower jurisdiction or reimburses that entity at a

later date.

Of course, bottom-up organizing and local control are the ideals of a democratic process. We have little of that remaining. There is the issue of whether or not each city, county and regional jurisdiction would have had the inertia and interest to enact these laws. Therefore, we are fortunate to have these laws applied statewide. That said, if it's a state law, the state should fund it. Otherwise, it becomes an unfunded mandate. And, the fine print of this amendment states that the lower jurisdictions can't raise their property taxes to pay for this necessary requirement. When compared to the entire budget of a city or county, the tab for this can be relatively small but it can be a part of many little expenses here and there that may necessitate cuts in other parts of the budget or the need to increase revenue. And aside from the state using its ability to progressively tier the levels of personal wage and business income taxes, all of the methods available to localities for raising revenue are regressive. Increasing a regressive tax is unconscionable and it will also further hinder the economy.

Under the guise of this constitutional amendment, the legislators want to add the Public Records Act and the Brown Act into the constitution by reference but not by actually including the language of those Acts. By doing this, they feel they exempt the state government from having to pay for a state law since it is now a constitutional issue affecting all of the lower jurisdictions. Once again, this could loosen the aforementioned laws by allowing them to essentially be de-funded by the lower jurisdiction's ability to pay for them. Or, it might cause regressive taxes to be levied.

The State's Legislative Analyst states in the brochure that "California voters amended the State Constitution in 2012 to eliminate the state's responsibility to pay local governments for these Brown Act costs." We have not found that in the propositions from that year. The California Newspaper Publishers Association endorsed this bill while in the Legislature, but it's important to remember that since the late 1980's most cities have had one daily monopoly paper and that paper usually skews a little or a lot to the view representing what the local oligarchy wants the people to hear.

We recommend voting NO and forcing the state assembly to make the appropriate adjustments to the state personal wage and business income tax solutions to pay for this mandate. There is no shortage of millionaires and billionaires in this state.

### County Offices

*continued from page 1*

was some organized opposition (Alameda County Against Drones). But the County Counsel issued an opinion that the Sheriff was not subject to the will of the BOS, because Sheriff is also an elected position, and the opposition faded away. And while the District Attorney (DA) refused to prosecute the cop who killed unarmed Alan Blueford, she was more than willing to prosecute Occupy protestors. Despite numerous protests, the killer cop still has not been prosecuted.

Another consequence of flying under the radar is the lack of competition for County offices. In this election most of the County electeds are running unopposed, including the two members of the BOS whose seats are up, the Sheriff, the DA, the Assessor, the Treasurer, and all of the Judges (who will not even be on the ballot). In addition, often when there is a change, the incumbent “retires” and a successor is appointed. In the next election the successor runs as the incumbent, and often has no opposition.

The net effect is a system that renders elections practically meaningless. With a corrupt system like this, we recommend non-participation in the county races this year.

### County Superintendent of Schools No Endorsement

The position of County Superintendent of Schools has a fairly broad scope dealing with a budget of \$45 million and regulating 18 school districts with over 400 schools. The office also administers education programs in the juvenile detention system. The Superintendent has powers over contract settlements as regards adequate reserve funds districts are legally required to maintain, although these can be interpreted in a variety of ways, including whether a district has devoted sufficient funds to school sites/classrooms, which is an ongoing battle in Oakland. Most critically this year, the Superintendent’s powers have been greatly expanded with the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and its governance structure, LCAP. The Superintendent can pass judgement as to whether a district is meeting criteria (including testing results) stipulated in the new law.

Currently there are five candidates for this position, seeking to replace the long-time office holder Sheila Jordan, who is stepping down. These are Karen Monroe, Jeff Bowser, Naomi Eason, Helen Foster and Ursula Reed. Karen Monroe is the choice of Jordan and currently associate superintendent; she clearly is the candidate of the mainstream Democratic apparatus. She seems to be a technocrat and fiscal conservative. She is not ready to challenge the expansion of charter schools and will toe the line as regards LCFF. She is an apologist for the County Office not enforcing the 55 percent requirement of district funding going to schools, which is a major issue in Oakland.

