



AUGUST, 2016 MEETING PREVIEW

Our next meeting is probably our most important meeting of the election cycle – it's the meeting when we vote on our club endorsements in local races.

Because this is such an important meeting, we hold it on a Saturday (this year on SATURDAY, AUGUST 27), and in a bigger venue: The cafeteria of El Cerrito High School.

Here are the particulars:

TIME: 10 AM – 3 PM

DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

LOCATION: El Cerrito High School Cafeteria (fully accessible, great location, lots of free, on-street parking)

FORMAT: Each candidate will have 2 minutes for an opening statement; we will provide cards and pencils for the audience members to pose questions which our moderator will read. Candidates will have 30 seconds to a minute to respond to questions.

We will group the presentations so all candidates for any given seat will present as a group.

VOTING: We have voting cards for all members eligible to vote. (Anyone who was a member by July 13 (joined by mail) or July 15 (joined on line) will be eligible to vote.) Members will sign in and pick up a ballot. The voting card for each member who signs in will be moved from the pending group to the registered group. In this way, we will insure that no one receives more than one ballot.

Ballots will be pre-numbered to make sure that each voter receives only one ballot; in order to preserve the confidentiality of the vote, we will NOT KEEP RECORDS of which number a member receives. We will use the numbered ballots to cross reference the total number of ballots released to the total number of voting cards retained.

Members may complete and submit their ballots at any time during the meeting. In order to be counted, ballots must be submitted within 5 minutes of the close of all the presentations. We anticipate that the close of presentations will be about 3:30 pm.

Craig Cheslog, the Regional Director for Region 2 (Assembly district 4, 11, 14 and 16) has graciously agreed to serve as our Elections Judge. In that capacity he will monitor the registration and ballot distribution and oversee the ballot counting. Per our newly amended standing rules, once the results are announced, any member may challenge the results at that time. If there is a challenge, our election judge will recount the votes in the challenged race. Only challenges submitted immediately after the results announcement will be accepted.

THE RACES:

We will vote on several propositions and measures, including Propositions 57 and 58 as well as a bond measure for California Parks (AB 2444) if it is finalized in time to be included in our ballots, and measures for AC Transit, West County Transportation Authority, West Contra Costa School District, and the El Cerrito Library.

Here is a list of the positions and candidates who had filed by August 12, and the times of each panel:

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AC Transit At Large, 11:00 - 11:20

Chris Peeples
Dollene Jones

BART Districts 3 and 7, 11:20 - 12:20

Ken Chew
Rebecca Saltzman
Lateefah Simon
Roland Emerson **
Will Roscoe
Zachary Mallett

Board of Education District 1 12:20 - 1:05

Elaine Merriweather *
Fatima Sierre Alleyne
Pam Mirabella
Talya Huntley *

West Contra Costa School Board, 1:05 - 2:05

Antonio Medrano
Ayana Young
Carlos Taboada
Don Gosney
Miriam S Sequeira *
Mister Phillips
Tom Panas

Kensington Police Protection & Community Services, 2:05 - 2:50

Chuck Toombs
David Spath
Eileen Nottoli *
Simon Brafman
Sylvia Hacaj

El Cerrito City Council, 2:50 - 3:30

Greg Lyman
James Shirazi ***
Nicholas Arzio
Paul Fadelli
Rochelle Okimoto

Candidate statements follow this article except as noted below:

* - We were unable to connect with these candidates in time for them to submit articles by our newsletter deadline

** The candidate chose not to submit a statement

*** The candidate is not a registered Democrat

As we have in the past, the ECDC will provide coffee, tea, and water. We will invite the candidates to bring finger foods.

Although the description makes it sound complicated, the endorsement meetings have generally been informative and even fun. This is local retail politics in action, and will be an experience you will want to enjoy.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Dollene Jones, Retired Bus Driver

My education and qualifications are: My educational background is I've attended 4 years of college at the College Of New Jersey at Trenton. I also hold a certificate of completion in labor studies from Laney College here in Oakland, CA. My qualifications for the board are as follows: Two years in the maintenance department at NJ Transit and 21 years of serving the bay area as a bus operator at the AC Transit District! I will take the 23 years of training, boardrooms, union meetings and my expertise to lift up the voices & questions that continue to go unheard even today. I work with many senior groups in the community and I will help them with keeping their independence by making sure the buses return to their neighborhood. AC Transit still faces FINANCIAL CHALLENGES after all these years!!

Resolving these issues will be my first priority. If you give me your vote, I will give you the very best of my abilities and a 110% commitment to meet the transportation needs of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District. I humbly thank everyone who has previously endorsed and/or voted for me!

H. R. Christian Peeples, Incumbent

I have been riding AC Transit buses for almost 40 years. Twelve years ago I gave up my car and now go everywhere by transit. AC Transit is hiring more operators and mechanics to improve reliability. We need to add back more service. All of that takes money. I have helped get federal, state

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and local money. AC Transit spends your money wisely. We now buy buses in Hayward, engines in San Leandro and NextBus from Alameda. We have reduced management and pay our top management less than before. I took a 5% reduction in pay, get no pension and pay 10% toward my health care. I have always led in support for AC Transit's hydrogen fuel cell bus program —the largest and most advanced in the country — grant funded so it does not impact service. I have supported better access for disabled persons and low fares for school children. My longstanding effort on mass transit issues and my years of hard work on AC Transit's Board have led to endorsements from Congresswoman Barbara Lee, the Sierra Club, Senator Hancock, Assemblymembers Skinner and Wieckowski and many others.

Further details and contact information:
www.smartvoter.org/vote/peeples; (510) 326-6841;
chris_peeples@yahoo.com. Thank you for your vote.

BART BOARD DISTRICTS 3 AND 7

Ken Chew, District 3

We can make BART better, and I will work hard to make this happen. With over 25 years' experience as a transportation professional and having served three years on the Moraga Planning Commission before serving eight years as a councilmember, including two years as mayor, I have the expertise and public policy leadership experience to be your BART Director.

