



MGO DEMOCRATIC CLUB "ENDORSEMENTS"

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18TH, 6:30 p.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

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.

This is a endorsement meeting for MEMBERS to review, discuss and vote to endorse or not endorse Candidates, State Propositions and Local Measures. For more information go to www.Mgoclub.org.

FREE PIZZA for all attendees!

President's Message, August 2008



Members of our club have voted to refocus MGO on Oakland and Alameda County, to be come the "local club dealing with local issues." At our special membership meeting August 21st, club members enthusiastically approved doing this, as well as increasing our activism about local issues by lobbying local elected officials and speaking at City Council meetings.

We chose two sets of issues to focus on in 08-'09:

- Nepotism and Financial and Service Accountability in City Government
- Public Safety.

In the first area, we'll investigate extravagant spending on the part of the mayor, his staff and the Council for travel, meals, vacation time, and general waste, and probe the culture at City Hall that seems to condone misuse of funds, nepotism in hiring, and poor service to the citizens of Oakland. We'll meet with Ignacio de la Fuente and Courtney Ruby to discuss how to proceed, and to learn which of the reform measures they and others have championed will come before Council first. We'll speak in support of reform measures as they come before the Council, and try to work with the media to put forward this agenda.

Our second area of focus is going to be public safety, looking at issues such as what impact are the Measure Y monies having on police staffing and assignments, what is the rationale for the 1000 police ballot measure, and where should we stand on it; and how funding presently available for police staffing is being used to address the serious crime problem in Oakland.

To support this change of focus and underline our commitment to focusing on Oakland and Alameda County, the board recommended changing the name of MGO. Elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter you'll see a story about this, asking for your input.

The board also recommended that the club form an Action Committee to follow developments in these areas closely and to recommend actions for the club to take.

At the special meeting, members asked for the board to develop a process for the action committee which would involve the Board and members while still moving quickly enough to be able to speak when issues are in play.

Finally, the board recommended that MGO actively encourage community activists to run for office and to support their candidacies. Since the club does not have funds to contribute to candidates, the members asked the board to further study how our club could meaningfully carry out this recommendation.

Judy Cox, President

SAVE THE DATE! (Update)

Save Sunday, November 9TH, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the **MGO's 50TH ANNIVERSARY BASH!**

Stay tuned for more details, but get your best bib and tucker to the dry cleaner's so you'll be ready!

The Platform

Volume 12 Issue 9, Sept 2008

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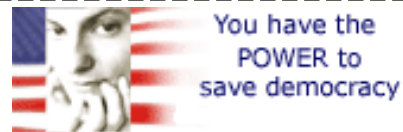
**Reminder: GENERAL MEETING,
SEPT 18TH, 2008**



RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

www.mgoclub.org

P.O. Box 11622,
Oakland, CA 94611



JOIN OF RENEW TODAY



Come support the Obama campaign with your MGO friends!

We have three phone banking nights scheduled to work at the **Obama headquarters, 3225 Adeline Street, Oakland**, two blocks below Ashby.

Thursday Banking nights: Sept. 11, Sept. 25 and Oct. 9

We will carpool from Broadway and 51st. We'll work from 5 until 8, but you can come for less time if that fits your schedule.

Come join the fun and help change America for the better!

Let's get MGO involved NOW!

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.

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.)

Endorsement Meeting Invited Candidates

Peralta Colleges Area 2

Marcie Hodge
Marlon McWilson

AC Transit At-Large

Christ Peebles
Joyce Roy

AC Transit Ward 2

Greg Harper
James Muhammad

BART Board Ward 7

Lynette Sweet
Marshall Walker III

EBMUD Ward 5

Doug Linney
Susi Ostlund

EBMUD Ward 6

Bob Feinbaum
William "Bill" Patterson

EBRPD Ward 1

Whitney Dotson
Norman La Force

Check out the candidates qualification statement and responses to MGO questions submitted to MGO, at www.mgoclub.org and MGO Talk group website.

SAVE the DATE Unity Dinner

The annual Alameda County Democratic Party Unity Dinner will be held at the Oakland Airport Hilton on Saturday, **September 20th** beginning at **6:00 pm**. Assembly Speaker Karen Bass will be our keynote speaker.

