



GREEN FOCUS

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Prop 15 levels playing field, will introduce state public financing

By Kendra Gonzales

If you are interested in taking corrupting corporate donations out of the campaigns of candidates running for office, then you should vote YES on Proposition 15 in the California June Primary.

The California Fair Elections Act would implement a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018.

It would also overturn a state constitutional law banning public financing for local office candidates.

This part of the ballot measure has not been highly publicized to not confuse voters, but is HUGE in the impact it could make on local campaigns and, in turn, local policy-making.

If Prop 15 passes, it would be just a start for public financing for California, but would open the door to the idea that public financing actually works.

Nearly 400 candidates from different backgrounds have been elected with this system in seven states. Eighty-five percent of Maine's State Legislators have used public financing and 9 out of 11 State Constitutional offices were won in this manner in Arizona.

There is strong evidence that candidates who use public financing are much more inclined to advocate for and pass legislation that benefits the public and not corporate donors.

A good example of this is in North Carolina, where the publicly-financed candidate for Insurance Commissioner did an in-depth study of the insurance industry once in office, and ultimately froze rates and then lowered them by 9.5 percent, resulting in rebates to citizens totaling approximately \$50 million.

Can you imagine any candidate ever doing this after accepting giant campaign donations from the insurance industry?

Why do you think universal health care funded by a single-payer system has never seriously been on the table? Obama's campaign (among many others) was heavily funded by the insurance industry; that's why.

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Prop 14 takes away voters' choices at ballot, gives more power to big corporations

By Ann Menasche

Proponents of Proposition 14 claim that the "top two primary" would relieve the partisanship and legislative dysfunction that characterize our political system.

I could not disagree more.

Rather than fixing the situation, Proposition 14 would permanently cement in place the appallingly broken two-party system that has been on full display in Washington this year.

MORE ON PROP 14
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Proposition 14 would effectively eliminate the already limited electoral options for many American voters, preventing innovative ideas and solutions from entering the political debate.

Similar laws in Washington and Louisiana have not improved the partisan nature of elections or elected officials. Instead, these laws have made it far more difficult to challenge incumbents or change the direction of government.

Proposition 14 would deny independent and third party candidates and politicians in this country a chance to be heard, while further polarizing our districts and limiting voter choice – all at increased costs to taxpayers and candidates.

Consider a Democrat living in a district that is 60 percent Republican; it is likely that almost every general election will feature the two Republican candidates who got the highest votes in the "primary."

This person would effectively be disenfranchised, facing a choice of voting for

a candidate s/he strongly opposes or not voting at all.

The 25 percent of Californians who are neither Democrats nor Republicans may never see an independent or third party candidate on the general ballot again.

Is Proposition 14 the best our democracy can hope for?

Not when there are real, viable solutions to our electoral problems that are easy to implement, and would increase voter participation and help revitalize our democracy:

1) Instant runoff voting (IRV) and proportional representation (PR) – these systems, which allow voters to rank candidates rather than just choosing one, would eliminate costly and poorly-attended primaries altogether.

IRV and PR would solve the partisanship issue by allowing all candidates to compete on an open playing field, prevent "spoiling," and would ensure that the winner, in single-seat elections, garners a majority vote. And that legislative bodies reflect the full range of views found among the electorate.

2) Same day registration and paid time off on Election Day – ensure all Americans have access to vote.

3) Elimination of the two-thirds rule in California, allowing budgets to be approved and taxes raised by a simple majority vote, as is done in most states.

4) Public financing of campaigns – ensures all candidates have an equal voice

SEE PAGE 5

GPCA ballot endorsements for June 8 election

The corrupting influence of corporations is especially evident on the June 8 ballot, and as a result the Green Party of California (GPCA) officially is endorsing only one of five propositions on the June 2010 ballot. County delegates from throughout the state at a party convention in San Jose voted these recommendations:

PROP. 13: NO POSITION.

This would allow a tax break for homeowners or commercial property owners for seismic retrofitting. While some delegates believed the proposition is a thinly-disguised attempt to benefit big business (as in the original Prop. 13), others believe it will save lives by encouraging property owners to make their buildings safer.

PROP. 14: OPPOSE.

The GPCA heavily criticized Prop. 14, the so-called "top two" measure, which would, if passed, only allow the top two winners in the primary to be on the ballot in the November general election. The result, said the Greens, would be fewer voter choices at a time when voters are dissatisfied with current choices; increased candidate spending; muzzled smaller parties and their messages; and increased influence by the same moneyed special interests bankrolling Prop. 14.

PROP. 15: SUPPORT.

This measure would experiment with public financing of some candidates in the 2014 and 2018 elections to avoid the corrupting influence of lobbyists. It would use fees paid by lobbyists to finance Secretary of State candidates. It means smaller parties could receive up to \$1.3 million in public financing.

PROP. 16: OPPOSE.

This is a private utility-backed measure (PG&E, among others) that would protect big utilities by requiring a two-thirds majority vote of ratepayers before a public utility could be created. Not coincidentally, public utilities have lower rates for consumers than private utilities.