BART is an essential system in need of reform in many areas. All BART employees are our assets and integral to the success of the entire system under strong leadership with a sound plan. My top priority is to make stations and trains safe and welcoming with adequate staffing and training to transform BART stations to be clean, service-oriented and vibrant. I will pursue full staffing of BART police, and then push for smart technology solutions to force multiply their abilities on public safety effectiveness. For the few stations that are key opportunity hubs for "smart village"

development, I will work with stakeholders to attract community investments to develop transit villages of the 21st century.

Reform requires new leadership characterized by common sense and shared vision. With your votes, we can begin the process of getting BART back on track.

www.electkenchew.com

Rebecca Saltzman, District 3

As your District 3 BART Director, I have worked tirelessly to move BART in a new direction. For the Bay Area to thrive, its public transportation systems need to be built for the realities of the 21st century. I have had three priorities during my first term: sustainability, accessibility, and equity.

My top priority has been keeping the BART system running reliably and sustainably. In the past four years, we more than doubled the percentage of the capital budget spent on system reinvestment, including new train cars, track repairs, and modernized, cleaner stations. I have worked on improving BART's environmental sustainability through investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. A priority for my second term is to adopt a goal and plan to reach 100% renewable energy.

I have focused on making BART more accessible to bus riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians. I've advocated for increased secure bike parking at stations and investments in pedestrian infrastructure. I co-chair the BART/AC Transit Interagency Liaison Committee, which is focused on making the systems work better for riders who use both BART and AC Transit. I have also supported making BART trains and stations accessible for all.

Finally, to address our affordability crisis, I've prioritized equity by mandating at least 20% affordable housing units at BART developments, and I will advocate for reduced fares for low income riders in my next term. These priorities will continue to move BART in the direction our region needs.

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I'm proud to have been endorsed for re-election by the Sierra Club, AFSCME Local 3993 representing BART employees, East Bay Young Democrats, State Controller Betty Yee, former Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, El Cerrito Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson, El Cerrito City Councilmember Gabriel Quinto, and many other District 3 leaders. To learn more, please visit www.RebeccaForBART.com.

Lateefah Simon District 7 (President, Akonadi Foundation)

As a legally blind, working mother, I depend on BART every day to commute to work and pick up my two daughters. I understand the frustrations of working people, seniors, and people with disabilities who rely on BART, but who are stuck with a system that isn't working despite constant promises to improve.

I have a plan to fix BART by making real investments in new train cars, technology that will allow more trips to be made during rush hour, a thorough cleaning up of stations, and fixing the dilapidated elevators and escalators at so many stations. I will also pursue an ambitious agenda to make BART world-class and ready for the future of the Bay Area, while managing public funds responsibly and openly.

As a candidate, I refuse to accept campaign contributions from private contractors, because I believe we need independent voices on the BART Board who can't be bought by special interests.

For two decades, I've led organizations that serve the Bay Area's working families and underprivileged communities. As Executive Director for the Center for Young Women's Development, I became the youngest woman to receive the MacArthur "Genius" Award. I then led the creation of San Francisco's first reentry division under District Attorney Kamala D. Harris. Today, I work at a nonprofit foundation making investments to support change in our communities.

Now I am ready to shake up the status quo at BART.

I would be honored to have your support.

Will Roscoe, District 7

I'm campaigning to build the world's best transit system. I wish I didn't have to run for this Director seat but no one else is proposing to radically improve BART.

The Bay Area has serious traffic problems that can be solved by making mass transit more convenient, comfortable and affordable for the majority of citizens. However, BART systemic problems including a centralized control system, expensive customized infrastructure, and its single carrier model make it impossible to adapt to today's demands.

However, recent advances in self driving technology has handed BART a massive opportunity to solve its systemic problems. I've studied these advances and I know that it's possible. This campaign is about introducing these solutions, building partnerships and creating a vision for BART in 20 years. I hope to earn your vote in the process.

I've worked in the water and engineering industries for 7 years and have analyzed transportation systems for just as long. I understand the costs of large construction projects, the engineering limits of technical systems and the political grit necessary to build successful projects. This type of experience is important to have on the BART board as it prepares to spend billions of dollars on renovations.

roscoeforbart.org

Zakhary Mallett, District 7 (Incumbent)

Since being elected in 2012, I've been the fiscal conscience on the BART Board by standing up for the public when other Directors wouldn't. Among other examples, as unsanitary conditions and overcrowded trains have pulled BART customer satisfaction levels to an all-time low, I have advocated increasing investment in janitorial staffing and further investment in our new fleet to ease overcrowding. Others have favored expensive, nonessential projects over rider priorities.

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I've also made significant progress on making a BART extension to Hercules a reality. Because of my leadership, this effort to reduce I-80 congestion is the farthest it's been in 20+ years. Additionally, I've championed reexamining our fares to make them more equitable and authored our affordable housing policy that requires, at minimum, 20% affordable units in residential developments at our stations. In fact, within just the past two months, I have begun discussions with City of El Cerrito officials about redeveloping the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station area with the potential to include a new public library and a residential development that is inclusive of affordable housing.

BART faces many challenges. At such a critical time, BART needs leaders who possess an intricate understanding of them, professional knowledge, and the courage to stand up for the public. My four years as a BART Director have afforded me an in-depth understanding of BART's challenges and what it takes to address them that a new Director would need an extensive amount of time to learn. I also possess a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Stanford University and a Master of City/Transportation Planning degree from UC Berkeley, making me specially prepared to serve on a transit agency board. Based on my record and transportation planning background, I am the only candidate with the independence, qualifications, and experience for this position.

All candidates are District 1.

