

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



MGO DEMOCRATIC CLUB "ROAR REFORM"

THURSDAY, OCT. 23TH, 7:00 p.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

DIMOND LIBRARY, 3565 FRUITVALE AVENUE, OAKLAND;

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

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.

This month's presentation will feature five government initiatives in a package called Real Oakland Administrative Reform, or R.O.A.R. Invitees to present include Pat Kernighan, City Council Member, Dist. 2; Courtney Ruby, City Auditor; John Russo, City Attorney; and Ignacio De La Fuente, Council President, Dist 5. For more information go to www.mgoclub.org.
Non-members are always welcome to attend!

President's Message, October 2008



Thanks to your membership support of MGO's new direction and focus, a small group of MGOers has begun work on the reform measures being put forth by the City of Oakland. Three members of the board—Gary Sirbu, Ralph Kanz and myself—spoke recently at City Council concerning the whistleblower ordinance introduced by Courtney Ruby and passed by the Council. New board member Elizabeth Echols is also involved with this effort.

Using an E-Board policy decision, we spoke in favor of the Whistleblower ordinance, as something badly needed to prevent employees and others who report wrongdoing in the City government from being harmed by acts of retribution from the wrongdoers. Making it safe for City employees and others to report wrongdoing is one powerful tool to clean up City government. We did express concern about other dimensions of the whistleblower legislation:

- The ordinance and existing Charter sections outlining the responsibilities of the Public Ethics Commission seem to be in conflict, and should be resolved;
- The ordinance funded the whistleblower operation at a higher level than the entire Public Ethics Commission which has broader powers to address wrongdoing in the City government;
- The whistleblower ordinance should cover more than elected officials and other City employees; others who should be covered are contractors and community activists.

Our comments were received by the Council and several Council members referred to the arguments we made in subsequent discussion. The ordinance was passed but will return in six months and is supposed to be refined and modified to address concerns and recommendations.

It is exciting to see the City trying to address the internal dysfunction that plagues it and rewarding for MGO to play a responsible role in shaping the solutions.

Next, the MGO City Government activist group will respond to the nepotism ordinance which will come before Council soon. If you would like to comment on this proposed ordinance, email me or Gary Sirbu.

Finally, don't forget to go to phone bank for Obama and other candidates you support:

- October 11 at the Obama headquarters on 2335 Adeline, Berkeley is an MGO night;
- October 13 and 27 at UDC headquarters, 1915 Broadway in Oakland (for Obama, Rebecca Kaplan, Barbara Lee, Loni Hancock, Joanne Buchanan of the 15th SD and others)
- Every Tuesday from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. at Montclair Cultural Arts Center, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland.
- Phone from home or Go to website: http://my.barackobama.com/modules/votercontact/login_signup.php

**DON'T JUST COMPLAIN ABOUT THE ELECTION
DO SOMETHING TO MAKE IT GO THE WAY YOU WANT TO SEE IT!**

Judy Cox, President

The Platform

Volume 12 Issue 10, Oct 2008

Officers

Judy Cox, President
510.595.7402
judyacox@comcast.net

Dan Kalb, Vice-President
dank1@well.com

Greg Chan, Secretary
chanlimclan@sbcglobal.net

Stephen Statler, Treasurer
stephen.statler@att.net

Gary Sirbu, Past President
gsirbulaw@aol.com

At Large Board Members

Jean Brown, (Membership)
jbr936@aol.com

Guy Bryant,
guybryant@BryantBrownLaw.com

Elizabeth Echols,

Marcus Johnson, (Media Coordinator)
510.290.8300
marcus_a_johnson@yahoo.com

Ralph Kanz
rkanz@earthlink.net

Wayne Nishioka
wnishioka@aol.com

Linda Olvera,
lindao2@sbcglobal.net

Terry Preston (Webmaster)
leroy_dad@yahoo.com

Terry Sandoval
tsandoval59@mac.com

Nancy Sidebotham,
nannystu@pacbell.net

Joe Trapp,
jtrapp1@aol.com

Robert Warwick
rhwarkwick@yahoo.com



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.mgoclub.org

P.O. Box 11622,
Oakland, CA 94611



Platform Editor: Marcus Johnson,
Send comments and suggestions to: marcus_a_johnson@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF CHANGE

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Starting in Jan. 2009 all membership dues will change to the following:

1. Two year membership: \$55
2. Low-income/senior/student: \$20
3. Couples at same address: \$45 (1 year) \$85 (2 year)
4. Sustaining membership: \$75

Pay your dues **NOW** to avoid increase.