PROP. 17: OPPOSE.

If passed, this proposition would punish the poor and middle class. It would allow auto insurers to raise rates for those who, for whatever reason, had a gap in coverage. A corporate-backed measure.

Green Party Primary Election Candidates

Progressive candidates offer real promise to party voters on June 8;
S. Deacon Alexander, Laura Wells in race for governor nomination

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“My ideas for a better society are from my father, a bricklayer and political activist. I’ve been a community advocate and organizer for over 40 years,” claims S. Deacon Alexander.

Alexander, 64, is a Green Party primary candidate for Governor. A Los Angeles High School graduate, he was a skilled construction worker and union member for most of his life.

As a former Black Panther in the 1960s, he walked arm-in-arm with Angela Davis to fight those who sought to deny her rights, take her employment, and silence her voice. He was with Angela in 1972, when she was acquitted of all charges against her.

In 2005, he joined Latino immigrants to fight for LA’s South Central Farm. He affirms all California working people, and supports the rights of all California residents.

Alexander is a prominent advocate for the homeless, in Los Angeles and throughout California. “As first act of my campaign, I was on LA’s Skid Row with the homeless, the disenfranchised, the down and out. They have been excluded, denied and rejected for far too long. I pledge to bring them into my campaign for Governor.”

Three of Alexander’s top priorities as Green Party California Governor’s primary candidate are:

- o “We must educate, not incarcerate.” He is a strong advocate for abolition of prisons, and believes a continued reliance upon incarceration and prison construction is part of the problem, not a solution. He believes we must build schools, not prisons; we must convince students to go to college, not to jail.

- o “We must create affordable housing.” As our housing crisis worsens, Alexander believes we must house all Californians, and find ways to build local, sustainable private housing.

- o “We must grow local, stimulate small business and support water and energy conservation.” These are all part of Alexander’s Infrastructure Plan. He wants jobs which empower youth and rebuild inner cities, and put all of California on a sustainable recovery.

GOVERNOR:
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“California has been a golden state of opportunities in education, health care, environment and jobs. But something has gone terribly wrong. Wealthy interests have rigged the game to enrich themselves while bankrupting the rest of us. It’s time to *change the game*. We must — and we can.”

That’s Laura Wells, a candidate for the Green Party nomination for Governor, who says it is time for a campaign that delivers real solutions the other two parties won’t.

One of the most critical matters, she explains, is that “neither the Democrats nor the Republicans are talking about what *really* needs to be done. Both avoid tackling the parts of Prop 13 that give huge breaks to corporate landowners and keep the state’s finances tied up in knots. Neither offers a viable way to support our collapsing education system, revitalize the job market, to build a clean and green energy future.”

Wells, a professional systems manager, was the largest-ever Green vote getter in her run for state controller.

“We are presenting voters with viable solutions. The two ‘Titanic parties’ are not...we’re outlining a workable path to a positive future.

“Our party is different. The ‘Titanic parties’ are mired in big-money influence. We’re building an independent, grassroots alternative increasingly capable of taking them on.

“Our campaign will show how we can invest in California’s infrastructure and its future.”

She says it is possible to build, together, solutions that work for *all*.

“The disparity between the super-rich and the rest of us is growing. While average Californians struggle to make ends meet in a climate of scarce jobs and decimated public services, the wealthiest citizens of our state contribute far less in taxes on their millions and billions than they did 20 to 30 years ago.

“Back in 1978, Proposition 13 was cleverly crafted to give some homeowners a break on property taxes while sneaking in *huge* benefits to giant corporate landowners and preventing the state from passing reasonable budgets. It was the first of many measures that have robbed our state of needed funding.”

LT. GOVERNOR
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Jimi Castillo is the first Native American to run for the office of Lieutenant Governor in California.

He is a respected Native American spiritual leader whose tribal ancestry is Tongva, the original people of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, and Acjachemen, the original people of the South Orange and North San Diego counties.

Issues of great interest to Castillo as a Green Party candidate are the creation of “a greater awareness of the rights of all indigenous peoples worldwide, and the support of full self-government on all Indian reservations.” The candidate also lists as a priority, “reform of the criminal justice system.”

As a mentor for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at the Herman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility, Castillo has acquired useful knowledge of the criminal justice system.

His extensive experience with the process of mentoring and counseling has increased with his association with the Southeast Area Counseling Center in Santa Fe Springs, California, where he also functioned as a member of the Board of Directors.

Castillo still donates a great deal of time to UCLA’s annual Graduation Powwow and Youth Leadership Conference and the UCLA Native American Student Association.

Other important issues of concern to Castillo include establishment of more affordable and accessible education; assurance that California residents are provided a clean, safe supply of drinking water and that our existing surface and groundwater are protected from pollution; preservation of our oceans with their enormous diversity of life and function; protection of children’s rights; and maintenance and implementation of a standard of excellence in public land management to ensure the future quality of the environment.

Born and raised in Whittier, California, Castillo, 67, is a Pipe Keeper and Sun Dancer for the People, member of the statewide Bear Clan Society, and actively helps plan and staff UCLA’s Graduation Powwow and Youth Leadership Conference.

