

# The Platform

Volume 12 Issue 6, June 2008

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## Inside:

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**Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club**  
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## DEATH PENALTY IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

THURSDAY, JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 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.

### How Do YOU Feel About Imposing the Death Penalty in Alameda County: Should It Be Continued, or Discontinued?

At our June meeting we'll hear two speakers address the use of the death penalty in Alameda County: one speaker from the Alameda Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty; one speaker from those in the county who prefer to continue imposing the death penalty.

Come here a clear presentation from both sides, ask questions, and determine where you stand on this important issue. This is our last formal meeting until fall, and so let's all come to wish each other a great summer and hear a terrific program on a very current issue in our county! **Non-MGO member are welcome to attend!** [www.mgoclub.org](http://www.mgoclub.org)

## President's Message, June 2008



The end of the year is the time for one more--post-election!--excellent program to give you food for thought as you enjoy your summer.

Please join us on Thursday, June 19th, 7:30 p.m. to hear about current work being done by a coalition that wants to stop imposing the death penalty in Alameda County and also to hear from those who believe that the County should continue to use the death penalty.

Come with an open mind and listen to those who've worked with these penalties talk about the implications of their use.

The end of the program year is also a time for thank you's:

to you members, who came, listened, asked questions, endorsed, precinct-walked, came to fundraisers, and generally kept the club on track doing its job for Democratic voters in Oakland. Our endorsements have reached 5000 households beyond our membership roster and will be sent to more on your emails, I'm confident.

to our sturdy, hardworking and sharp e-board who have given so much time, energy and creativity to MGO this year.

In particular, I'd like to point up three unsung heroes who don't often appear at the front of the room at meetings, but who contribute hours and hours every month to make our club work;

- **Steve Statler**, our treasurer, who keeps the books--balanced!--and is always there to volunteer at any event to set up, clean up or take money;
- **Marcus Johnson**, whose countless hours of writing, editing and layout work on our newsletter, our website and other publications is all behind the scenes; Marcus is also a mastermind at getting the word out on endorsements, meetings, and other club news via blast emails to his very large network;
- **Robert Warwick**, our MGO elder statesman, who is always ready to help, give background and advice, and stay calm in the face of problems.

When we speak of the backbone of our organization, these three are some of the biggest vertebrae! Thanks to you all.

Judy Cox, President

## MGO E-BOARD NOMINATION FOR JULY 2008-JUNE 2009

### OFFICERS

JUDY COX, PRESIDENT

DAN KALB, VICE-PRESIDENT

GREG CHAN, SECRETARY

STEPHEN STATLER, TREASURER

### AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

JEAN BROWN, (MEMBERSHIP)

GUY BRYANT

MARCUS JOHNSON, (MEDIA COORDINATOR)

RALPH KANZ

WAYNE NISHIOKA

TERRY SANDOVAL

GARY SIRBU, (EX-OFFICIO)

ROBERT WARWICK

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

*During MGO's general meeting in May, the membership nominated the members of the current executive committee as candidates for additional one-year terms on the MGO Executive Board. To enable further Board expansion, MGO President Judy Cox has also requested the Nominating Committee to nominate additional candidates at MGO's June membership meeting. A membership vote on the additional nominees will occur at the next membership meeting following the nominations.*

*If you know someone whom you believe the nominating committee should consider, please contact that person to determine whether she/he would be interested in serving and then call or email Gary Sirbu, Nominating Committee Chair, 336-3373 or [gsirbulaw@aol.com](mailto:gsirbulaw@aol.com), and provide name, background information, and how to contact. Information should be provided as soon as possible.*

*The executive board carries out the affairs of the club between meetings and recommends policies to the membership.*

*Judy Cox  
MGO President*

## MGO ENDORSEMENTS REPORT CARD

### ELECTION RESULTS:

#### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, 9TH C.D.

BARBARA LEE

#### ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

DIST. 4: NATE MILEY

DIST. 5: KEITH CARSON

#### 14 AD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE

NANCY SKINNER

#### 16TH AD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE

SANDRE SWANSON

#### SUPERVISOR COURT JUDGE SEAT 9

DENNIS HAYASHI

#### OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

DIST. 1: JANE BRUNNER

DIST 3: NANCY NADEL

AT LARGE: REBECCA KAPLAN (*in Nov. Run-off*)

#### STATE PROPOSITIONS

98 – NO

99 – YES

#### DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE – 14TH A.D.

ELIZABETH ECHOLS

KAREN WEINSTEIN

#### JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT (SEAT #9) – DENNIS HAYASHI

#### OAKLAND CITY ATTORNEY – JOHN RUSSO

#### OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

DISTRICT 1 – JODY LONDON

DISTRICT 3 – JUMOKE HINTON-HODGE

DISTRICT 5 – NOEL GALLO

DISTRICT 7 – ALICE SPEARMAN

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

**Important Notice:** For the second half of the 07-08 program year, MGO has held monthly meetings in the Dimond Library Community Room. We changed from our former location at Piedmont Gardens on 41st near Piedmont Ave., to provide easier parking close to the meeting site.

