

The Platform

Volume 12 Issue 2, Feb 2008

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INSIDE GUANTANAMO: IS DUE PROCESS OF LAW STILL ALIVE?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 7:00 p.m.

NEW LOCATION

DIMOND LIBRARY, 3565 FRUITVALE AVENUE, OAKLAND;

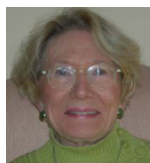
For more information, go to www.mgoclub.org



Don't miss our February 21st general membership meeting when **Peter Honigsberg**, Professor of Law and Director of Legal Research, University of San Francisco School of Law, will speak on current developments in the law of terrorism as well as his visit to the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center. He visited Guantanamo as a journalist writing a book on detention without due process, treatment of detainees, and related post-9/11 issues for the University of California Press.

See www.mgoclub.org for more information

President's Message, February 2008



You'll receive this newsletter either just before or just after Super Tuesday on which we (along with many other Americans) cast our votes in primary elections. Probably most of us determined our first choice some time ago, and, if we're like most people in Alameda County, half of us have already voted by mail before Super Tuesday.

But that's just the beginning. Our club did not choose one Democratic candidate to endorse, largely because we have significant numbers of members who are passionately committed to more than one candidate. Enthusiasm for a candidate is important and helps move that individual along. However, I want to urge you to do more:

- If "your" candidate is still in the race after Super Tuesday, get active in helping him or her win—make phone calls, distribute literature at farmers' markets, BART stations, and other places, walk precincts to introduce more folks to your candidate; (I understand from a very credible source that the races may not be decided until the party conventions in the summer); Check mgotalk and this newsletter for information about candidate events you can attend and work you can do;
- Even if your candidate is not the one that ultimately wins the Democratic nomination, consider the very grave consequences if our country does NOT elect a Democrat in November, and work for the nominee anyway;
- Stay in for the long haul—no election is won until the votes are cast, no matter what the pollsters tell us;
- Encourage less political friends and neighbors to register and vote—be your own small voter registration committee.

We are the political grassroots—let's be sure we grow and bear fruit in the months ahead!

Judy Cox, President

January E-Board meeting



In its January meeting, your E-Board decided to:

- Focus our endorsements publicity on news releases, emails to elected officials and information to members via an early Platform;
- Focus publicity for our Peace Resolution by sending it to elected officials, putting it in Platform for our members, and distributing it in a news release;
- Hold our 50th Anniversary party in late June—**volunteers for the party committee are needed**;
- Investigate having a group of journalists review the City Council races coming up in 2008, to find out what the issues are in the City and the individual races and who will be running;
- Find an MGO member to attend meetings of a group working to eliminate the death penalty.
- 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.

MGO Democratic Club endorsement results for the February 5th 2008 Primary

(Oakland, CA)-January 25, 2008-The Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club held an informational and endorsement meeting on January 17th.

The League of Women Voters presented on all ballot measures.

The membership endorsed the following:



- **No on Measure B** Children's Hospital Special Tax Initiative -- Alameda County (Parcel Tax - 2/3 Approval Required)



- **Yes on Measure G** Parcel Tax for Oakland Schools-2008 Education Parcel Tax -- Oakland Unified School District (2/3 Approval Required)



- **No on Proposition 91** Transportation Funds-Prohibits certain motor vehicle fuel taxes from being retained in General Fund and delays repayment of such taxes previously retained. Changes how and when General Fund borrowing of certain transportation funds is allowed.



- **Yes on Proposition 92** Community College Funding & Governance-Establishes independent community college districts and Board of Governors. Requires minimum funding for schools and community colleges to be calculated separately. Sets fees at \$15/unit and limits future increases.



- **Yes on Proposition 93** Limits on Legislators' Terms-Reduces permissible state legislative service to 12 years. Allows 12 years' service in one house. Current legislators can serve 12 years in current house, regardless of prior legislative service.



- **No on Referendum 94, 95, 96, and 97-** Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.