SECRETARY OF STATE
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Ann Menasche, who has devoted most of her life to working for economic and social justice, civil rights, environmental sanity and peace, has 30 years of litigation experience in civil rights and public interest law and is a longtime activist in the peace, disability rights, and gay rights movements.

“I am running for Secretary of State because I have witnessed how corporate domination of elections has increasingly undermined the hopes and dreams of ordinary Californians (but) I firmly believe that we the people can take our state back by fixing the way we run elections,” said Menasche.

“We can institute publicly funded elections, free equal media access for all candidates, free candidate statements in Voter Handbooks, instant runoff voting (IRV), proportionate representation and other democratic reforms that allow the voices of non-corporate and third-party candidates to be heard,” she added.

Menasche said she will “insist on corporate accountability and crack down on corporate crime.

She would significantly reduce signature requirements for initiatives and require signatures be obtained by volunteer signature gatherers.

Menasche would institute instant runoff voting (IRV) for single seat elections, proportional representation for electing state legislators to allow representation of the full range of views of voters, same day registration, paid time off work to vote, full access to people with disabilities to vote independently and ensuring every vote counts – any technology utilized must be fully auditable and accessible to the public.

Finally, Menasche would crack down on corporate crime, from Enron to the sub-prime mortgage lenders.

“Large corporations have defrauded consumers, endangered health and safety, despoiled the environment and violated the law with impunity. Big business must be held accountable for their actions.”

Menasche, a key organizer of large pro-choice demonstrations in San Francisco, is an attorney advocating and litigating for disability rights.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
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Peter Allen, Green Party candidate for California Attorney General, has extensive experience in energy and environmental law, and has been a prosecutor, administrative law judge and consumer advocate.

Allen wants to maintain moratoriums on new nuclear power plants and offshore oil drilling.

Elimination of the death penalty is also very essential for Allen.

“The cost to California of its labyrinthine efforts to kill some citizens is far too high,” he says. “Neither our wallets nor our souls can afford to keep paying for this wasteful and pointless process,” he said.

He also supports the legalization of drugs, particularly marijuana, noting: “Prohibition of alcohol was a dismal failure; it led to the rise of organized crime in the U.S.”

He favors protection against government encroachment into private matters, including “one’s choice of (consenting adult) marriage partners, abortion (consistent with Roe v. Wade’s approach), and one’s home, data, and body.”

Allen has worked major securities and environmental litigation, including cases relating to the savings and loan crisis and the Exxon Valdez oil spill. He worked in the San Diego City Attorney’s office as a prosecutor, and representing the City and its residents on utility issues before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Allen was a staff attorney with TURN, representing residential and small business utility ratepayers. He joined the CPUC as a staff attorney and administrative law judge, working on energy, telecommunications, and environmental issues, including the California energy crisis.

Allen will protect the environment and public health by encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, reducing greenhouse gases and other pollutants, supporting usable and affordable public transit; encouraging healthy and sustainable agricultural practices; ensuring that California’s tax structure and corporate laws are consistent with California’s values and policy goals; supporting affordable and high quality public education and protecting Californians against street and white-collar crime.

TREASURER**KIT CRITTENDEN**www.crittendenforstatetreasurer.com
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Charles "Kit" Crittenden would be an "activist" treasurer.

"I would support the investing in renewable energy sources rather than oil and gas. California is the only one of the 22 major oil-producing states not to levy an oil severance tax," he said.

"Such a tax could be a major source of revenue in this recession and used to promote renewable energy by state funding of enterprises developing solar and wind power," said Crittenden.

He also would insist corporations should be required to pay their fair share of taxes could subsidize crucial state services.

"This simple act would also help prevent the accumulation of massive concentrations of wealth which enable rich corporations and individuals to dominate government and undermine democracy," he said.

Crittenden said he supports single-payer health care because it would promote social justice.

"Non-violence and respect for diversity would be advanced by investing in organizations that promote peace and justice...these values also dictate divestment from nations and groups that practice intolerance and violence. Police programs teaching respect for all races, ethnicities, and sexual preferences could be a major factor in reducing police brutality," he noted.

"Of particular concern to me as a longtime CSU professor is adequately funding education," he said.

"A democratic citizenry must be informed, and schooling teaches respect for all traditions, democratic values, and the capacity to think critically.

"Supporting prisons instead of education is exactly backwards: enabling citizens to contribute to society, instead of punishing them for violations against it, should have the priority in a democracy," he said.

Author of "Language, Reality and Mind: A Defense of Everyday Thought," Crittenden is writing about democratic political theory, integrating responsible citizenship and activism into a free, peaceful, and environmentally sensitive society.

CONTROLLER**ROSS FRANKEL**www.electross.com
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Ross Frankel has been a public school elementary teacher, and worked with almost a dozen political, environmental, and socially progressive campaigns such as the Big Green Initiative and No on Proposition 8.