Fatima Alleyne, (Research Scientist/Educator)

I am running for the Contra Costa County Board of Education because I believe ALL students deserve access to a quality public education; and as a parent and community advocate at the district level, I believe I can be the voice of West County. As your representative, my priorities would be advocating for programs to support student achievement at the local level, ensuring students have access to quality resources, and advocating on the state and federal

levels for policies that would ensure college and career readiness upon graduation. My goals are to increase parent and community participation and ensure the effectiveness of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) in meeting educational goals and expenditures by partnering with school districts and communities to disseminate information. Attention will also be placed on monitoring disciplinary infractions that require county educational assistance (suspensions, expulsions and detentions). My advocacy in the community and WCCUSD, as well as my educational and work experiences, has prepared me for leadership. As a wife of a supportive husband and mother of 4 children I accomplished my goals to acquire M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from UC Berkeley. I also served as member (3 years) and Chair on the Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) where I advocated for better tracking of how the parcel tax money was spent and gave presentations to communities on the district's \$300 million budget. Additionally, I served as Chair of the School Site Council, the Community Engagement Chair for the Blackboard of WCC, and Co-Chair of the LCAP Video Committee. As a Research Scientist and Educational Parent Advocacy Consultant for the Center for Restorative Solutions, I apply my technical and critical thinking skills to solve scientific and educational challenges; skills I intend to apply as your representative.

ElectFatima.com

Pam Mirabella, (Incumbent)

As a long-standing, dedicated and trusted Contra Costa County Board of Education Board Member, representing Area 1, I am seeking the El Cerrito Democratic Club's endorsement for my re-election.

I am a life-long democrat. For the past 28 years, my husband and I continue our El Cerrito/Kensington Democratic Club membership, where I walk precincts, phone bank, and support candidates.

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Priorities:

- Early childhood education
- Teacher recruitment and retention
- Solving achievement, digital, and opportunity gaps
- Funding for State and Federal underfunded mandates

Supports:

Restorative Justice approach in our schools; flexible funding and accountability; staff development training; parental involvement and training; adult education programs; college and career readiness, including trades and the arts; 'Every School Day Counts' initiative to eliminate truancy; monitoring of the budget for the Contra Costa County Office of Education; evaluation of charter school renewals or appeals based on merit, including transparency and competent oversight; promoting a shared culture of collaboration, innovation, networking, and best practices.

Serves on:

- California County Board of Education (CCBE) Legislative Committee Member 2015 & 2016
- CCBE Legislative Funding Priorities Subcommittee 2016
- CCBE Legislative Teacher, Recruitment & Professional Development Sub-committee 2016
- CCBE Legislative Charter School Task Force reviewing Charter School Education Code 2016
- CCBE Legislative Charter School Task Force: 'Best Practices' 2011

Authored:

- Proposal to appoint versus elect County Superintendents of Schools 1993
- "School District Organization: Is Bigger Better?" 1994

Education: B.A., Liberal Arts with Business Minor, Cal State University, Hayward 1994

I pledge to continue to address the needs of all our children, especially those of our most challenged students, and to promote *life-long learners*.

Please review my list of endorsements and resume on my website. www.pam4allstudents.org

We were not able to connect with Elaine Merriweather.

WEST CONTA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

Antonio Medrano, (retired teacher, community college and high school)

I taught for 36 years in public schools. I am the proud father of two sons and a daughter, and I'm the grandfather of four grandkids, ages 3 to 19.

I have lived in West County since the early 1980s and have been very active in the community and the school district-including chair of the Redevelopment Committee of Montalvin Manor, two terms on the Contra Costa Grand Jury, WCCUSD school board member 2008-2012, WCCUSD Citizen Bond Oversight Committee member, WCCUSD Audit Subcommittee member, WCCUSD Budget Advisory Committee member, and chair of the Berkeley/North East Bay chapter of the ACLU of Northern California. I am a graduate of the University of San Francisco, with a teaching credential from UCLA. Retired AFT/CFT#61 AFL-CIO,NEA/CTA.

We need to increase school safety, attract and retain the best teachers and principals, provide equal opportunities for all students, and make student achievement our top priority. Our academies-health, technology, environmental studies, law and justice, multimedia, hospitality, and creative and performing arts-are providing more of our students with greater educational opportunities and are keeping students in school. They need our strong support.

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We want and need open, transparent communication with our school board. And we need full and open distribution of the Local Control Funds designated for low-income, English language students, and foster kids.

I want to thank all those who voted for me in the election of 2008, and I ask for your vote now in this election. When I am elected, I promise to listen to you, the community, to our parents, and to our students. Vote for change and a new voice. All students deserve an equal opportunity for success.

Ayana Young

I'm Ayana Kirkland Young, a wife, a mother of 7 and an attorney. I grew up in Pinole and live in Hercules.

I'm not a Politician but a concerned parent. I'm running for office because I have a vested interest in the success of this district and want to help ensure that all students obtain the best education possible to prepare them for the future.

My platform:

1. Raise academic achievement for all
2. Raise our standards and expect the highest achievement from each student
3. Create art and other extra-curricular programs that will inspire a love for learning

-The way to raise academic achievement is by making it a priority for all. Turn the focus to educating students to be proficient or better in Math and Science. Encourage Reading and Comprehension through the Socratic Method and Collaborative Learning.

- We can no longer be satisfied with mediocrity. Every student must be encouraged to reach their highest potential and be given the tools to do so, such as motivated teachers; during and after school academic support; and high achievement math and science programs and courses.

- Arts and other extra- curricular activities support Math and Science. Students won't learn if they hate

school. By making the Arts a priority we can create a holistic environment for learning.

There is definitely work to be done, and I will serve at the pleasure of the students and this community!

Carlos Taboada

I have been a teacher and counselor for 21 years in West Contra Costa Unified School District. I believe, unequivocally, in the value of real public education and want to continue serving our community as an elected School Board member.

I am an educator and parent of a child who attended WCCUSD schools as well as a grandfather of another child who will soon attend schools in WCCUSD. I know firsthand that the key to ensuring great public schools for all students is to provide educators with the tools and resources they need. Therefore, I believe maintaining fiscal responsibility to taxpayers and the community is essential in order to have well-functioning schools.

So that our students achieve and succeed, our schools need caring, qualified, experienced teachers as well as smaller class sizes, up-to-date textbooks with appropriate technology, and safe learning environments.

Public education is a shared responsibility. We are all responsible---teachers, parents, students, elected officials and community leaders--for ensuring all children receive quality education. By working together, we are able to overcome any challenges facing our school district.

