

The Platform

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



ELECTION: ENDORSEMENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH, 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 State Senate race, School Board races, and Propositions*

See www.mgoclub.org for more information

* may include other races

President's Message, March 2008



We all look forward to baseball season, when we can sit in the sun and watch the A's or the Giants use their talents to rise to the top—or drop behind. But, we all know that the best fun we can have is when we stop being spectators and get into the game—playing on a baseball team, running in a race, hiking with friends, playing a fast game of tennis, trying to best ourselves swimming laps. That's when our bodies and spirits really peak, and we feel most alive!

Well, politics is like that. And, we're at the point when MGO is asking YOU to give up your spectator role in the June elections, and GET INTO THE GAME!

On March 20th and April 17th, we're holding endorsement meetings, in which we will decide which candidates our club will stand behind and urge others to support. We need YOU to be at those meetings, to select Council members, School board members, California Senators and Assembly members, who will make significant decisions which will affect our city and state for years to come. These decisions are crucial and your participation—not observation—is needed.

Then, our club is getting really into the action. We're going to print and produce flyers showing our recommended candidates, and we're going to get the word to as many Democrats and independents as we can. We are going to cover as many neighborhoods as possible, and ask YOU to volunteer to walk your neighborhood to distribute flyers. We're also going to be at BART stations and farmers' markets distributing our flyers, and we need YOU there too. Finally, we'll probably be placing some advertisements in local newspapers to encourage voters to support our choices. You can get active with this part of the effort by contributing funds for the ads, or designing layouts and text.

All of this public information and political action needs YOU. So, this spring you have a choice: you can be a spectator in the political games being played out before you—or YOU can get into the game and help MGO get the word out. Join us and be part of the action—you'll find that it's way more fun than treating democracy as a spectator sport!

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.

February E-Board meeting

The following represent a snapshot of the minutes (*draft*) for the February 25th E-Board meeting .

- Present were Wayne Nisioka, Jean Brown, Ralph Kanz, Steve Statler, Dan Kalb, Marcus Johnson and Judy Cox.
- Excused were Greg Chan, Gary Sirbu, Terry Sandoval, Robert Warwick and Guy Bryant.
- The Treasurer's Report was received and discussed. The board asked the Treasurer to do a quarterly ledger report, with detail.
- Since not everyone on the board remembered receiving the January minutes, we tabled change/approval of the minutes until March and asked the Secretary to resend the January minutes.
- Under old business, we discussed the allocation of 1 delegate for 14th district and 3 for 16th district for the pre-endorsement conference. Judy will follow-up.
- We deferred discussion of the journalist's panel discussion on the City Council district races, but may schedule this for May, when endorsements are complete.
- Marcus Johnson volunteered to be the listserv coordinator, replacing Robert Warwick.
- It was suggested that Jeanette Bellow might be interested in the death penalty coalition and that Dorothy Rice, who is already covering single payer health care, might cover it for us, as well.
- The general meetings was briefly discussed, and it was decided that we should NOT have a business meeting at the general meeting but only bring up essentials, such as items the membership must vote on.
- We decided to **plan for action/outreach** on our endorsements in the following ways:
 1. We will put a notice in Platform for members to mail back on which they can volunteer to walk all or part of their districts, or to distribute flyers at farmers' markets and/or BART stations.
 2. Dan Kalb will design the endorsement card, using a one-color format.
 3. Jean Brown will organize a group of members and friends of MGO to package up the endorsement cards.
 4. Jean Brown will call volunteers to verify their assignments and arrange for delivery of endorsement cards.
 5. Steve, Dan and Judy will deliver packages of cards to those walking precincts or distributing cards.

Our goal is getting 100 people walking/distributing.

Judy Cox, *President*



Important Dates

March 20th, MGO General Meeting (Endorsement 1 of 2)

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

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.**

MGO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We need volunteers to walk precincts, distribute MGO Ballot Recommendations and make phone calls.

Contact Jean Brown at 510.653.3204 or email jbr936@aol.com

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!**

Endorsement Meeting Information

June 3rd Election-State Senate and School Board races*

State Senate:

Wilma Chan, Democratic; www.wilmachan.org

Loni Hancock, Democratic; www.hancockforsneate.com

OUSD, School Director

District 1

Jody London, Businesswoman/OUSD Parent
Brian Rogers, Retired Teacher/Parent
Tennessee Reed, Writer/Editor

District 3

District 5

Noel Gallo, Parent/Educator

District 7

Alice Spearman, incumbent
Doris Limbrick, Principal/Associate Pastor
Beverly Williams, Administrative Assistant

* the above reflects qualified candidates based on documents received from City of Oakland City Clerks Office and Alameda County ROV dated 03.11.08

Due to the qualification process and extensions to file, additional candidates may be added between now and the endorsement meeting.

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



Propositions

Proposition 98

1248. Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property. Constitutional Amendment. Proponents: Doug Mosebar, Jon Coupal and Jim Nielsen (916) 444-9950

Bars state and local governments from condemning or damaging private property for private uses. Prohibits rent control and similar measures. Prohibits deference to government in property rights cases. Defines "just compensation." Requires an award of attorneys fees and costs if a property owner obtains a judgment for more than the amount offered by the government. Requires government to offer to original owner of condemned property the right to repurchase property at condemned price when property is put to substantially different use than was publicly stated. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Increased costs to many governments due to the measure's restrictions. The fiscal effect on most governments probably would not be significant. (Initiative 07-0015.)

Full Text http://ag.ca.gov/cms_attachments/initiatives/pdfs/i684_2007-05-03_07-0015_Initiative.pdf

Legislative Analysis http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/bp_06032008_direct_primary/prop98analysis.pdf

Proposition 99

1251. Eminent Domain. Acquisition of Owner-Occupied Residence. Constitutional Amendment. Proponents: Christopher K. McKenzie, Susan Smartt and Kenneth Willis c/o Steve Lucas (415) 389-6800

Bars state and local governments from using eminent domain to acquire an owner-occupied residence, as defined, for conveyance to a private person or business entity. Creates exceptions for public work or improvement, public health and safety protection, and crime prevention. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: The measure would likely not have a significant fiscal impact on state or local governments. (Initiative 07-0018.)

Full Text http://ag.ca.gov/cms_attachments/initiatives/pdfs/2007-05-14_07-0018_Initiative.pdf

Legislative Analysis http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/bp_06032008_direct_primary/prop99analysis.pdf

Reminder: Endorsement Meeting March 20th, 2008



If you have not renewed,
this may be YOUR LAST ISSUE



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.