"Something has gone wrong," he proclaims. "As my fellow Green Party Candidate for Governor Laura Wells has stated, the 'disparity of wealth and income is growing.' As a candidate for your state Controller, I will be in a position to advocate for positive reforms in all of these areas."

Frankel describes himself as a pragmatic, fiscally prudent, and political aisle-crossing Green. He is less concerned with political party or machines than he is with a legislative proposal's estimated costs, ethics, intentions, legality, and side effects.

"First, bring fairness and reasonableness to our state's tax structures to, one, improve and favor California's businesses, labor, communities and environment and, two, improve and update Proposition 13-era property tax laws.

"Second, reform state government process and focus; and reform California's Legislature," he said.

Frankel notes: "I propose critically needed reforms to the California State Usage Tax (which) is currently applied to most retail goods when these goods are used in California, in lieu of a sales tax."

He favors raising the Usage Tax rate on all goods and services produced involving minimum wages, environmental laws and business laws that do not equal/exceed California's laws.

Frankel wants to split Proposition 13-related tax codes between homes and businesses, but keep its maximum tax rate of 1 percent of the assessed value; use the most recent 10-year basis average for all property assessed values; and use up to a five- or 10-year basis to transition incrementally from the existing tax calculations to the revised tax basis. He's in favor of dropping the 2/3rds vote requirement for budgets and tax increases.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**BILL BALDERSTON**
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Bill Balderston is running for Insurance Commissioner not only because of his commitment to a single-payer health care system, but also because of his anger and frustration at the corporate exploitation of basic needs for working people.

Balderston is a savvy, long-time political activist in the San Francisco East Bay. For more than 20 years, he has taught high school English and Social Studies in East Oakland, and has served in the political leadership of his union—the Oakland Education Association.

Balderston: "We should advocate removing funds from ANY insurance company doing business with ANY nation (in the Middle East) that has a nuclear weapons arsenal—including Israel."

Balderston believes the Democratic nominee will likely be Dave Jones, a left-liberal politician with a good labor record, but the candidate warns, "The critical focus must not be on him as an individual, but on his party, which has continually served corporate interests."

Balderston's program begins with a total rejection of the current commissioner's practice in hiring former insurance corporation employees/executives as 'investigators' of the doings of their former employers." Moreover, he wants to expand requirements to "open the financial books of ALL insurance companies doing business in California."

Balderston advocates changing existing legislation from 70 percent to 95 percent of premium dollars to be devoted to patient care and instituting graduated taxation of insurance company profits made from the time premiums are paid until the monies are used to pay providers.

"More importantly," Balderston says, "is to use this campaign to demand insurance companies should have no role in the health care system in California and nationally. Not only must we continue to expose the exploitative profits, but the whole narrowing of options for patients."

Balderston supports single-payer automobile insurance.

U.S. SENATE**DUANE ROBERTS**www.voteforduane.org
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Duane Roberts is a community activist from Anaheim who has been involved in issues ranging from fighting police brutality, defending the rights of undocumented workers, and holding public officials accountable for their actions.

For starters, Roberts believes the so-called "health care reform" bill simply confirms that Congress is being manipulated by Wall Street billionaires who control health insurance companies.

"By driving private insurers out of business, we'll save hundreds of billions of dollars each year — money that can guarantee everybody has access to high quality health care," he said.

Nuclear power is another issue that Obama and Congress are promoting. But Roberts will have none of it.

"Not only do nuclear plants require billions in taxpayer subsidies for them to become commercially viable, but all aspects of their operations involve potentially harmful — if not deadly — impacts upon the environment.

"We could achieve better results fighting global warming by encouraging energy conservation, promoting mass transit, and further developing clean and safe sources of power, such as solar."

As a US Senator, Roberts would put education on top as a priority, although Democrat and Republican Party politicians repeatedly argue there is little if any money available to pay for education.

"Yet when President Obama goes to Congress and demands it give him more money to bomb other countries, Congress coughs up every dollar he wants," Roberts said.

"By immediately withdrawing all U.S. troops, private mercenaries, and contractors from Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and elsewhere, we can upgrade K-12 education and guarantee every qualified student in the United States, regardless of immigration status, can obtain a tuition-free education at a public college, university, or technical trade school of their choosing," Roberts charged.

U.S. HOUSE (1st District)**CAROL WOLMAN**www.carolwolmanforcongress.org
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Carol Wolman, a founder of the New Broom Coalition and co-chair of Impeach Bush-Cheney, is gravely concerned about the future of life on our small planet.

"I share the Native American commitment to leave a good home for the seventh generation hence."

Wolman does not respect elected officials, specifically those who represent note voters, but special interests. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, healthcare and Wall Street are obvious examples.

"I do not respect our elected officials. We the People elect them to be public servants. They have sold their souls to the masters of war, and they are selling the people down the river...escalating costly, cruel, illegal occupations of other countries, letting health insurance companies and Big Pharma dictate health care legislation, bailing out Wall Street and bankrupting Main Street.

"We must unite as a people- white, black, brown, red and yellow. My platform, of the Longhouse Coalition, is designed to...(restore) the Constitution. It re-establishes justice and freedom at home, and respect for other nations abroad. It takes care of our people and our land.