Notice Update On Instant Run-Off Voting

On Feb 5th, at 5:00pm the Special Concurrent Meeting of the Oakland Redevelopment Agency/City Council will receive an update on the implementation of Instant Run-Off Voting and adopt the following pieces of legislation:

1. A resolution declaring that the City Of Oakland is unable to use Ranked Choice Voting for the 2008 elections; and
2. Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an ordinance conforming the City of Oakland's Tuesday, June 3, 2008 Municipal Nominating Election with the statewide direct primary election

Final Passage (Second Reading) has been scheduled for February 19, 2008



Key Issues

Housing
Immigration
Iran
Iraq
Same-sex marriage
Social Security
Stem cell research
Taxes

Abortion
Economic stimulus
Education
Energy
Environment
Free trade
Guns
Health care

Important Dates

Presidential Primary Election - February 5, 2008. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Last day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot in person at the office of the county elections official.

Statewide Direct Primary Election - June 3, 2008

General Election -- November 4, 2008



MGO Club membership benefits include this newsletter, invitations to special events while supporting progressive Democratic politics.

Our goal is 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.

As Democrats, we can make a difference. You have the power to save democracy, renew your membership today!

**Want to see fairer and more competitive legislative districts?
Circulate petitions for a new ballot initiative by calling Judy Cox, 510.595.7402**

MGO Members and Friends:

The **Proposition 13 Reform Task Force** has been quiet during most of our party's frenetic primary season, but we have also been busy. A Task Force working group has been drafting a model speech and a detailed speakers' guide. These documents went through several drafts and took time to complete. They are finished, and we are ready to move more rapidly.

The Task Force will meet again on **Wednesday February 13th at 7:00 p.m.** in Conference Room C of the San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue. We would like to familiarize you with the documents we have drafted, and we need your ideas and suggestions for specific next steps as we take jointly take this campaign forward. This meeting is after the California primary; Democrats can now come up for air, and we request each club president or a club-designated representative to attend.

We have all watched as California's tax revenues have rapidly diminished, and the governor has proposed across-the-board reductions in services. A great deal of the suffering public education and local governments will now experience could have been avoided if a split-roll tax reform had been in place. We need your help to make that happen. It is a cause worth your time. Join us on February 13th.

Gary Sirbu, Chair
Proposition 13 Reform Task Force

For a copy of the Voter Information Guide

English: 1-800-345-8683 or <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/lang/eng.pdf>

Spanish: 1-800-232-8682 or http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/lang/SP_Voter_Guide.pdf

Japanese: 1-800-339-2865 or http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/lang/english_sup.pdf

Vietnamese: 1-800-339-8163 or http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/lang/VT_Voter_Guide.pdf

Tagalog: 1-800-339-2957 or http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/lang/TG_Voter_Guide.pdf

Chinese: 1-800-339-2857 or http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/lang/CH_Voter_Guide.pdf

Korean: 1-866-575-1558 or http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/lang/KO_Voter_Guide.pdf

TDD: 1-800-833-8683



First Tuesday

First Tuesday political lunch, 12:30 pm, Tuesday, February 5th at Mexicali Rose restaurant (in the back room), 7th and Clay Streets, Oakland

Robert Warwick

State of the Union comments ...



"We must continue to chart a New Direction for our economy that creates new, knowledge-based jobs as we tackle every major challenge: bringing innovation to education; promoting better health care for all Americans; rebuilding our infrastructure; and addressing the climate crisis and global warming. "

Nancy Pelosi, House Speaker



On Monday night, George W. Bush gave his last State of the Union address, and one of the worst presidencies in our nation's history began drawing to a close. But it's not enough for us, as Democrats, to cheer the impending demise of the Bush Administration. We need to do everything within our power to elect a Democratic president in 2008. We can't afford the alternative.

Senator Art Torres (Ret.) Chairman



"Look at the president's earmarks he puts forth every year – I'm totally flabbergasted at what he's talking about,"... "Many communities in the country, such as my community, deserve some of their federal dollars back... people pay taxes in these congressional districts and they deserve some of their federal dollars back in the form of earmarks."

Rep. Barbara Lee

Reminder-Monthly General Meetings

MGO has moved the location of our monthly general meetings to the **Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue**. It has a parking lot and is across the street from a large Safeway shopping center with bountiful parking. We'll meet in the library's upper meeting room.

The Library is easy to reach: 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.

The Club is making this change in response to comments from members about the difficulty of parking near Piedmont Gardens where we have been meeting.

We hope you'll let us know how you like our new digs!

If you haven't already, Please RENEW TODAY



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.