We have a wealth of highly qualified, committed and talented teachers, as well as students who are eager to learn. We also have a strong school district that is responsible for educating all children, regardless of their abilities and backgrounds.

As a School Board candidate I am driven by a desire to work toward a stronger relationship between the district and the communities it serves. Public education is an investment and a commitment to our children, our communities and our future. Therefore, in order to protect our investment in all children we must limit the expansion of charter schools.

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Don Gosney

Remember that time when our School Board used to focus their attention on the education of our children? In recent years they've lost their way and seem to be fixated on investigations, charter schools and construction projects.

Before we can begin to address the educational needs of our kids, though we need to clear these distractions from the table. My goals include:

#1 ~ Bridging the divides that are keeping us from focusing on what we should be focused on: the education of the children. We have pro/anti charter people, Hercules vs. Kensington, flatland vs everyone else, one ethnicity against all other ethnicities. Until we can bridge these divides we're going to stagnate.

#2 ~ Find a way to attract and retain quality teachers and administrators. The mass exodus from the District is having a destructive effect on our students.

#3 ~ Refocus the attention of the Board on educating our students. Right now they're fixated on finding someone to blame for issues that live mostly in their minds. Borrowing \$2.4 million for the witch hunt investigation to root out corruption that no one--not the District Attorney, the Grand Jury, the State Attorney General, the FBI, the IRS, and the SEC have been able to find--is a ludicrous waste of our precious tax dollars. Unless someone can tell us what their end game is--what they expect to get from this--then the Board needs to rethink their actions and they sure as heck need to put that money back into the classrooms.

Communication is the key to many of our problems. We need to open lines of communication between the Board, the community, the students and our educators to learn what needs to be done and then we need to devote our attention to making it happen.

Mister Phillips

I have faithfully represented the residents of West County on the Democratic Central Committee since 2012. Now I am running for the board of the West

Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) to help our students achieve their full potential. As the parent of a WCCUSD student, co-chair of the Richmond Promise Ad-Hoc Committee, member of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission, attorney at law, non-profit trustee, and former substitute teacher in the WCCUSD, I believe I have the right combination of energy and experience to help our students move forward. My vision is that every student in the WCCUSD will attend a safe school where they are engaged and able to achieve academically. Unfortunately, that is not the case now. Nineteen schools in the WCCUSD have been in Program Improvement status for five or more years, which means these schools have failed to meet Annual Yearly Progress (state standards) for seven or more years. That is unacceptable. Fortunately, we can still turn things around. But we have to prioritize school safety, student engagement, academic achievement, employee morale, and parent involvement. If elected, I will work with other parents, district employees, community groups, my fellow board members, and others in the spirit of collaboration to make sure that every student in the WCCUSD can receive a quality public education. Election Day is Tuesday, November 8. I humbly ask for your vote. For more information, please visit www.misterphillips.com. Thank you.

Tom Panas

I believe an excellent public education is the key to unlocking our children's future and a thriving school system is essential for a successful community. That is why I'm running for the West County school board.

I am a former Chief Financial Officer and Certified Public Accountant. I'm the Chair of the WCCUSD Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. I served on the WCCUSD Community Budget Advisory Committee. I have the know-how to ensure the District's \$340 million budget and \$1.6 billion school construction program are well managed. I

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will make sure that students and taxpayers are getting the most for our money.

I believe students of every background deserve an excellent education. I fully support our Party's education plank, for example adequate school funding and strong democratic governance. The School Board must ensure every dollar benefits students, teachers and schools. I'll focus on academic and school climate programs that best serve the needs of our students, families, and teachers.

I've lived here for more than 40 years. My two grown sons attended District schools K-12. I believe in the potential of West County and have fought hard to improve our community. Because of my years of service, my City Council put me on the Wall of Fame in 2014. Now I'd like to apply that same passion to our District. I know that all our students can succeed.

I stand for great schools and effective financial management. I respectfully ask for your vote. My website is tom4kids.com. Thank you.

KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT

Chuck Toombs

I am a member of the ECDC and I seek its endorsement as I run for re-election to our District Board.

I am deeply committed to Kensington's future. I have ably served Kensington, putting the interests of all Kensington residents first and foremost. If I win with your endorsement and your support I will continue to serve Kensington with the integrity and civility this community deserves. And I will carry the Democratic values and message that are so important to this Club throughout Kensington.

We have asked a Kensington citizen committee to help chart our future and I want to be a vital part of it.

We must examine our current police services, ask what our community wants and ask what it is prepared to pay for.

We must determine if a separate general manager/ chief of police is the best management model and whether it is affordable.

We must determine if a combined district managing both police and fire services is the best way to set community priorities and manage tax dollars needed to pay for them.

We must make these decisions in partnership with our community, fairly, respectfully, and with the best interests of Kensington first and foremost. Only then can we say we have done our best and ably served each other.

I vow to seek the input and opinions of our community as we move forward into our future. We owe it to each other to wrestle with these issues together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect as we look to create a sustainable future for all of us.

I respectfully ask for this club's endorsement.

Thanks!

David Spath

The Kensington community faces important decisions regarding provision of police services, Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) management and the structure of Kensington government. These decisions require thoughtful deliberation by and cooperation among the KPPCSD Board and full engagement with Kensington residents to ensure all opinions are heard and considered.

My 44 year professional experience is in public sector service at the local, state and national level. I have worked effectively with people of diverse opinions in an open public process. For example, I've chaired the US Environmental Protection

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Agency, National Drinking Water Advisory Council and, most recently, chaired the KPPCSD's Ad Hoc Committee on Governance and Operations Structure.

I have considerable experience in public sector management, which is important for a Board member. I have managed state programs with both small and large multifaceted budgets and staff. I understand the challenges of balancing budgets with limited revenue sources while managing personnel costs including salaries, pension and medical benefits.

