

# The Platform

Volume 12 Issue 01, Jan. 2008

## Officers

Judy Cox, President  
510.595.7402

[judyacox@comcast.net](mailto:judyacox@comcast.net)

Dan Kalb, Vice-President  
[dank1@well.com](mailto:dank1@well.com)

Greg Chan, Secretary  
[chanlimclan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chanlimclan@sbcglobal.net)

Stephen Statler, Treasurer  
[stephen.statler@att.net](mailto:stephen.statler@att.net)

Gary Sirbu, Past President  
[gsirbulaw@aol.com](mailto:gsirbulaw@aol.com)

## At Large Board Members

Jean Brown, (Membership)  
[jbr936@aol.com](mailto:jbr936@aol.com)

Guy Bryant,  
[guybryant@BryantBrownLaw.com](mailto:guybryant@BryantBrownLaw.com)

Marcus Johnson, (Media Coordinator)  
510.290.8300  
[marcus\\_a\\_johnson@yahoo.com](mailto:marcus_a_johnson@yahoo.com)

Ralph Kanz  
[rkanz@earthlink.net](mailto:rkanz@earthlink.net)

Wayne Nishioka  
[wsnishioka@aol.com](mailto:wsnishioka@aol.com)

Terry Preston (Webmaster)  
[leroy\\_dad@yahoo.com](mailto:leroy_dad@yahoo.com)

Terry Sandoval  
[tsandoval59@mac.com](mailto:tsandoval59@mac.com)

Robert Warwick  
[rhwarwick@yahoo.com](mailto:rhwarwick@yahoo.com)

## Inside:

- President's Message (cont) pg 2
- President of the United States; Democratic Party Voter Info pg 2
- Local Measures pg 2
- Important Dates pg 2
- Propositions Summary pg 2-3
- Referendums pg 3
- Out with the Old, ... pg 3
- Voter Information Guide pg 3
- Membership renewal (back page)



**Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club**  
P.O. Box 11622, Oakland, CA 94611  
Phone: 510.595.7402 Fax: 510 595 7402



## INFORMATIONAL AND ENDORSEMENT MEETING

FOR FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> PRIMARY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, go to [www.mgoclub.org](http://www.mgoclub.org)

### NEW LOCATION

**DIMOND LIBRARY, 3565 FRUITVALE AVENUE, OAKLAND;**

**7:00 to 8:00 p.m.:** Presentation on all ballot measures by League of Women Voters

**Prop 91:** Transportation Funds

**Prop 92:** Community Colleges Funding, Governance

**Prop 93:** Term Limits

**Props 94-97:** Referendum Measures on Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact

**Measure A:** Tax for Children's Hospital Construction Program

**Measure B:** Children's Hospital Special Tax Initiative

**Measure G:** Education Parcel Tax, Oakland Unified School District

**8:00 p.m.:** Endorsement meeting:

- Vote on Peace Resolution
- Vote on endorsements of ballot measures
- Discussion and vote on endorsement of one of the presidential candidates

## President's Message, January 2008

**TIMING** is crucial in politics.

This sometimes hard lesson has been driven home to me this fall as I worked with other members of the Oakland IRV campaign to get IRV implemented in Oakland after its success on the 2006 ballot. Our timing is difficult for IRV: we're faced with a Secretary of State who must certify any IRV processes and machinery, and whose interest in IRV is dwarfed by concerns about electronic voting machinery reliability; with a Registrar of Voters who must run three elections in 2008 and consider a new voting process at the same time; with a voting machine vendor who feels little sense of urgency in getting new IRV processes and software certified by the federal and state governments; and finally, with a newly-strict federal voting machine certification process, which slows everything down--by months.

In short, we of the IRV implementation group face very bad timing for getting IRV up and running in 2008.

(continue pg. 2)



## President's message (continues)

Recently, MGO also faced bad timing on an action we attempted: following up on the governor's veto of AB 45, which would have restored local control to Oakland schools in a clear process, we were seeking to bring State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell to Oakland to find out how local control could be restored. Unfortunately, we had not found out that the Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team-FICMAT (the consulting group which monitors and evaluates OUSD's progress in preparing for return of local control) was preparing to issue a new report which was quite positive; the report laid the groundwork for our Sacramento legislators to negotiate with the State Superintendent for return of local control for two of the remaining four areas of school administration still handled by the state. When MGO's action resolution reached the powerful Rules Committee of the City Council, we encountered testy opposition, because our resolution would have made negotiations with the State Superintendent more difficult. Therefore, we had to withdraw our resolution from consideration by the City Council. Bad timing, again.

In the New Year ahead, we all want MGO to effectively work to improve our City and its governance. Our Education Committee is preparing an action recommendation related to the renewal of the No Child Left Behind bill. In pursuit of effectiveness on this and future issues, let's all pay particular attention to finding out what else is going on in the context of any action we consider, so we can have good timing as we move ahead in 2008.

Happy New Year to all MGOers!! I look forward to working with you in the year ahead as we face an election-rich time!

Judy Cox, President

## Important Dates

January 7-First day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot by mail.

**MGO Endorsement Vote**  
**Thursday, January 17th, 2008**  
**7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.,**

January 22-Last day to register to vote.

January 29-Last day that county elections officials will accept any voter's application for a vote-by-mail ballot.

February 5-Last day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot in person at the office of the county elections official.