Mail to:

P.O. Box 11622, Oakland, CA 94611

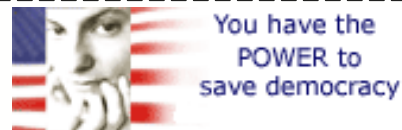
Membership is open to registered Democrats.

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.

Labor Donated

OCT 23rd, 2008

Date Change: SPECIAL MEETING,



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.)

MGO TESTIFIES RE ANTI-NEPOTISM ORDINANCE

At the August membership meeting the members decided that the club should become active in Oakland government reform issues relating to ethics and transparency in Oakland city government. The club has moved very rapidly on this.

Judy Cox's president's message in this Platform describes the MGO effort with respect to the Whistleblower Ordinance that came before the Council in September. The following week MGO Immediate Past President Gary Sirbu appeared before the Council's Finance and Management Committee to offer MGO's preliminary comments on a proposed anti-nepotism ordinance. Sirbu stated that the club strongly supports the ordinance in principle, but that it needs further modifications.

Our first recommendation was that the ordinance be expanded to include disclosure of nepotistic relationships between city employees and contractors doing business with the city. Such relationships hold significant potential for abuse and must be transparent to such employees' supervisors in the work force. The second was that because the ordinance will be the first place the public and affected persons will look for guidance, it explicitly reiterate the language of Charter section 907. That section prohibits the mayor or a councilmember from appointing as an employee or officer any person who is a relative by blood or marriage. This bar is critical to retaining the public trust by avoiding the appearance of impropriety.

MGO will track this ordinance, conduct additional lobbying, and offer further refinements. In our view it still needs much more strengthening.

The club intends to engage in a broad spectrum of clean government reform efforts aimed at restoring integrity to Oakland's government. We will keep you posted, and welcome any of your comments and suggestions.

Ralph Kanz, Member
MGO Executive Board

MGO Name Change Proposed

October's general meeting is a pivotal one for MGO. It's crucial that as many members as possible take part in important votes at our October general meeting, as we take more steps to refocus MGO on Oakland and Alameda County and to increase our activism. We will vote on a new structure for activism in areas of interest to MGO;

It is propose that task forces be created in areas of interest to MGO members, such as crime, education, city government, etc. The President will appoint chairs for each task force and each task force will then develop a platform in its area of interest. The E-Board will approve the platform, which will then need to come before the general membership for ratification. Once the platform is approved, the task force members can take action under it. However, if the task force wishes to represent MGO at a public meeting, the E-Board must approve their opinion prior to the meeting. The task forces must send a report or a representative to the E Board meetings.

A resolution calling for abolition of executions in California based on our position on the death penalty;

The Democratic Party in CA is considering a change to the party platform to favor abolition of the death penalty in the state. Therefore, MGO wants to pass resolution support abolition, based on our 2001 position opposing the death penalty.

A platform for a new activist group in the club that will become a task force if the task force restructuring is passed.

To reflect MGO's new focus and clarify who we are, the E Board has proposed changing the name of the Club to Oakland Democratic Club.

Please come to this meeting to take part in re-forming MGO into a club for the 21st century!

Judy Cox, President, MGO

MGO PLATFORM ON GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

(AS REVISED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD ON 9/22/08 AND RECOMMENDED FOR MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL)

The Metropolitan-Greater Oakland Democratic Club strongly believes that clean, transparent governmental institutions are essentially to maintaining the trust of Oakland's citizens. Without such trust, government operates under a cloud of suspicion and its legitimacy is eroded.