"It brings harmony among Americans, by giving reparations to groups that have been harmed by the dominant culture, while providing sufficiently for all. It contains specific proposals for bringing about world peace, including converting to a peacetime, sustainable economy at home. It treats the land and the people as sacred."

Wolman, an M.D., is a consultant to American Indian Child Welfare. She has lived and worked along the Mendocino coast with her husband and children for 30 years. She has been involved in peace work since the 1950s as a member of Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, Physicians for Social Responsibility, among others.

She is also co-founder and President, Northern California Physicians for Social Responsibility; founder, with John Lewallen, Nuclear Peace Action Group; and founder/co-chair-Impeach Bush-Cheney.

VOTE GREEN.**Support REAL progressive candidates.****www.cagreens.org**

by Mike Feinstein

Proposition 14 is a political Trojan horse masquerading as electoral reform, that would reduce political voice and voter choice, while unfairly favoring incumbency and big money. At a time when California needs transformational change to address its multiple crises, Prop 14 would lurch the state backwards and institutionalize a deeply flawed election scheme in our constitution. There should be no doubt that Prop 14 is a frontal attack on democracy, designed to stifle diversity and competition within the major parties, limit the choices of independent voters and drive minor parties off the ballot entirely.

1) Prop 14 is an Incumbent Protection Plan

Washington State had its first experience with a Top Two primary in 2008. Of 139 incumbents who ran in either state legislative, state constitutional or congressional races, *only one* lost in the primary and 5 percent of 139 races featured candidates from the same party. In the general election, fewer seats ultimately changed parties (seven) than in 2006 (13) when parties were allowed to conduct their own primaries. *Why are incumbents advantaged by Top Two primaries?*

2) Early Decision-Making under Prop 14 Rewards Incumbents and the Wealthiest Candidates

By increasing the stakes of the June primary, Prop 14 would put more emphasis on early fundraising, increasing the corrupting influence of big money and making it harder for grassroots candidates and movements to survive, let alone compete. Candidates with large campaign chests (including those who can self-fund) would be even more able to 'clear the field' and squeeze out other candidates, because of the additional pressure not to 'split the primary vote' within their own party.

This would also occur during June elections that have traditionally experienced much lower voter turnout, with voters on average who also are much whiter, wealthier and older than voters in November. To the extent that incumbents don't have to fear challenge, Prop 14 would impair one of the major tools of accountability between voters and representatives.

3) Eliminating party primaries under Prop 14 puts pressure on non-incumbents and/or non-frontrunners of the same party to drop out, lest they 'split the vote' of their party's faithful, putting more power into the hands of party machines and insiders to de facto select general election candidates

In California's current party primary system, spirited competition can occur among multiple candidates of the same party, without the concern that if too many strong candidates enter the race from the same party, it will split their party's vote and endanger their candidates being on the general election ballot. *But that's exactly*

Thirteen Reasons To Vote No on Prop 14/Top Two

Why Prop 14 would be bad for democracy and government in California

a problem that Prop 14 creates.

The pressure not to split the vote is one of the major negatives of Prop 14. The closest California came to Prop 14 in this respect was the October 2003 Gubernatorial Recall where 132 candidates appeared on the same ballot, with no party primaries to select the nominee of each party. As a result, there was intense pressure on the "major" candidates in each major party to drop out.

It began on the Republican side, with an agreement between former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and then actor Arnold Schwarzenegger that only one of the two would run. When Schwarzenegger declared his candidacy on August 6, Riordan quickly dropped out. On August 23, 2002 GOP nominee Bill Simon announced that he, too, was dropping out, stating "There are too many Republicans in this race and the people of our state simply cannot risk a continuation of the Gray Davis legacy," lest they split their vote and hand the race to Democrat Cruz Bustamante. Next came Peter Ueberroth, former Major League commissioner and Los Angeles Olympic Committee President, who withdrew on September 9.

Democrats were not immune to this pressure. On August 9, former Lt. Governor John Garamendi withdrew, only two days after he declared, under heavy pressure not to split the Democratic vote, leaving only Bustamante in the field.

Rather than the 'competitive environment Prop 14 sponsors promise, California's (and Washington's) experience shows just the opposite – fewer serious candidates chose to run and the choice of who will run is made more by party insiders than by primary voters. This means political debate will be minimized, not increased by Prop 14. Ironically one thing that made the Recall debates interesting was the presence of independent, alternative voices like Green Party candidate Peter Camejo. Prop 14 would eliminate candidates like these, too.

4) Prop 14 would eliminate all ballot-qualified political parties' right to be on the general election ballot

As recently as 2004, California voters approved Proposition 60 with 67.5 percent, which guaranteed the highest primary vote getter from each of California's ballot-qualified political parties would be on the general election ballot. Proposition 14 dishonestly hides that it would eliminate this right and take away the ability of a broad range of voters to vote for candidates in the general election that represent them.

After Washington State implemented the Top Two in 2008, no minor party or independent

candidate for any statewide or congressional race appeared on the general election ballot for the first time since Washington became a state in 1889.

