

The Platform

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ELECTION: ENDORSEMENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH, 6:30 p.m.



GENERAL MEETING LOCATION

DIMOND LIBRARY, 3565 FRUITVALE AVENUE, OAKLAND;

Directions: Take 580 East to the Fruitvale Avenue Exit and exit. Turn left onto Fruitvale Avenue and go two-tenths of a mile to the library, on the left.

Starting at 6:30; we'll have pizza (free) for all.

This endorsement meeting will cover the City Council, County Board of Supervisors, County Board of Education, Superior Court Judge races and 16th AD Democratic Central Committee.

See www.mgoclub.org for more information

President's Message, April 2008



I've been reading David McCullough's biography of John Adams, the story of how Adams, Jefferson and others spent years of achingly long hours of work away from their families, suffering snubs by foreign diplomats, to make the United States of America a reality. I am aware that we are the inheritors of all that passion and work of the founding fathers, as we choose those individuals who can best steer our schools and our city through difficult times for the benefit of all our citizens.

The tasks of the founding fathers were monumental, but ours are also challenging.

What direction should Oakland take? Is our crime problem solvable, or intractable? Can we deal with the problem of 3000 to 4000 Oakland students missing school every day? Can the schools create an atmosphere where all students can be motivated to learn and prepare for their futures?

These are hard questions, and we start with the answers right here—on April 17th, you will have the second of two opportunities to hear candidates, ask questions and choose which individuals to endorse for office.

You will have a second important responsibility, too. After we have made our endorsement selections, we need to broadcast our choices to the wider community of Democrats and independents who share Democratic values. We need your help to do that:

Can you walk your neighborhood delivering MGO flyers?

Can you hand out flyers at BART or farmers' markets?

Can you phone voters to urge them to vote for our picks?

If so, call Judy Cox or Jean Brown to volunteer. Our impact all comes down to you.

Judy Cox, President

MGO Goals: to spread knowledge of candidates, legislation, issues, and other matters of interest to the Democratic Party; to find, promote and support Democratic candidates; to provide a forum for Democratic candidates and officials; to stimulate public interest in governmental affairs; and to perpetuate the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party.

-Draft-
MGO Executive Board Meeting, March 24, 2008
Piedmont Gardens

President Cox called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

Attendees: Judy Cox, Greg Chan, Steve Statler, Ralph Kanz, Marcus Johnson, Dan Kalb. **Absent:** Gary Sirbu, **Excused:** Wayne Nishioka, Robert Warwick, Jean Brown, Guy Bryant

Treasurer's Report by Steve Statler

Treasurer's Report not approved---No quorum

Minutes of last Exec. Bd. Meeting---No quorum.

Membership Report (Judy Cox), 105-110 members paid for '08

Old Business

A. Pre-endorsement Conference (Ralph Kanz): MGO present and voted. One big battle (Hancock and Chan vote). Judy Cox felt the scheduling of the Conference was poor regarding when the clubs made their endorsements.

B. Panel discussion of journalist to discuss the City Council for May meeting: looking at how the City Council was doing, what are their achievements, what were their failings, what's wrong with the Council, what's right with the City Council,

C. Filing roles for Club Death penalty, Single-payer health care---Denise Flag currently covering.

D. Endorsement Meeting April 17th---6:30 to 9:30 PM: The following would be questioned in the following order, Judges, one contested seat, Board of Supervisors, 16th Assembly, 14th Assembly, City Council, Districts 1, 3, 5, 7 and At Large, County Board of Education, and 16th AD Democratic Central Committee.

Suggestion: in the future have Central Committee candidates interview at the MGO Exec. Board meeting (Should we re-vote on 14th AD Committee candidates: a ballot will be available for the membership?)

E. Outreach/Action Plan for Publicizing Endorsements: run in newsletter for April and May. Also, precinct walking will proceed. Actions will be coordinated and implemented by Jean Brown and Marcus Johnson.

F. Anniversary Party Initial Report, Solidify Plan. Doug and Barbara Boxer looking at Climate, economy, education, greening of the State, East Bay etc.) Looking at the Lost Canyon Winery at Jack London Square. Charging about \$75. would be palatable. Checking on their availability and date.

Possible back-up keynoters: Deborah Bowen (Judy Cox), Gavin Newsom (Dan Kalb)

New Business

A. Membership categories and changes: newsletter only? Consider two year dues in order to keep members engaged over the non-election year. *Perhaps a two-year membership. MGO membership benefits such as MGOtalk changing to members-only site. Also, to look at dynamism and content of the membership meetings.Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM.*

Next Meeting: Monday, April 21, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Chan, MGO Secretary

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE
Section V. Endorsement

Current:

3. Endorsement Requirement: (approved at the May 2006 General Meeting)

c. When there are more than two candidates in a race, Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) will be used with IRV ballot instructions (found in Standing Rules immediately below).

Standing Rules - Instant Run Off Voting Instructions

2. When the votes are tabulated, only the first choice votes are initially counted. If no candidate has a 60% majority of the votes cast, the candidate with the lowest number of first choice votes is eliminated, and the second choice votes for those ballots are transferred to the remaining candidates accordingly. This process is repeated until one of the candidates receives a 60% majority and is declared endorsed or none of the candidates or "No endorsement" receives 60%.