As a 33 year resident who's been actively involved in the Kensington community, I am deeply committed to helping develop a sustainable future direction that best meets the values and ideals of the community. I believe my experience and my ability to work cooperatively and effectively with others toward consensus decision-making make me well suited to serve on the Board. KPPCSD and the community are facing important decisions going forward and I hope that you will allow me to help lead that process. I respectfully ask for your vote. Thank you

Simon Brafman

I am a 3-year Kensington resident, who appreciates the beauty and potential of our community. As a member of the KPPCSD Finance Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on Governance and Operations Structure, and the KCC, I am well acquainted with two critical challenges facing our district:

- Financial Instability
- Lack of Board Accountability to Kensington Residents

The KPPCSD continues to operate without a sustainable, fiscal plan, and often accepts legal turmoil over common sense or community-oriented problem solving. We need to change that approach.

If elected, I will focus on reasonable governing, rather than on control. I will engage our

community, ensuring open dialogues about which plans, policies and expenditures will best safeguard Kensington's future. I will listen to criticism and ideas, responding with reasonable solutions.

I will apply my MBA education and extensive business experience to ensure our community obtains quality services and sustainable, long-term financial stability. I will work to establish a balanced budget, including a five-year financial plan, a reserves policy, and strategies to address all unfunded liabilities threatening Kensington's long term financial health. I will apply pragmatism to manage our community-oriented police services, our community's assets, as well as our garbage service contracts and labor negotiations.

As a Director, I won't just talk about problems. I will promote pragmatic, community-based solutions to address our current and future needs with accountability, creativity and respect, thus making the KPPCSD Board as effective as Kensington is beautiful.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sylvia Hacaj

I am running for the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board to restore trust in our governance, fiscal policy and police services.

I moved to Kensington with my husband in 2008. Our two children attend Hilltop Elementary School and I serve on the Kensington Education Foundation board. I also served on the board of the Kensington Property Owners Association. I run my own consulting practice advising and training nonprofit leaders.

Early in my career, I helped establish the AmeriCorps national service program. I have devoted my professional life to shaping public policy, leading advocacy efforts, and developing priorities and effective fundraising strategies within the national and international philanthropic communities.

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These experiences have taught me how to build cooperation and rally others around a common endeavor--skills that can inform my work on the KPPCSD board.

The final report of the Ad Hoc Committee for Governance and Operations Structure presents the new KPPCSD board with fundamental policy choices on how we manage police services and improve Kensington's governance structure. If elected I will work constructively with board members and residents to analyze our needs and address them in ways that minimize fiscal and legal risk. I will work to diminish acrimony and bolster civic engagement and consensus.

I have the judgment, skills and disposition needed to make good decisions for Kensington at this critical time. If you will give me your vote, I will serve you by listening, and forging solutions that will have tangible, positive and long-lasting impacts on Kensington.

(We were unable to reach Eileen Nottoli in time to receive her statement by our print deadline.)

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

Greg Lyman (Incumbent)

My family has lived and owned a home in El Cerrito for 27 years and have served on the El Cerrito City Council for the past 7.5 years, currently as Mayor. During my time in office, we have reopened the Cerrito Theater, completed San Pablo Avenue improvements, repaved City streets, attracted new businesses, rebuilt the recycling center, banned plastic bags, enacted a non-smoking ordinance, joined Marin Clean Energy, passed the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, raised the minimum wage, and ensured responsive city services, all while weathering tough economic times.

I have been an ECDC member for 8 years and on the Executive Board since 2010. Currently, I am the ECDC Treasurer and was the Executive Vice President. I previously served on El Cerrito's Park and Recreation Commission and as President of the Albany Berkeley Girls Softball League. I have worked to increase the size of the Hillside Natural Area and create playing fields.

I hold a BS degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University and am a licensed California Professional Engineer. My career of 30+ years has been dedicated to protection and restoration of our natural environment, including creation of habitat for threatened and endangered species.

I am endorsed by current El Cerrito Council Members Abelson, Bridges, Freidman and Quinto, Congressman DeSaulnier, Assembly Member Thurmond, Supervisor Gioia, and State Senate candidate Skinner.

If reelected, I will continue to work on improving quality of life in El Cerrito, with emphasis on providing public safety and services, expanding pedestrian-friendly areas, attracting new shops and amenities and building a safe modern library. If reelected, I will continue to represent El Cerrito on regional boards. I would appreciate your vote for endorsement on August 27th and your vote on November 8th.

Nicholas Arzio

I'm Nicholas Arzio and I'm running for El Cerrito City Council to promote inclusiveness at city hall and to represent the interests of the El Cerrito community when planning our regional role.

Here are a few of my goals:

1. Require affordable housing in all new multifamily residences.
2. Add bins where needed along the Ohlone Greenway and San Pablo Ave.
3. Keep police, fire, and public works departments properly staffed and equipped to serve El Cerrito well.
4. Promote practical methods to combat climate change locally.
5. Replace some vacant storefronts with modern office and lab space to attract professionals, scientists and software developers. This will, in turn, attract cafes and retail to the remaining storefronts.

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I have the endorsement of Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Former Assemblymember Sandre Swanson, Former El Cerrito Mayor Cathie Kosel, Berkeley City Councilmember Jesse Arreguin, and many more.

I want the ECDC endorsement because I'm deeply involved with this club and the Democratic Party. I'm the former ECDC Executive Vice President, co-wrote our local minimum wage resolution and successfully campaigned for our municipal minimum wage. I've served on five DPCCC committees and attended/volunteered at countless DPCCC events. I attended two California Democratic Conventions and a meeting of the CADEM Executive Board and I've volunteered for numerous Democratic candidates.

I'm also deeply involved in the El Cerrito Community. I am currently the Chair of the El Cerrito Crime Prevention Committee, and a member of the El Cerrito NAACP, El Cerrito Historical Society, and Friends of Baxter Creek.

I humbly ask for your endorsement. Questions? Contact me:

(415) 473-7623

Arzio4council@gmail.com

www.arzio2016.com

<https://www.facebook.com/arzio4council>

Paul Fadelli

I grew up here. Our kids grew up here too. They went to pre-school, camps, used the great recreational facilities, the parks, swim center and soccer fields, and we've always enjoyed the July 4th Festival. I owe a lot to El Cerrito. I want to give back to this great community and maintain a high quality of life for our residents.