5) Prop 14 would make it very difficult for small parties to stay on the ballot

In California there are only two ways that parties stay on the ballot. One is to receive at least 2 percent of the general election vote every four years for one of the statewide constitutional offices like Governor or Secretary of State. But under Prop 14, minor parties won't be on the general election ballot for statewide office, so they can't retain party status that way. The other method is to have a certain threshold number of voter registrations. But if this were the only method today, both the Libertarians and the Peace and Freedom Party would already be off the ballot and the Green Party would be threatened with the same.

The Green Party has been on the ballot for 18 consecutive years, the Libertarians 30 and Peace and Freedom for 40 of the last 42. Had the Prop 14's authors intended to honor California's political diversity, they would've reduced the registration threshold so these kinds of parties could reasonably stay on the ballot. By leaving the threshold where it is *and* eliminating their ability to qualify on the general election ballot, Prop 14's sponsors are going for the jugular to entirely eliminate minor parties in California.

6) Prop 14 forces California's growing number of independent voters to vote for only Democrats and Republicans in the general election

Voter registration in the two major parties in California has been going down proportionally for many years, showing that voters want more, not fewer, choices. Prop 14 is a disingenuous strategy to circumvent that trend by forcing all voters to vote for either Democrats or Republicans in the general election. Prop 14's advocates claim they are allowing California's independent 'decline-to-state' voters more say in the primaries. But these voters already have the right to vote in the major party primaries today. So what would Prop 14 actually change? Independent voters – and all voters – would lose their right to vote for other candidates in November.

7) Prop 14 does not promote good government

Prop 14 advocates claim the Top Two will somehow magically lead to better government. But the Public Policy Institute of California studied previous implementations of similar systems and found little change in partisan

discord. California had an experiment with the 'cousin of Top Two' when the blanket primary was in place in 1998 and 2000, before the courts threw it out for being unconstitutional. By November 2000, the full state legislature was elected via this method (the Assembly is elected every two years, the State Senate every four) and that 2000-2002 legislature was one of the most contentious in recent memory and took the state from a major budget surplus to major budget deficit in just two years, ultimately helping lead to the recall of Governor Gray Davis.

Louisiana is the only other state that has had a Top Two primary in place (since 1975) and is hardly a model of government for California to emulate.

8 & 9) Prop 14 eliminates general election independents and write-ins

Under Prop 14, all avenues to the November General Election ballot are shut down by mid-March. Currently if something significant happens in public policy during the course of the campaign that merits a new voice in the race, an independent candidate can qualify after the primary and appear on the November ballot. Prop 14 would eliminate this check-and-balance of democracy, along with the right of voters to cast a write-in vote in November if they don't support any of the candidates on the ballot.

10) Prop 14 does not require candidates to disclose their registered political party affiliation

In yet another move away from accepted standards of democracy, Prop 14 would do away with basic transparency by not requiring a candidate to identify in which political party they are a member. Perhaps in a small New England town hall meeting in the 17th century where everyone knew each other, this would've been acceptable.

But in today's California with more than 36 million people, party identification is a helpful tool for voters to sort out their preferences. Prop 14 would take away this right from the voters. And, if under Prop 14 candidates chose to indicate anything at all, they would not appear on the ballot like today as 'Joe Smith, Democrat' or 'Jane Doe, Republican.'

Rather it would be as 'Joe Smith, my party preference is the Democratic Party' – clumsy and potentially confusing language, that was placed in Prop 14 to try and avoid it being ruled unconstitutional.

11) Prop 14 is unconstitutional

Like the blanket primary that was ruled unconstitutional in California in June 2000, there is a

good chance the Top Two will be thrown out by the courts — wasting the time of the people of California yet again with a poorly conceived law.

While the Top Two was drafted to circumvent the concerns that invalidated the blanket primary, its authors were apparently unaware of a range of other ballot access laws, including what kind of restrictions can be placed on a party from reaching the general election ballot. As a result, there will be a full trial in US District Court in Washington State in October 2010 to rule on the constitutionality of Top Two. If successful, it would not only invalidate Washington State's law, but likely Prop 14 as well, if it were to pass.

12) Bad process leads to bad policy

Devising electoral reform for a nation-state like California is best done transparently and thoughtfully, involving wide swaths of society. By contrast, Prop 14 was born outside of public view as part of a last minute, backroom deal to get the final vote in the legislature for the two-thirds needed to pass the 2009 state budget. It's gone straight to the ballot for an up/down vote, with a 'yes' campaign mostly based upon superficial sound bites. Is that kind of political extortion we want to use to reform our democracy?

There are many ways in which California could consider electoral reform. In 2010 there was an effort to qualify a Constitutional Convention initiative that could have placed a range of electoral reforms before the people in an open, inclusive manner. There is a good chance the movement will be back in 2012, more organized to qualify for the ballot.

13) Positive alternatives exist without the problems of Top Two

Imagine a system where voters can rank as many candidates as they want, not worry that voting for what they most believe in will lead to what they most oppose - and be assured that every election will lead to a majority winner.