Ursula Reed has a history of being a teacher and administrator in the Oakland and Hayward School Districts; she is currently a City Council member in San Leandro. By all accounts, she has not been very successful or competent in these positions (as OUSD labor relations head, she was hardly teacher friendly or an opponent of austerity in the District), and like Monroe, is unlikely to rock the ship and will simply judge charters based on viability. While her familiarity with the harsh realities of students in areas like Oakland stands as some recommendation (as well as her advocacy of diversion programs over jail/prison and a redesign approach that emphasizes increased access and democratization), her pro-public/private partnership stand (i.e. charters) and her fiscally conservative attitude towards LCFF (not advocating around popular input and addressing education inequalities) are clear negatives. Both she and Monroe do not reference corporate funding for their campaigns and solicit funds from unions and community organizations. Reed has connections with Assemblyman Bonta, who appointed her to a taskforce on women of color. She also has hired Doug Linney, a younger version of Larry Tramutola, to run her campaign.

Jeff Bowser seems the most progressive and the most likely to be aggressive on the LCFF guidelines as regards “under-served students.” He is an advocate for ‘satisfaction surveys’ from districts, although it is unclear what input teachers, parents and students would have in this feedback. Likewise, he talks of a service model for the county office but the question of what services is not certain. Coming from Pleasanton (the school board president), his appeal as

a suburban white male significantly limits his electability.

Neither Eason nor Foster seem to present a major alternative. Helen Foster is a school board member in San Lorenzo and replaced Reed as human resources director in Hayward. She is an advocate for the ‘Common Core’ national curricular ‘reform’ which is a vehicle for more testing and advocates for STEM (an emphasis on science and math). Naomi Eason was last to enter the race and also served as associate superintendent for Jordan before Monroe. She is currently an executive for a non-profit, Building Education Leaders for Life (BELL), targeting juvenile detainees. She advocated for pr charades such as “adopt a school” while associate superintendent and represents no significant change in previous policy.

The unions involved in this race (all CTA affiliates with the exception of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers) have not reached a consensus on any candidate. Predictably, the Pleasanton local supports Bowser, while the Oakland Education Association has little enthusiasm for any of the five, and will wait to see if there is a runoff before seriously considering a possible endorsement.

All this said, there appears to be no candidate representing a real response to the neoliberal assault on public education and the maneuvering of the Brown administration, despite a critical need to deal with LCFF at the county level.

### County Auditor-Controller- Clerk-Recorder No Endorsement

This race, like the significant majority of the County races, was almost uncontested. According to the East Bay Express, the longtime incumbent did not publicly announce that he wouldn’t seek reelection until after the candidate filing deadline had already passed, and per the County’s website, his Chief Deputy, Steve Manning, both started and finished his candidate filing on the deadline date itself. However, due to a provision in the law which requires a deadline extension of three business days when a qualified incumbent fails to file, one opponent, Kathleen “Kati” Knox did file during this extension period.

Steve Manning, having been the Chief Deputy Auditor for the past 12 years, undoubtedly is familiar with all of the main functions of the office. However, we did not find anything in his questionnaire answers to indicate that he would be spearheading any significant innovations as the top official. This is very disappointing, as we need leaders who are capable of both forging creative positive changes, while insuring that essential existing practices are retained.

Manning’s oponent, Kathleen “Kati” Knox is the owner of San Leandro’s Rose Gate assisted living facility, and is the daughter of former County treasurer and supervisor Robert “Bob” Knox. In contrast to Manning, Knox is campaigning to bring change to the office, and in her questionnaire she writes that she would bring greater transparency to the office, work for a County commission addressing the “oversight of the Auditor-Controller-Recorder function”, and tackle problems like fraud and waste among the County’s over 9,000 employees.

Unfortunately though, while we welcome Knox’s energetic and forward-looking approach to the office, we have found several things which give us pause about supporting her. According to one online source, Knox’s Rose Gate facility has twice been cited by the state Department of Social Services in a case having to do with reducing care on Knox’s own grandmother in order to conduct a “social experiment.” A different website (Leagle.com) reports that in 2011 Knox lost a lawsuit appeal brought by her own brother for the return of money invested in a “residential care facility.” (It is not clear if this is the current Rose Gate or a different facility). And there are several rather negative online reviews of Rose Gate, involving poor care and the failure to make refunds, some of which mention “Kati” by name. (In and of themselves, these negative reviews may not carry much weight as there are also positive online reviews of Rose Gate, but when combined with the other information we found, they certainly do give us pause).

Regrettably, we still don’t have a candidate for this office whom we would be proud to endorse. Do you know of someone who be suited for this position? (Or for any of the other uncontested County positions?). If so, please let us know! Alameda County needs strong, capable, dynamic progressive leadership -- our situation will continue its downward spiral until enough of us are actively working together to turn things around!