Tuesday, February 5-Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## President of the United States; Democratic Party Voter Information

The information shown here is provided for reference.

- Joe Biden** Addr: PO Box 438, Wilmington, DE 19899; Phone: 302-574-2008; Email:info@joebiden.com Website: www.
- Hillary Clinton** Addr: 1122 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103; Phone: 415-255-7431; Email:info@hillaryclinton.com
- Barack Obama** Addr: 3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 950, Los Angeles, CA 90010; Phone: 213-383-2008; Email:california@barackobama.com
- Dennis Kucinich** Addr: PO Box 110180, Cleveland, OH 44111; Phone: 877-413-3664; Email:info@dennis4president.com
- Bill Richardson** Addr: 111 Lomas Blvd. NW, Suite 200, Albuquerque, NM 87102; Phone: 505-828-2455; Email: billrichardson@richardsonforpresident.com
- John Edwards** Addr: 410 Market Street, Suite 400, Chapel Hill, NC 27516; Phone:919-636-3131;
- Mike Gravel** Addr: PO Box 948, Arlington, VA 22216; Phone:703-652-4698; Email: lynne@gravel2008.us
- Chris Dodd** Addr: PO Box 51882, Washington, DC 20091; Phone:202-737-3633; Email:info@chrisdodd.com



**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.

## Local Measures

- Yes  No  **Measure A** Special Tax to Support Children's Hospital Construction Program -- Alameda County (Parcel Tax - 2/3 Approval Required)
- Yes  No  **Measure B** Children's Hospital Special Tax Initiative -- Alameda County (Parcel Tax - 2/3 Approval Required)
- Yes  No  **Measure G** 2008 Education Parcel Tax -- Oakland Unified School District (2/3 Approval Required)

## Propositions Summary

Yes  No  **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.

**State Attorney General Summary:**

- Prohibits certain motor vehicle fuel sales and use taxes, that are earmarked for the Transportation Investment Fund, from being retained in the General Fund. Currently such taxes may be retained if Governor issues a proclamation, a special statute is enacted by a 2/3 vote of the Legislature, repayment occurs within three years, and certain other conditions are met.
- Requires repayment by 6/30/17 of such vehicle fuel taxes retained in General Fund from 7/1/03 to 6/30/08. Currently repayment is generally required by 6/30/16.
- Changes how and when General Fund borrowing of certain transportation funds is allowed.

**Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact Summary:** Increases stability of state funding for highways, streets, and roads and may decrease stability of state funding for public transit. May reduce stability of certain local funds for public transit.

(continue on next page)



## Propositions Summary

Yes  No  **Proposition 92** Community Colleges. Funding. Governance. Fees

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.

### State Attorney General Summary:

- Establishes in state constitution a system of independent public community college districts and Board of Governors.
- Generally, requires minimum levels of state funding for school districts and community college districts to be calculated separately, using different criteria and separately appropriated.
- Allocates 10.46 percent of current Proposition 98 school funding maintenance factor to community colleges.
- Sets community college fees at \$15/unit per semester; limits future fee increases.
- Provides formula for allocation by Legislature to community college districts that would not otherwise receive general fund revenues through community college apportionment.

**Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact Summary:** Increase in state spending on K–14 education from 2007–08 through 2009–10—averaging about \$300 million per year, with unknown impacts annually thereafter.  
Loss of student fee revenues to community colleges—potentially about \$70 million annually.

Yes  No  **Proposition 93** Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office

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.

### State Attorney General Summary:

- Reduces the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years.
- Allows a person to serve a total of 12 years either in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of both.
- Provides a transition period to allow current members to serve a total of 12 consecutive years in the house in which they are currently serving, regardless of any prior service in another house.

**Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact Summary:** This measure would have no direct fiscal effect on state or local governments.

## 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](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](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](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](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](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](http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/lang/KO_Voter_Guide.pdf)

**TDD:** 1-800-833-8683

## Referendums

Yes  No  **Proposition 94**

Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.  
If this petition is signed by the required number of registered voters and timely filed with the Secretary of State, it will stop the law (Chapter 40, Statutes of 2007) from going into effect, unless a majority of voters at the next statewide election vote in its favor.

Yes  No  **Proposition 95**

Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.  
If this petition is signed by the required number of registered voters and timely filed with the Secretary of State, it will stop the law (Chapter 38, Statutes of 2007) from going into effect, unless a majority of voters at the next statewide election vote in its favor.

Yes  No  **Proposition 96**

Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.  
If this petition is signed by the required number of registered voters and timely filed with the Secretary of State, it will stop the law (Chapter 39, Statutes of 2007) from going into effect, unless a majority of voters at the next statewide election vote in its favor.

Yes  No  **Proposition 97**

Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.  
If this petition is signed by the required number of registered voters and timely filed with the Secretary of State, it will stop the law (Chapter 41, Statutes of 2007) from going into effect, unless a majority of voters at the next statewide election vote in its favor.

## Out with the Old, In with the New for 2008

MGO is making a change for the new year: we are moving 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, and that you'll make extra efforts to attend meetings during this Spring of the Elections (February and June).

**Please also note that—for one month only—we'll be starting our general meeting at 7:00 p.m., NOT 7:30.** This is to allow for a full presentation on ballot measures between 7:00 and 8:00, so we can vote for endorsements on those measures, presidential candidates and more from 8:00 onward. Judy Cox, *President*



Happy New Year!

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.*