Such a system would put more power into the hands of voters compared to the candidates and parties. Fortunately that system already exists – it's called Ranked Choice Voting and is in place for non-partisan municipal office in San Francisco, Oakland and many other cities in the U.S.

Ranked Choice Voting can also be used in partisan races for state legislature or governor, in both party primaries and general elections. Since major party primaries in California are already open to decline-to-state voters, adding Ranked Choice Voting to that mix would render those primaries far more inclusive, competitive and democratic than they are today, promoting healthy competition and debate.

In general elections, using Ranked Choice Voting would extend more choice to voters to indicate where they stand on the issues, eliminate 'spoiler' concerns, and give more incentive to candidates to be responsive to voters preferences, without reducing voter choice as in Prop 14.

Finally, California could consider systems of proportional representation used in Europe and elsewhere around the world, where there are multi-seat districts and different parties win seats in proportion to the support they receive.

In that way, all parts of the political spectrum would have a place at the table, making government that much more truly "of the people."

PROP 15 (from page 1)

How would Prop 15 public financing work?. Candidates would be required to gather a certain number of signatures with accompanying \$5 donations over about a nine-month period prior to the Primary.

The number of signatures required varies between 3,750 and 15,000 and would determine the size of the Grant awarded. These Grants would range between \$200,000 and \$1,300,000 and would vary between the Primary and General elections.

It's a little complicated to explain here, but suffice it to say a Green running for Secretary of State in the Primary could get a \$200,000 Grant if he or she were able to gather 15,000 signatures.

Then, there would be a \$1,300,000 Grant for campaigning for the General Election. It's not exactly a level playing field for us. However, Democrats and Republicans only have to gather 7,500 signatures to qualify.

It has been explained to me this was a compromise the organizers of Prop 15 had to make to be certain that non-party or smaller party candidates have enough grass roots support to get large sums of public campaign funds.

This requirement, though seemingly unfair, gives us an amazing tool to organize around, and prove that we've always been about people power and not the almighty dollar.

The funding of these Grants would come from the pooled \$5 donations, but mostly from an increase in lobbyist fees. Currently, California charges lobbyists a whopping \$12.50 a year. Shocking? It should be. Prop 15 would increase that fee up to \$350 a year. There are thousands of lobbyists in California, so these fees would be substantial enough to fund the Public Grants and is in direct contradiction to the opposition's claims that our taxes would increase to pay for public financing.

This is not a perfect measure, but it's a beginning. We Greens could see larger amounts available to run for office than we ever have. If local districts start implementing public financing, Greens would have as much a chance as corporate funded candidates in local races. And, it is conceivable that a Green using public financing could be elected as Secretary of State for California in 2014 or 2018.

Text of the Ballot Measure can be viewed at:<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/pdf/ab-583-bill-20080930-chaptered.pdf>

PROP 14 (From Page 1)

in the debate, not just the billionaires, and eliminates corporate domination of our elections.

In a year when voters are angry and disgusted enough to look past the bickering Democrats and Republicans for effective, common sense solutions, it's not surprising that the two major parties would try to prevent the election of independent and third party candidates.

Neither should we be shocked that large corporations like Blue Shield of California and Hewlett Packard have been pouring hefty sums of money into the pro-Prop 14 campaign. The two party system works for them just fine.

Californians defeated a similar "top two" proposition in 2004. Let's hope voters will see past this partisan ploy, and vote no on Proposition 14 in June.

GREEN FOCUS Spring 2010

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U.S. HOUSE (9th District)

DAVE HELLER
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mrplutocrat@aol.com

(no photo submitted)

Dave Heller, who has a degree in physics and another in architecture, has been demanding a substantive investigation into the events of September 11th for almost 9 years.

Heller believes the planet is on the precipice of environmental calamity, and is an advocate of facilitating safe bikeways, funding public transportation, public education and universal health care. Education and health care should be a citizen's right, not commodities for corporate greed, he said.

"There is an urgent need to reverse the carbon loading of our atmosphere," said Heller.

"Deregulation is a giant failure. It has not only led to an unprecedented environmental disaster, but a global economic disaster that has fallen on the backs of working people around the world. We can no longer allow corporate interests to run roughshod over our planet. They need to be held accountable.

"We need a global minimum wage and a strong pact of global workers' rights. Corporations should not be allowed to leverage labor in one country against the labor of another," Heller added.

When elected, he will not vote for any money for any war.

"The Pentagon budget is out of control and those monies need to be spent on decaying infrastructure, and the public good. We need to start building sustainable energy sources, wind, solar, tidal, geo-thermal and move as quickly as possible away from a carbon-based energy supply, that does not include building more nuclear power plants," said Heller.

Heller said the Democrats have been "complicit" with the Republicans who are privatizing public assets and socializing the costs, adding that the U.S. needs to "eliminate" the Federal Reserve, hold the banking industry and the real estate industry accountable for their criminal negligence at best, and outright fraud in all likelihood.