My priorities: keep us safe from crime and fire danger, protect our parks and recreational facilities, enhance local business along San Pablo Avenue, grow a transit-friendly sustainable community, and encourage additional housing that can spur local business development.

We must also prioritize a new library! I will work to keep the city budget balanced and continue to encourage arts and cultural events. El Cerrito citizens must make sure their voice is heard in any regional efforts that impact our city, and I will do that.

I am new at being a candidate – but not new at being a public servant. I have worked in Congress and the State Capitol on behalf of progressive legislators and their constituents for over three decades.

I presently work for BART in charge of legislation to keep the system running and its riders safe. I am also a commissioner on the El Cerrito Arts & Culture Commission.

I am endorsed by local firefighters, police, the Sierra Club, El Cerrito City Council Members Janet Abelson, Jan Bridges, Mark Friedman, and Gabriel Quinto.

I would be honored to have your vote. Learn more at fadelliforelcerrito.org.

Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto

As your Councilmember, I will fight for a healthy, inclusive community.

I received my bachelor's in nursing degree from Samuel Merritt/Saint Mary's College. Currently, I practice nursing in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Alta Bates Hospital. I've spent years advocating for healthcare access.

I will fight for the safety of our citizens. I will work with city, county and state leaders to ensure El Cerrito's paramedics have access to full service, acute care hospitals in order to provide timely care.

While Vice Chair of the El Cerrito Human Relations Commission, I wrote a resolution to proclaim June 12th Loving Day in honor of the Supreme Court decision that legalized interracial marriage. I spearheaded the first Loving Day celebration in El Cerrito that took place in June 2016. I was also instrumental in creating the Not in Our Town Campaign, asserting our community values of tolerance and respect.

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As the mother of two young boys, I will continue to build a community where all of our children are safe, respected, and nurtured.

Most importantly, I will listen to your needs in order to ensure a responsive government. Thank you for your support.

Endorsed by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, Senator Loni Hancock, Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Supervisor John Gioia, Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson, Councilmember Jan Bridges, Councilmember Mark Friedman, Councilmember Gabriel Quinto, Sierra Club, El Cerrito Police Employee's Association, Contra Costa Professional Firefighter's Local 1230, and the California Nurses Association.

www.Pardue-Okimoto.com

INFORMATION REGARDING MEASURES

Prop. 58, The LEARN Initiative (Language Education, Acquisition and Readiness Now!) helps students learn English as quickly as possible and expands opportunities for English speakers to master a second language. The majority of California's students do not presently have access to strong multilingual programs. The LEARN initiative gives parents and local school districts local control to choose the most effective instruction methods for students. By amending an outdated nearly 20-year-old law, Prop. 227, we will remove barriers to learning for all students. (Language provided by the California Democratic Party which supports this measure)

Prop 59, Overturn Citizens United asks whether elected officials should "use all of their constitutional authority," including proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to reverse the 2010 SCOTUS decision in Citizens United v. FEC, to allow regulation or limitation of campaign contributions and spending, and make clear that corporations should not have the same constitutional rights as human beings. (Language provided by the California Democratic Party which supports this measure)

A Safe, Modern Library for El Cerrito!

To address the urgent needs of our community, the El Cerrito City Council unanimously placed a library funding measure on the November 8th 2016 ballot to provide a safe, modern El Cerrito Library. Built in 1948, the El Cerrito Library is 67 years old and does not meet current earthquake safety standards, or the educational and technological needs of today's El Cerrito residents. When school gets out, the Library is packed with school children and simply too small for our community's needs.

The ECDC Executive Board has voted to support this measure. We need to ensure that El Cerrito residents have an earthquake-safe, energy-efficient library that meets our community's educational and informational needs for years to come. A 21st century safe, modern Library will provide:

- Public access computers, a computer learning center, and free Wi-Fi
- A children's area with space for story times
- Improved access for seniors and disabled residents
- Library programs for children and teens, including homework help and reading resources that are critical to providing our students with the resources they need to stay on track.

The Library Measure includes tough fiscal accountability: All funding from the Library Measure is required to be locally-controlled, with independent citizen oversight, mandatory financial audits and yearly reports to the community to ensure all funds are spent as promised.

CONTRA COSTA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TAX MEASURE

If voters approve the measure, the tax revenue will fund the 30-Year Transportation Expenditure Plan

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) believes that the future success of Contra Costa County includes offering safe, reliable mobility for all. To provide funding for this goal,

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on Wednesday, July 20th, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority board – which includes representatives from all parts of the County – voted unanimously to put a tax measure on the November 8 ballot. If approved by voters, the ballot measure will fund transportation improvements throughout Contra Costa County, as outlined in CCTA’s transformative 30-year Transportation Expenditure Plan.

The proposed Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP) is the culmination of months of extensive public outreach, stakeholder engagement, and advocate input. The TEP has also been approved by all of Contra Costa’s 19 cities and towns, as well as the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. The plan focuses on innovative strategies and new technologies to promote a strong economy, protect the environment, and enhance the quality of life for all of Contra Costa’s diverse communities.

“The CCTA Board is incredibly proud of the TEP. This is a transportation plan that reflects the values of our diverse region, has garnered broad support across the county, and will guide the next 30 years of transportation planning. If a supermajority of voters approves the tax measure in November, the tax revenue will provide necessary funding for the transportation improvements included in the TEP,” said Authority Board Special Meeting Chair Don Tatzin.

Contra Costa residents have made significant contributions to their transportation infrastructure since 1988, when voters passed Measure C, a half-cent sales tax dedicated to maintaining the ability of residents to travel safely and conveniently throughout the county. Measure C helped fund the BART extension to Pittsburg/Bay Point, built the Richmond Parkway, improved bicycle and pedestrian trails in the county, and invested more than \$30 million in senior and disabled transit services.