### County Measure AA Alameda County Healthcare Services Tax YES, with reservations

This is also called the “Healthcare Safety Net Reauthorization,” and is summarized as, “Without increasing the existing half-cent sales and use tax for essential health services, to provide trauma and emergency medical services and primary, preventative healthcare for local residents including indigent, low-income and uninsured children, families and seniors, to prevent closure of county clinics and hospitals and to recruit/retain highly qualified nurses and healthcare professionals, shall Alameda County extend the essential healthcare services measure until June 2034 with annual fiscal oversight/review?”

Measure AA will also amend the relevant ordinance to reflect the recent name change of the Alameda County Medical Center to the Alameda Health System (AHS).

“On March 2, 2004, the voters of the County approved the tax at a rate of one-half of one percent (0.5 percent) on sales and use of tangible personal property in a fashion similar to and in addition to the existing sales and use tax. The tax is currently set to expire on June 30, 2019. If two-thirds of the qualified electors voting on this measure vote “yes,” the tax will continue to be imposed at the same rate and in the same fashion until June 30, 2034,” according to the County Counsel.

“The distribution of the tax will not change. Seventy-five percent (75 percent) of the proceeds deposited into the Fund will be used by AHS; proceeds from this tax may not be used to replace funding currently provided by the County to AHS. The remaining twenty-five percent (25 percent) of the proceeds deposited into the Fund will be allocated by the County Board of Supervisors based on demonstrated needs and the County’s commitment to a geographically dispersed network of health care providers for any of the following purposes: (a) critical medical services provided by community-based health care providers; (b) to partially offset uncompensated costs for emergency care and related hospital admissions; and (c) for essential public health, mental health and substance abuse services.

“Measure AA is supported by every medical association and hospital in the county as well as doctors, nurses, the Alameda County Taxpayers Association, all five Alameda County Supervisors, business leaders, seniors and other residents of Alameda County,” according to the ballot argument in favor. If AA does not pass this time, the Board of Supervisors will have time to try again before 2019.

This is another in the long, sad, parade of ballot measures which tries to provide the most important services needed in a wealthy country, wealthy state, wealthy county, in which most of the wealth is gathered into the pockets of the wealthiest individuals. There are better ways to provide health care for all residents of this country, this state, this county. We could have universal health care provided by a national health service or by an “Expanded and Improved Medicare For All” (single-payer) system, which is being proposed at the national level by H.R.676. (For more about this, see Physicians for a National Health Program, at [pnhp.org](http://pnhp.org).)

Instead, the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010. “The share of Americans without health insurance has dropped... according to a new national survey... Just 14.7 percent of adults lacked coverage in the second half of March [2014], down from 18 percent in the last quarter of 2013.” (*SF Chronicle* article, April 8, 2014). This article calls this small change “a historic expansion in coverage unparalleled since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid half a century ago.” We think the continuing situation of tens of millions of U.S. residents without a regular source of health care is serious and deadly, a national shame, nothing to boast about.

The most recent attempt to get a statewide Single Payer bill through the California Legislature died in the State Senate in February 2012, killed by six Democrats, although the California Democratic Party’s platform supports a publicly funded (single-payer) health care system for all Californians.

As stated in our Voter Guide for the March 2004 Primary, Greens supported Measure A in 2004 “for the usual reasons—until we can achieve a universal, single-payer system, we must maintain the existing system that serves the uninsured... Sales tax is a regressive form of taxation and we do not like to recommend a ‘yes’ vote on a sales tax increase. However, there are few options available at the County level.” Our position then was “Yes, with reservations,” and we are again asking you to vote Yes on this extension, Measure AA.

## U.S. Congress, District 13 No Endorsement

### How Running for Congress has Become a Money Laundering Scheme

Incumbent Barbara Lee has won every election with at least 80 percent of the vote since she joined Congress. This year she has already raised over half a million dollars. Of her three opponents, not one has filed any campaign donations or expenditures. Of the \$504,990 Lee has already raised for the primary, she has spent the vast majority on "Campaign Consultants," \$182,785. One has to wonder why a candidate needs to spend so much money for consultants when the race is so lopsided.