MGO Democratic Club PHONE BANK NIGHTS

Sept. 11th, Sept. 25 and Oct. 9, from 5 until 8. We'll be likely to be calling New Mexico, and will be doing it from the Oakland Berkeley Obama headquarters, 3225 Adeline St., 2 blocks from Ashby BART.

Anyone wanting to carpool should call me at 595 7402. Judy

MGO Name Change Proposed

At a special membership meeting August 21st, MGO members concurred with an E-Board recommendation that we change the name of our club. Both the E-Board and the membership believe that in line with our club refocusing we should make our mission clear in our club name. In addition, since there are a number of other Democratic clubs in Oakland and nearby (such as Wellstone), we need to make our club stand out from these others, instead of just being another local Dem club.

We want to give the opportunity for a greater number of club members to voice their opinions about this change.

Top suggestions coming out of the Special Membership meeting were:

Oakland Democratic Club (a strong favorite)
Oakland Dems
Greater Oakland Democratic Club

Members at the Special Meeting thought that both "Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club" and "Greater Oakland Democratic Club" are misleading, since we are not a city with suburbs, and our city is surrounded on all sides by other cities, who often have their own Democratic clubs and do not wish to be considered our "suburbs". Also, since we generally refer to the club at present by the initials "MGO", the name communicates little about our mission and focus.

We would like your input on these proposed possibilities for a new name; you can, of course, express a preference for remaining MGO, too.

Please email me with your input and reactions at judyacox@comcast.net or call me at 595.7402. You can also write to P.O. Box 11622, Oakland, CA 94611. Let's choose a new name to start our second half-century as a club!

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop. 1A

High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century
Shall the state build a high-speed train system and improve existing passenger rail lines serving the state's major population centers by creating a rail trust fund that will issue bonds totaling \$9.95 billion, paid from existing state funds at an average cost of \$647 million per year over the 30-year life of the bonds will all expenditures subject to an independent audit?

Prop. 2

Standards for Confining Farm Animals
Shall certain farm animals be allowed, for the majority of every day, to fully extend their limbs or wings, lie down, stand up and turn around?

Prop. 3

Children's Hospital Bond Act. Grant Program
Shall \$980,000,000 in general obligation bonds be authorized for construction, expansion, remodeling, renovation, furnishing and equipping of eligible children's hospitals?

Prop. 4

Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy
Shall the California Constitution be changed to prohibit abortion for an unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent, legal guardian, or, in limited cases, substitute adult relative?

Prop. 5

Nonviolent Drug Offenses, Sentencing, Parole and Rehab
Shall \$460,000,000 be allocated annually to improve and expand treatment programs?

Prop. 6

Police & Law Enforcement Funding.
Shall of minimum of \$695,000,000 of state funding be required each year for police and local law enforcement?

Prop. 7

Renewable Energy Generation
Shall government-owned utilities be required to generate 20% of their electricity from renewable energy by 2010, a standard currently applicable to private electrical corporations? Shall all utilities be required to generate 40% by 2020 and 50% by 2025?

Prop. 8

Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry
Shall the California Constitution be changed to eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry providing that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California?

Prop. 9

Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole
Shall notification to victim and opportunity for input during phases of criminal justice process, including bail, pleas, sentencing and parole be required? Shall victim safety be a consideration for bail or parole?

Prop. 10

Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Bonds
Shall \$5 billion in bonds paid from state's General Fund be authorized to help consumers and others purchase certain vehicles, and to help research in renewable energy and alternative fuel vehicles?

Prop. 11

Redistricting
Shall the authority for establishing state office boundaries be changed from elected representatives to a commission comprised of Democrats, Republicans, and representatives of neither party selected from the registered voter pool in a multilevel process?

Prop. 12

Veteran's Bond Act of 2008
Shall a nine hundred million dollar (\$900,000,000) bond be issued to provide farm and home aid for California veterans?

Election Calendar:

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

Last Day to Register to Vote in the November 4 General Election
October 20, 2008, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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

LOCAL MEASURES

MEASURE N Outstanding Teachers for All Oakland Students Act
Oakland Unified School District (2/3 Approval Required)
To attract and retain highly qualified and credentialed teachers for Oakland's District-run public schools, and to support successful educational programs at Oakland's public charter schools, shall Oakland Unified School District levy \$10 per parcel per month (\$120 per year) for 10 years with an exemption for low-income residents, mandatory annual audits, an independent citizens' oversight committee, and all money spent to benefit Oakland Schools and all Oakland students?