In 2004, voters passed Measure J, which renewed the half-cent sales tax through 2034. Measure J has helped deliver the Fourth Bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, generated \$1.3 billion dollars of investments to Highway 4 in Eastern Contra Costa County, including a BART extension to Antioch,

and combined with Measure C has provided \$286 million to Contra Costa’s cities and towns to maintain and repair local streets. The measure, which will appear on the November 8 ballot, will ask Contra Costa voters to approve a new half-cent sales tax that will generate \$2.9 billion in revenues over 30 years to continue to improve the transportation system in Contra Costa.

The TEP includes plans to reduce congestion and smooth traffic; improve BART, bus, ferry, and train service; and fix local streets and roads. It also dedicates unprecedented funding to new technologies and bicycle and pedestrian improvements in every part of the county, to give commuters viable alternatives to driving and in the process help get them out of traffic.

The TEP builds on CCTA’s strong record of fiscal responsibility and includes strong taxpayer protections and accountability. A public oversight committee will provide independent review of all funds raised and spent. It will ensure that funds are spent only in accordance with the voter-approved plan and only to benefit Contra Costa County.

“As we move into the future, Contra Costa’s economic strength is going to depend on people being able to travel quickly and conveniently throughout the county – to jobs, shopping and entertainment destinations, and everywhere else they need to go. This plan – and the measure that will fund the improvements it describes – helps make sure that is a reality in years to come,” said Tatzin.

To find out more information about the transportation improvements planned for the next 30 years – including projects in each of Contra Costa’s 19 cities and towns – and the tax measure, which will fund those plans if approved by voters on November 8, 2016, visit KeepContraCostaMoving.net.

*Provided by the AC Transit Board
Argument in Favor of Measure TBD (No opposing
argument was available when the ECDC Newsletter
went to print.)*

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AC Transit is the East Bay's largest public transportation provider, serving more people than any other agency for trips within the East Bay. AC Transit provides safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation service forever 180,000rides per day and over 700,000 paratransit rides (for seniors and people with disabilities and others with limited transit options) annually. In addition, 43% of AC Transit trips are work related, including 13,000 Transbay commuters each day.

Without increasing taxes, Measure TBD will:

- Protect reasonable fares for those who need it most, including youth, seniors, and people with disabilities;
- Provide transportation options that allow for independence and mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities;
- Support transportation to areas where people work and attend school;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote alternatives to driving;
- Maintain bus service reliability and on-time performance.

If Measure TBD fails, we risk cutbacks to critical services including 30,000 school trips per day, transportation to work and home, reduced fares for those who need it most, and transportation options for youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Measure TBD requires important safeguards to ensure funds are spent responsibly: public financial audits and an Oversight Committee composed of residents and subject-area experts with authority to review how funds are spent and the ability to hold AC Transit publicly accountable.

Join community members, leaders, neighborhoods, businesses, school leaders, and elected officials across the East Bay in voting yes on Measure TBD to continue essential AC Transit services without increasing taxes.

Visit www.ProtectACTransitServices.com

WEST COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PARCEL TAX EXTENTION

The WCCCUSD Board is placing a measure on the ballot to extend the parcel tax that was first approved in 2004, then again in 2008 and 2012. This is a 7.2 cent per square foot of total building area per parcel (Senior citizens and people with disabilities are exempt) which raises \$9.8 million each year to support the 32,300 students who attend public schools in our district.

35% of the revenue funds counselors, school psychologists and special education teachers

25% funds librarians and library assistants

15% funds class size reduction

12% funds athletics

7% funds textbooks and teaching materials, and

6% funds custodial services

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwsbX69DeLpzNmoxQ3hjaTBkZmc/view?usp=sharing>

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RESULTS OF VOTES TAKEN AT THE JULY, 2016 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

		Legend: CA = Constitutional Amendment; SA = Statutory Amendment; S = Statute;		
#	TITLE	TYPE	Summary Description	ECDC Position
52	State Fees on Hospitals, Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds	CA	Increases required vote to two-thirds for the Legislature to amend a certain existing law that imposes fees on hospitals (for purpose of obtaining federal Medi-Cal matching funds) and that directs those fees and federal matching funds to hospital-provided Medi-Cal health care services, to uncompensated care provided by hospitals to uninsured patients, and to children's health coverage. Eliminates law's ending date. Declares that law's fee proceeds shall not be considered revenues for purposes of applying state spending limit or determining required education funding.	Yes
51	School Bonds. Funding for K-12 School and Community College Facilities.	SA	Authorizes \$9 billion in general obligation bonds: \$3 billion for new construction and \$3 billion for modernization of K-12 public school facilities; \$1 billion for charter schools and vocational education facilities; and \$2 billion for California Community Colleges facilities.	YES
53	Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval.	CA	Requires statewide voter approval before any revenue bonds can be issued or sold by the state for projects that are financed, owned, operated, or managed by the state or any joint agency created by or including the state, if the bond amount exceeds \$2 billion. Prohibits dividing projects into multiple separate projects to avoid statewide voter approval requirement. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government:	NO
54	Legislature. Legislation and Proceedings.	CA & S	SCA 14 is a better version of this; we can authorize to support the legislature's replacement if we want to	No Position #
55	Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare.	CA	Extends Prop 30	YES #
56	Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, and Law Enforcement.	CA & S	Increases cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, with equivalent increase on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine. Allocates revenues primarily to increase funding for existing healthcare programs; also for tobacco use prevention/control programs, tobacco-related disease research and law enforcement, University of California physician training, dental disease prevention programs, and administration.	YES
57	Criminal Sentences. Juvenile Criminal	CA & S	Allows parole consideration for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies upon completion of full prison term for primary offense, as defined. Authorizes Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to award	YES