Please give us feedback about this change:  I prefer the Dimond Library location  I prefer the Piedmont Gardens Location

I prefer another location: [specify] \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Senator Barack Obama (Illinois)**

Committee Name:  
Barack Obama for America

Committee ID #C00431445  
Phone: (866) 675-2008  
Official Website: [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com)

**RNC shows fellow Democrats hitting Obama**

Posted by Foon Rhee, deputy national political editor  
June 4, 2008 05:49 PM

It's a no-brainer as political ads go, but the Republican National Committee today -- Barack Obama's first full day as the presumptive Democratic nominee -- released a web video compilation of Democratic rivals questioning his readiness to be president.

Titled "Democrats vs. Obama," the video highlights Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Joe Biden, and former president Bill Clinton raising questions about Obama's lack of experience during primary season debates and press conferences. Hillary Clinton is shown saying that she and presumptive Republican nominee John McCain are prepared to be commander-in-chief -- and suggesting Obama is not.

"Not ready to be commander-in-chief," it says on screen at the close.

Look for the Democratic National Committee to soon issue a video or TV ad of its own with Republican rivals criticizing McCain during the primary campaign.

**Grumbling Clinton supporters make Democrats nervous**, By Rebecca Sinderbrand, CNN

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- While Sen. Hillary Clinton was endorsing Sen. Barack Obama, some of those weighing in on her campaign Web site were less willing to concede.

Sen. Hillary Clinton has endorsed Sen. Barack Obama, but some supporters are not willing to embrace him.

As Clinton wrapped up her remarks Saturday in Washington with a plea for supporters to work "as hard for Barack Obama as you have for me," many were posting messages saying they would never vote for the presumptive Democratic nominee. A few even called on her backers to visit Sen. John McCain's campaign Web site.

"I love her and will vote for her in 2012, but it's McCain all the way now," wrote one within moments of the New York senator's address.

Whether that sort of statement signals a defection to the presumptive Republican nominee, a voter less likely to make it to the polls on Election Day or just a bit of low-grade, post-primary grumbling -- it's the sort of sentiment that makes for a nagging, low-grade anxiety among nervous Democrats and brings a gleam to the eye of McCain.

**Editor Note:** "Let the healing begin. Can we re-focus? And how will we (Democrats) unite?"

**Those Boots are Walking?**

With MGO Ballot Recommendations being distributed to the Democrats in over 30 Oakland precincts. That may be a small part of the total, but as Spencer Tracy said, " ... what there is choice" because most of the precinct workers walked their precinct before, and those voters

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by acting president Gary Sirbu, replaced at 7:22 PM by Vice President Dan Kalb. (President Judy Cox was sick and unable to attend.) Members present: Gary Sirbu, Dan Kalb, Wayne Nishioka, Marcus Johnson, Robert Warwick, Ralph Kanz and Stephen Statler.

Treasurer's report

Minutes for the last meeting were not available for approval.

Old Business: There was discussion on the club's endorsement process. It was decided that this subject should be continued to the next Executive Board meeting.

Two items were identified for consideration:

1. The process by which the County Central Committee candidates are endorsed and recommended by the club.
2. The club's general election and endorsement procedures and the need for a Political Action Chair.

Newspaper Ad: It was MSP for a one time ad to appear in the Montclair of a maximum size that this sum will allow, announcing the club's endorsements for the June primary election. This ad to be prepared and submitted by Marcus Johnson.

Anniversary Party: A committee has been appointed to plan this event. They are looking at dates in September. This event committee will meet again and will present plans at the June E-Board meeting for final approval.

Redistricting: Guest Nicholas Heidorn, of Common Cause, spoke on a proposed ballot initiative on the subject of redistricting. The E-Board did not take a position on this proposal.

The Board suggested to the speaker that a representative from Common Cause return and address the general membership of the club, probably at the September meeting.

Death Penalty Resolution: The E-Board requested that President Judy Cox bring this issue back to the board when a speaker from this coalition is available to address the board.

Summer Retreat: The Board requested President Judy Cox to return to the Board and describe her plans for a summer retreat.

All Oakland Club meeting: The Board requested that President Judy Cox communicate her plans for this event by e-mail with the rest of the Board. By-Law changes,

Membership Categories: Committee appointed composed of Marcus Johnson, Ralph Kanz, Membership Chair Jean Brown and Steven Statler to prepare a report on this subject for presentation at the June E-Board meeting.

Nominating committee chair Gary Sirbu said that the committee would continue to meet and attempt to recruit additional board members. The slate of candidates, as published in the current Platform, will be voted on at the general meeting June 19, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Warwick, Acting Secretary

are getting to know MGO.

However, Marion Brackett, Helen Black, Judy Cox, Dan Kalb and Vera Kahn did tackle all of their precincts. We also had distributors inside three retirement centers: St. Paul's Tower, Grand Lake and Piedmont Gardens, each of which has hundreds of Democrats. They included Frances Makower, Eileen Peck, Jeanette Bello, and Adnan Hasan.

We hope you will join us in October somewhat interesting.

Jean M. Brown

JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Reminder: GENERAL MEETING,



RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

www.mgclub.org

P.O. Box 11622,  
Oakland, CA 94611



Democratic Club

**MGO**



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.*