MEASURE NN 2008 Oakland Police Services Expansion Measure
City of Oakland (2/3 Approval Required)
To provide more police services to neighborhoods and businesses for the purpose of preventing crime and enhancing resources for investigation of crimes, shall the City of Oakland authorize a parcel tax to fund the cost of (1) adding a total of 105 police officers and 75 police services technicians; (2) a crime data management system for crime analysis; and (3) mandatory independent annual audits and evaluations with performance standards?

MEASURE OO Kids First! - Oakland Fund for Children and Youth Act
City of Oakland (Majority Approval Required)
To increase existing mandatory funding for children's and youth services, shall the City Charter be amended to (1) increase the annual set aside for grants to organizations serving children and youth to 1 1/2 % for two years and 2 1/2 % thereafter of the City's annual total revenues, with audits and an oversight committee, and (2) in addition to the set aside, increase the annual amount that the City is required to spend on children and youth?

MEASURE VV SPECIAL TAX MEASURE
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (2/3 Approval Required)
To preserve affordable local public transportation that allows seniors and people with disabilities to remain independent, takes students to and from school, provides transportation alternatives given skyrocketing gas prices, helps residents commute to work and reduces traffic and greenhouse gas emissions by getting cars off the road shall the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) increase its existing parcel tax by \$4 per parcel, per month for ten years with independent oversight and all money staying local?

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)
To continue restoring urban creeks, protect wildlife, purchase/save open space, wetlands/shoreline, acquire/develop/improve local and regional parks, trails and recreational facilities, shall East Bay Regional Park District be authorized to issue up to \$500 million in general obligation bonds, provided repayment projections, verified by independent auditors, demonstrate that property tax rates will not increase beyond present rates of \$10 per year, per \$100,000 of assessed valuation?

HELP SAFEGUARD OUR ELECTION PROCESS

BECOME A POLL WORKER! They are the backbone of our election system. Poll workers receive training class and a stipend, earning between \$95 and \$180 for the day.

POLL WORKER POSITIONS & DUTIES include: INSPECTOR - Supervises polling place operations; attends training class; picks up supplies; sets up/ takes down polling place; delivers all supplies to an assigned Return Center. JUDGE - Attends training class, assists Inspector with duties; may accompany Inspector to Return Center. CLERK - Attends training class, assists Inspector with duties; may accompany Inspector to Return Center.

For more information, phone 510-272-6971

IV - STANDING RULE for ENDORSING CANDIDATES or BALLOT MEASURES

- The rules of sections IV and V may not be suspended at an endorsement meeting.
- Eligibility rules for endorsement: **a.** Only candidates registered as Democrats will be considered for endorsement, **b.** Ballot measures will be considered for endorsement only after discussion by the membership.

V - ENDORSEMENT

- All balloting will be by secret ballot. The vote count shall be verified by a second group of ballot counters.
- The actual vote tally shall not be disclosed to the press or general public.
- Endorsement Requirement:** (approved at the May 2006 General Meeting); **a.** All candidate endorsement ballots shall include the choice "No Endorsement". Ballot measures and propositions shall only have a "Yes" and "No" choice. **b.** In order to receive an endorsement from MGO, a candidate, ballot measure or proposition, must receive at least **60%** of those voting for that office, ballot measure, or proposition including those who vote for "no endorsement" of an office. **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). **d.** Only candidates, ballot measures and proposition, or "No Endorsement" receiving **60%** shall be published or mentioned in MGO ads, website or literature. If no candidate, ballot measure or proposition or "No Endorsement" receives **60%** the club's position will be "No Position" and there will be no mention of that race in MGO ads, website and literature.

Standing Rules - Instant Run Off Voting Instructions

- On the ballot the voter is asked to specify their first, second, third choice, etc., among all the candidates. Each candidate may only be chosen once. You may choose to abstain from a choice, but by doing so you will not be taking part in the run-off and your favored choice will not benefit. The number of cast ballots in each race is noted to determine the denominator for the 60% majority thresh-hold in each race.
- 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%**.