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#	Proceedings and Sentencing.	TITLE	TYPE	Summary Description	ECDC Position
60	Adult Films. Health Requirements.		S	Requires performers in adult films to use condoms during filming of sexual intercourse	NO
61	State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards.		S	Prohibits state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price paid for the same drug by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Applies to any program where the state is the ultimate payer for a drug, even if the state does not purchase the drug directly. Exempts certain purchases of prescription drugs funded through Medi-Cal.	Yes *
62	Death Penalty.		S	Repeals death penalty as maximum punishment for persons found guilty of murder and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole.	YES
63	Firearms. Ammunition Sales.		S	The Governor signed a package of gun safety bills that does what this does	Yes *
64	Marijuana Legalization.		S	Legalizes marijuana and hemp under state law	YES
65	Carry-Out Bags. Charges.		S	Redirects money collected by grocery and certain other retail stores through sale of carry-out bags, whenever any state law bans free distribution of a particular kind of carry-out bag and mandates the sale of any other kind of carry-out bag. Initiative sponsored by the plastic bag industry to undermine the plastic bag ban. If voters uphold the state's current carryout bag law, redirected revenues from retailers to the state, potentially in the several tens of millions of dollars annually.	NO
66	Death Penalty. Procedures.		S	Exempts prison officials from existing regulation process for developing execution methods. Authorizes death row inmate transfers among California state prisons. State's death row inmates must work and pay victim restitution. States other voter approved measures related to death penalty are null and void if this measure receives more affirmative votes.	NO

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67	Overturn Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags	Referendum	Vote YES to sustain the ban on plastic bags. VERY CONFUSING LANGUAGE! This was put on the ballot by the plastic bag industry, and the wording is deliberately misleading. To sustain the legislature's ban on single use plastic bags vote YES. Do NOT be fooled by the chicanery of corporate maneuvering!	Yes
	BART BOND	Local	BART Capital Reinvestment Bond	Yes

*The following two propositions were not on the consent calendar; we tried to recruit people to speak for and against each of them, but were only able to secure a speaker in favor of Proposition 61.

1. Proposition 61, State Prescription Drug Purchases Pricing Standards – Aref Aziz from the campaign to pass Proposition 61 provided informative hand outs and presented a summary of the advantages of this proposition. President Hilary Crosby read aloud from an email opposing the proposition, but was unable to rebut Mr. Aziz's points. Mr. Aziz rebutted the points raised in the email that President Crosby read. Our members voted 24 in favor, 1 in opposition and three for "no endorsement"; with 86% in favor, the Club will take a YES position.
2. Proposition 63, Firearms Ammunition Sales – The ECDC Executive Board did not take a position on this proposition since the timing of compiling and sending out the paper newsletter prevented us from waiting for the Governor's final decision on the gun safety bills recently passed by the California legislature. Present Crosby presented a brief overview of the bills that the Governor signed and compared them to the proposition. Our members voted 30 in favor, no opposed and one for "no endorsement"; with 97% in favor, the Club will take a YES position.

The following two propositions were pulled from the consent calendar by members:

1. Proposition 54, Legislature, Legislation and Proceedings – Member Al Miller pulled this one from the consent calendar; the ECDC Executive Board had followed the California Democratic Party (CDP) recommendation to support SCA 14 instead of this proposition. Mr. Miller described the process known as "gut and amend" which can drastically change and weaken legislation. He did not think it was wise to rely on SCA 14 to provide the transparency and accountability that this proposition, a constitutional amendment, would provide. Our members voted 15 in favor, 5 opposed and 7 "no endorsement"; the Club will take No Position since there were only 55% in favor of supporting this proposition.
2. Proposition 55, Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare – Member Sue Goldberg pulled this one from the consent calendar; the ECDC Executive Board had followed the CDP recommendation to support this 12 year extension of Proposition 30. Ms. Goldberg raised concerns that having this voter approved tax increase in effect would dampen support for reforms for Proposition 13. Our members voted 26 in favor, no opposed and 2 "no endorsement"; with 93% in favor, the Club will take a YES position.

We also had two matters to resolve in our standing rules. The first one was to remove the words "and by June 1" from Definition 3 in the Endorsement Rules. This was a carryover from changes made to the by-laws that required a June 1 deadline for payment of membership dues. (During odd numbered years, our club roster is submitted to the Contra Costa County Democratic Party Central Committee by June 30 to establish how many voters our club will have in the CDP pre-endorsement caucuses, which determine the consent calendar for the CDP's primary endorsements. The June

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1 date for membership dues allows us time to process members and submit the roster in time.) The July ECDC vote to strike “and by June 1” was 49 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

The second matter focused on an improper addition made to the standing rules in January, 2016 to include the following language in Article 4 of the Endorsement Rules:

“except endorsements for El Cerrito City Council or El Cerrito Municipal ballot measures. Only members who are El Cerrito residents are eligible to vote on endorsements for El Cerrito City Council and El Cerrito ballot measures”

The proposed language was voted on as “old Business” since it was discussed in November 2015 and tabled for a later meeting. Notice of a vote had not been included in the January meeting announcement. The January vote did not observe our Bylaws, which require 10 days prior notice of a pending vote. Additionally, changes to our standing rules require a two-thirds majority. The proposed addition received only a narrow majority of those present and voting at the January meeting and the language should not have been added to the Standing Rules.

Since inclusion of that language did not meet the requirements of our Bylaws regarding notice, the language is subject to removal from the Standing Rules. President Crosby, wishing to respect the will of the Club, provided the required notice to discuss the matter and conduct a July vote addressing the January vote (confirmation or reversal of the January vote). In order for the language to be officially added to the Endorsement Rules, the July vote would need to have a two-thirds majority confirming the January vote. In order to make the vote as comprehensible as possible, President Crosby conducted the vote as “in favor of the El Cerrito for El Cerrito language” (a vote to confirm the January vote) and “opposed to the language” (a vote nullifying the January vote).

The vote was 35 opposed to the language, 19 in favor of the language, with 2 abstentions, which failed to reach the required two-thirds majority to confirm the January vote. The revised endorsement rules have been posted to the website and include recent changes.

One last vote was taken late in the meeting to waive the 10-day notification rule and move to a new motion to postpone the Club’s endorsement forum for local candidates and measures which is scheduled for Saturday August 27. The motion to waive notice to conduct that votes failed by a vote of 7 in favor and 20 opposed. President Crosby is working with other Democratic Clubs to accommodate candidate schedules. Please see the article about the Endorsement Forum.

There is currently a “Pre August Meeting Preview” which has as much information as is currently available. There will be a new article once filing has closed for all the relevant races which will include statements the candidates and measure campaigns provide.