Proposed:

3. Endorsement Requirement:

c. To maximize and preserve club unity, it is the intent of this club to preserve the sixty percent endorsement requirement even when IRV voting is employed. When there are more than two candidates in a race, a modified system of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) will be used with IRV ballot instructions (found in the Standing Rules immediately below), that is, when the ballots of the last two remaining candidates are counted, there shall be no winner unless one of the two has received at least sixty percent of the vote.

Standing Rules - Instant Run Off Voting Instructions

2. When the votes are tabulated, only the first choice votes are initially counted. If no candidate has a 60% majority of the votes cast, the candidate with the lowest number of first choice votes is eliminated, and the second choice votes for those ballots are transferred to the remaining candidates accordingly. This process is repeated until one of the last two candidates receives a 60% majority of the total vote marshaled by each of those candidates and is declared endorsed or none of the candidates or "No endorsement" receives 60%.

THIS SERVES AS NOTICE,
THAT A VOTE ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE WILL
OCCUR AT THE GENERAL MEETING APRIL 17TH.

MGO 2008 Walk Sign up

Yes! I want to distribute MGO Ballot Recommendations

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I will: walk _____ make phone calls _____

All you have to do is leave the house with a precinct list and stack of flyers, and leave one at the doors of Democrats who live near you.

Mail this information to P.O. Box 11622, Oakland, CA 94611
or phone Jean Brown at 510.653.3204 or email at jbr936@aol.com.

Endorsement Meeting Information, June 3rd Election

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 5

- Keith Carson (3 minutes)

District 4 (5 minutes)

- Nate Miley Steve White

Question & Answer (5 minutes)

14th ASSY DIST. REPRESENTATIVE (5 minutes)

- Phil Polakoff Nancy Skinner
 Tony Thurmond Kriss Worthington

Question & Answer 10 minutes

16th ASSY DIST. REPRESENTATIVE (5 minutes)

- Sandre Swanson

Question & Answer (4 - 5 minutes)

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES (3 minutes each)

Seat 9

- Philip Daly Dennis Hayashi
 Victoria Kolakowski Dennis Reid

Q&A (3-4 min)

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, (2 minutes each)

- Ernest Hardmon Conchita Tucker

Question & Answer (2 minutes)

WALK TO WIN

MGO Ballot Recommendations will be ready for distribution after our next endorsement meeting in May. This will be the fourth time we have walked Oakland precincts before an election. If you can distribute the flyer in your neighborhood, leave a message for Jean Brown at 653-3204 or jbr936@aol.com. Let us know if you would rather distribute them in one location, such as BART or at a farmers' market, or to join a phone bank.

All you have to do is to leave a flyer at the front door of Democratic households—you don't have to ring the doorbell. We gave each walker 100 flyers in past elections, but if you can enlist the help of some neighbors, you may be able to cover the whole precinct and we'll give you more.

Consider our long range goals: Only a small percentage of registered Democrats actually vote. Many are discouraged because they don't know anything about candidates for some offices, but if they get our information before each election voter turnout will increase. And our endorsed candidates will appreciate how much we helped to get them elected without costing them a penny. We have to win this one!

Jean Brown

CITY COUNCIL (5 minutes each)

DISTRICT 3

- Greg Hodge Nancy Nadel
 Sean Sullivan Africa Williams

DISTRICT 5

- Beverly Blythe Ignacio de la Fuente
 Mario Juarez David Wofford

DISTRICT 7

- Larry Reid Clifford Gilmore

DISTRICT 1

- Jane Brunner

AT LARGE

- Kerry Hamill Rebecca Kaplan
 Clinton Killian Frank Rose

16TH AD DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE (6 seats)

(Note: E-Board to interview at next meeting, develop a slate)

- Michael Colbruno Kathy Neal (I)
 Darleen Brooks (I) Howard Egerman (I)
 Wayne Nisioka Sharon Ball
 Mark Briggs Sumi Paranjape
 Bonnie Wheatley James Oddie
 John Craig Jonathan Stuart
 Ben Deniston Ian Overton
 Oyang Teng Ramiro Bravo

(I) incumbent

For the latest information, go to www.mgoclub.org



Important Dates

April 17th, MGO General Meeting (Endorsement 2 of 2)

May 5th, First day to mail Vote By Mail Ballots

June 3, 2008 - Statewide Direct Primary

Reminder: Endorsement Meeting April 17th, 2008



RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

www.mgoclub.org

P.O. Box 11622,
Oakland, CA 94611



You have the
POWER to
save democracy

JOIN OF RENEW TODAY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Check here if the above is a new address: _____

Email: _____

EMPLOYER (required by law)

OCCUPATION (required by law)

FPPC# 790500 (California)
FEC# C00402651 (U.S.)

New Renewal Gift

Enclosed is my check to **"M.G.O."** for:

- Senior/Student **\$20**
- Individual **\$30**
- Family **\$45**

Mail to:

P.O. Box 11622, Oakland, CA 94611

Membership is open to registered Democrats.

Benefits include this newsletter, invitations to special events, political education programs, and working with other active Democrats for a better world.

I confirm that this contribution is not made from the general treasury funds of a corporation, labor organization or national bank, or from the treasury of an entity or person who is a federal contractor. The funds are not being provided to me by another person for the purpose of making this contribution. I am at least 18 years old.