Oakland's governmental decisions must remain free of undue or hidden special interest influence and conflicts of interests. Its government work force must remain free from nepotism or special treatment. The conduct of public officials must advance these objectives at all times and must promote confidence that Oakland's government operates fairly, efficiently, transparently and without waste. Accordingly, the Club supports the enactment or strengthening of ordinances, regulations, and policies that ensure these objectives.

Proposal for Task Force Structure

In order to represent the views of the MGO membership and also have enough flexibility to react quickly to evolving issues, the following structure is proposed:

- Task Forces will be created in several subject matters of interest to MGO membership (e.g. ethics, crime, education).
- The MGO President may appoint Chairs for each Task Force from MGO membership.
- Each Task Force will develop a platform in its subject matter.
- The platform must be approved by the E-Board and then by the general membership.
- Once the platform is approved, the Task Forces can take action consistent with the platform.
- If the Task Force wants to represent MGO on a specific issue (e.g. in a public hearing), the E-Board must approve this in advance.
- Each Task Force must keep the E-Board advised of its actions by sending a representative to E-Board meetings or through a monthly written report.

Elisabeth Echols, Member, MGO Executive Board

MGO DEMOCRATIC ENDORSEMENTS

NOVEMBER 4TH GENERAL ELECTION, POLLS CLOSE @ 8:00 P.M.

U.S. PRESIDENT
BARACK OBAMA

U.S. VICE PRESIDENT
JOE BIDEN

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, 9TH C.D.
BARBARA LEE

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:
DIST. 4: NATE MILEY
DIST. 5: KEITH CARSON

16TH AD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE
SANDRE SWANSON

SUPERVISOR COURT JUDGE SEAT 9
DENNIS HAYASHI (Run-off)

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL
AT LARGE: REBECCA KAPLAN (Run-off)

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

AC TRANSIT DISTRICT
AT-LARGE-CHRIS PEEPLES
WARD 2-GREG HARPER

EBMUD
WARD 5- DOUG LINNEY
WARD 6-BILL PATTERSON

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT WARD I
NORMAN LA FORCE

Board Meeting Summary, Sept. , 22nd 2008

E-Board Actions:

- Voted to cancelled MGO 50th Anniversary until the spring of 2009 .
- Established endorsement ad budget
- Established an Action Committee
- Voted to approach City Council with comments on Anti Nepotism ordinance.
- Death Penalty-MGO support and write letter of support to abolish the Death Penalty.

LOCAL MEASURES

NO MEASURE N Outstanding Teachers for All Oakland Students Act; *Oakland Unified School District (2/3 Approval Required)*

NO MEASURE NN 2008 Oakland Police Services Expansion Measure; *City of Oakland (2/3 Approval Required)*

NO MEASURE OO Kids First! - Oakland Fund for Children and Youth Act; *City of Oakland (Majority Approval Required)*

YES MEASURE VV SPECIAL TAX MEASURE; *Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (2/3 Approval Required)*

YES MEASURE WW Extend Existing East Bay Regional Park District Bond With No Increase In Tax Rate; *East Bay Regional Park District (2/3 Approval Required)*

STATE PROPOSITIONS

YES Prop. 1 High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century;

YES Prop. 2 Standards for Confining Farm Animals;

NO Prop. 4 Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy;

YES Prop. 5 Nonviolent Drug Offenses, Sentencing, Parole and Rehab;

NO Prop. 6 Police & Law Enforcement Funding;

NO Prop. 7 Renewable Energy Generation;

NO Prop. 8 Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry;

NO Prop. 9 Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole;

NO Prop. 10 Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Bonds;

YES Prop. 12 Veteran's Bond Act of 2008;

Election Calendar:

Absentee Voting Period: *October 06 - October 28, 2008, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM*

Last Day to Register to Vote: *October 20, 2008, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM*

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

MGO 50TH ANNIVERSARY "CANCELLED"

The planned MGO 50th Anniversary Party scheduled for Nov. 9th, 2008 has been cancelled after much discussion by E-Board, due to the election and the holidays.