Here is a list of some other expenditures: Travel: \$26,326; Telephone Services: \$11,797; Mad Max Sailing Adventures, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, MA: \$2,500 (Listed as a Campaign Expense). It's not exactly clear how sailing a catamaran on Martha's Vineyard is a campaign expense for a candidate running for an office 3,000 miles away. Another that particularly catches the eye is a total in credit card payments of \$56,330. There is no listing for what exactly the credit card bought. After reviewing the Federal Elections Commission filings on this and other campaigns, one gets the strange feeling that it's not so much a political campaign as it is a money laundering operation.

And who is paying for all these good times? Her big corporate donors include: Google, \$5,000; McDonalds, \$4,500; General Electric, \$3,000; T-Mobile, \$2,500; Duke Energy, \$2,500 (curiously, they have no business in California); American Society of Plastic Surgeons, \$2,000; Realtors PAC \$2,000; Safeway, \$1,500; American Gaming Association \$1,500; Novartis, \$1,000; Lockheed Martin EPAC, \$1,000; Comcast \$1,000. These are just the latest statistics from the primary campaign, another round of contributions will flood in for the general election.

Unfortunately, until we get a new system of electing and financing the elections of our representatives, mounting a tangible campaign against such well financed opposition is a frustrating and time consuming venture. We need to institute Proportional Representation, with multi-seat districts so that there are no more "safe seats" and representatives will be forced to represent their constituents, not their corporate donors. We need to institute a way to have publicly financed campaigns, to help level the playing field and create some real debate and accountability for those who are supposed to be working in our interests.

Unfortunately, this primary offers little as an alternative to a truly progressive voter. The Republican offers nothing, the other Democrat is more conservative, and (as we go to press in mid-April), Larry Allen, although he lists his party preference as Peace and Freedom, has not even approached the Peace and Freedom Party to endorse his candidacy. However, if you wish to lodge a protest vote, he is probably your best bet.

## Green County Council Election and Invitation to Join Us

County Councilors are elected to make decisions for the Green Party of Alameda County. Your County Council makes official endorsements, decides on spending and fundraising, appoints representatives to state and national Green Party conventions, etc. Every two years until now, as part of the Primary elections, voters who state a party preference have been issued a ballot specific to their party preference, whether they vote at home or at their polling place. The candidates for Green Party County Council have followed the same official procedures as the candidates for the other parties' Central Committees. We have signed various forms at the office of the Registrar of Voters, gathered 20 signatures from registered members of our party and turned them in to the Registrar by the deadline, and so on. We would be devoting a page of this Voter Guide to short statements from our candidates. But not this year.

Proposition 14 was passed by the voters in 2010. We strenuously opposed it, still oppose it, and are still involved in a lawsuit trying to overturn it (now at the appeal stage). Proposition 14 eliminated virtually all of the partisan primary elections. In gubernatorial years, the only partisan elections left were for County Central Committee elections (including ours, which we call County Council elections). So the state association of county election officials got the state legislature to eliminate those too, as a way of saving money. (They only have to produce one version of the ballot.)

In Presidential years, the election officials will have to prepare a different ballot for each party to choose its presidential electors, so in those years, our County Council elections will be handled in the old way, by the county's election officials. But this year, the Green Party will be appointing our next County Council, in early June, and the new Council will be seated in early July.

And, we will have several open seats on our next County Council, for the term July 2014 through June 2016. The County Council usually meets on the



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Second Sunday of the month (following the Green Sunday program), and also conducts some business via e-mail between the monthly meetings, especially in election years.

If you might be interested in joining the County Council, please attend the meeting on Sunday May 11 if possible, and definitely on Sunday June 8, starting at 6:45 PM, at the Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Also, please send a short statement with biographical information about yourself, especially regarding your involvement with the Green Party and any other activist groups, and any ideas or interests you may have in joining the Council. For sample statements, please see page 10 of our June, 2012 Voter Guide, which is

achieved at <http://acgreens.wordpress.com/voter-guides/>. Please send your statement no later than Wednesday, June 4 to [acgreens2012@gmail.com](mailto:acgreens2012@gmail.com).



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## Oakland Greens endorse Jason "Shake" Anderson for Mayor

Jason "Shake" Anderson's activist roots run deep, from his family's history of active union membership and organizing, to the role of his uncle, Richard Anderson Jr. (aka "King"), in establishing the Black Panther Party. Jason's own activism experience includes serving as organizer for First Fridays, as a member of the media committee for Occupy Oakland, and as the Communications Director for the Save the Marcus Garvey Building Campaign—which successfully saved the historic West Oakland landmark. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Jason is also a Navy veteran and artist.

Jason's experiences and background place him in a unique position to find solutions and build bridges across communities. Jason knows first-hand of the importance of providing opportunities for youth, and advocates for expanding job programs. Jason also sees benefit in the ability for youth to follow their own passions, whether those be in learning how to design and implement sustainable energy projects, apprenticing in trades such as woodworking or auto repair, teaching oneself how to develop computer software, or in pursuing a university education. At the same time, Jason recognizes that job training and placement is not enough if the position doesn't pay a living wage. As a result, he is a staunch advocate of raising the minimum wage to at least \$15.

Jason also has a nuanced perspective on the relationships between the community, police, and prison system. He has personally seen and felt the many impacts of the war on drugs on his own family and community, and believes it is time to opt out of this cycle as a city. He is particularly adamant that California's legalization of

medical marijuana and decriminalization of marijuana use be upheld. Jason also believes the police have no place in our schools, and that their presence is disruptive to students' ability to learn. At the same time, Jason sees some complexities in our relationships with members of the police force. As a veteran, Jason sees the actions and attitudes of Oakland police officers as potential symptoms of PTSD caused by mental distress and misuse by the city. With this in mind, Jason believes the city ought to support these officers' well-being, which is not only a moral obligation, but will likely result in a more competent and compassionate police force.

Jason's priorities are in complete alignment with the Green Party platform, while reflecting the complex nature of our diverse city. Jason's experience and communication skills make him an ideal candidate to become the next Mayor of Oakland, and we fully endorse him.

"As a community organizer, I had to deal with city officials, and as a result I became aware of internal conflicts within local government. It is my opinion that our elected officials are not looking out for the interests of the people; instead, they seem motivated to serve their own needs.

"My frustration with this, in addition to my strong political background, led to the decision to run for mayor of Oakland. Hopefully, I can be a liaison between the people and a flawed political structure, and bring with me the perspective of the 99 percent."- Jason "Shake" Anderson

For more information, please see: [www.OaklandGreens.org](http://www.OaklandGreens.org). To volunteer for the campaign, please e-mail: [omy.ent@gmail.com](mailto:omy.ent@gmail.com).

**HELP WANTED**  
...to build the Green Party!

**FOR OUR  
FALL VOTER GUIDE**  
 Writing  Election Analysis  
 Phone Calls  Distribution

**We've got a LOT of races and  
measures coming up for the  
November election,  
so we're definitely going to need  
more help to produce our next issue!**

**We'll be working on the Fall Voter  
Guide from July until September,  
but please contact us during  
May or June.**

**The Green Party needs your  
help in order for us to grow!**

**If you can help with any of the above  
tasks, please contact us at:  
(510) 644-2293 or  
[acgreens2012@gmail.com](mailto:acgreens2012@gmail.com)**

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## Green Voter Card

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

### Federal Offices

U.S. Representative, District 13 -- Why is incumbent Lee taking corporate money?: please see write-up

### State Offices

Governor -- **Luis Rodriguez**

Lieutenant Governor -- **Jena Goodman**

Secretary of State -- **David Curtis**

Controller -- **Laura Wells**

Treasurer -- **Ellen Brown**

Attorney General -- No Endorsement, please see write-up

Insurance Commissioner -- Nathalie Hrizi

State Superintendent of Public Instruction -- Don't vote for Gutierrez or Tuck

Board of Equalization, District 2 -- No Endorsement, please see write-up

State Assembly, District 15 -- Eugene Ruyke

State Assembly, District 18 -- No Endorsement, please see write-up

### County Offices

Superintendent of Schools -- No Endorsement, please see write-up

Supervisor, District 2 -- No Endorsement, please see front page General County article

Supervisor, District 3 -- No Endorsement, please see front page General County article

Assessor -- No Endorsement; please see front page General County article

Auditor-Controller-Clerk-Recorder -- No Endorsement; please see write-up

District Attorney -- No Endorsement, please see front page General County article

Sheriff-Coroner -- No Endorsement, please see front page General County article

Treasurer-Tax Collector -- No Endorsement; please see front page General County article

### State Propositions

41 -- Veterans Housing and "Homeless Prevention" Bond -- No

42 -- Public Records, Open Meetings, State Reimbursement to Local Agencies -- No

### Local Measures

AA -- Alameda County Healthcare Services Tax -- Yes, with reservations

Candidates in *green ink* are Green Party members

# Green Voter Guide

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

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for the thinking voter

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