"The leaders of the Bush administration should be held accountable for the two illegal, immoral wars which were started under fraudulent circumstances," he says.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The candidates listed in Green Focus are not all necessarily endorsed by the Green Party of California. Those decisions will be made after the June 8 primary. Also, Eric Petersen is running for Congress in the 17th District. He did not submit a photo or information for this edition of Green Focus.

The Ten Key Values of the Green Party

- Grassroots Democracy**—Develop participatory ways to control the decisions which affect our lives.
- Social Justice**—Create a system which promotes equality and dignity for all.
- Nonviolence**—Develop alternatives to current patterns of violence at all levels.
- Ecological Wisdom**—Operate our human society knowing we are a part of nature, and learn to live within the ecological and resource limits of the planet.

U.S. HOUSE (4th District)

BEN EMERY
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Ben Emery is running for Congress in the 4th District (Nevada City) against an entrenched ultra right-wing Tom McClintock (GOP) because he wants to give voters a real choice, and because, he says, our current system and government are broken.

"Both parties have been corrupted and cannot legislate in the public's interest. We have been split by partisan slogans and rhetoric but need to unite against corruption and unethical policies. We need people with the courage to stand up to big money and stand for the people with honesty and integrity," charges Emery.

"So many Americans are disillusioned with the two major parties and feel they don't have a choice... I want to be that choice by being the voice of the people and fighting for their interests," he said.

Emery, 40, lives in Nevada City with his wife and two children. He's a ranch manager – a modern one.

"A healthy active community is what creates the sense of belonging and I try to contribute as much as I can back to the community in which I live," said Emery, a youth softball and basketball coach.

Emery notes one of the biggest issues in the 2010 elections is the funding of campaigns, citing the decision earlier this year when the courts decided corporations can spend unlimited money in campaigns, marginalizing the "average Joe."

Among the policies Emery would support if elected are: public financing of campaigns, progressive campaign spending caps, instant runoff voting, a restructure of tax policies on the top 1 percent, break up companies that are too big to fail by enforcing Sherman Antitrust laws, promoting strong local economies and governmental agencies, protecting small business (small business's create 60 percent of American Jobs), infrastructure and development of Green technology, solvency of Medicare and Social Security, access and affordability of Health Insurance/Care and supporting efforts for the U.S. to build peace, not war.

U.S. HOUSE (10th District)

JEREMY CLOWARD
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Jeremy Cloward, Ph.D. (G - Pleasant Hill), is running for the seat now held by Rep. John Garamendi (D - Walnut Creek).

Cloward is campaigning to promote a more just and equal society. "The issues that are important to all of us, such as single payer health care, education, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, need to be addressed by people and a party that are actually willing to address them," said Cloward.

"However, what has become clear is that the Democratic and Republican parties are not only unwilling, but unable to address any one of these issues in any meaningful way."

Cloward accepts no corporate contributions because of their control over politics today.

"This is a campaign that is run by the voters, for the voters. We openly reject corporate control over the political system which has benefited the few at the expense of the people," he said.

Cloward earned his B.A. in political science from CSU Chico, a California Teaching Credential in social science from Chapman University, an M.A. in political science from San Francisco State University, and a Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University.

Cloward is, or has been, a member of a number of non-profit organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, Human Rights Watch, the NAACP, the Native-American Rights Fund, United Farm Workers of America, and the United Nation's Children's Fund.

He is also, or has been, a member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Political Science Association, the California Part-Time Faculty Association, the Caucus for a New Political Science, and the National Education Association.

Cloward was born in San Francisco, and grew up in Pleasant Hill, where he currently lives with his wife and children.

Assembly (39th District)

JACK LINDBLAD
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Jack Lindblad, running for the Assembly 39th District seat, says that politics are "dominated by greed, corporatism, militarism and the narrow. This has led humanity to ecological collapse and social and economic inequity."

"I'm running for Assembly to advance the ethical and moral imperatives of a Green New Deal, and manage and adapt to multiple collapses, mitigate the most catastrophic effects of climate-change, and shepherd a transition to a relocalized, green-jobs, carbon-neutral, net-zero-energy, steady-state economy," he said.

"The social and economic collapse we are now experiencing was preceded by a moral and political collapse, largely caused by a political class and a formative culture deeply insensitive to its social and ethical responsibilities," said Lindblad, who is an architect by trade, and social justice activist. He also was the initiator of the Panorama City Neighborhood Council formation, and member of Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley Livable Communities Council.

Lindblad received an astounding 8.06 percent of the vote in his last run for assembly – representing a nearly unbelievable 1,600 percent of the Green Party registered base.

Lindblad is an "effective squeaky wheel" in advocacies for health-care patient rights; would save neighborhoods by promoting a healthy environment and sustainable living, decentralizing and relocalizing water resources, energy, material goods and food production; ensure healthcare is a right – guaranteeing quality universal single payer healthcare for all; ban corporatist lobbying and campaign spending by using public campaign financing; stop immigration raids and deportation; reverse spending on prisons over education; promote early childhood care, education, mentoring and sports to stop gang violence; using a "split roll" amendment to Prop 13, and sunset regressive tax policy by a phased elimination of state tax on lower income workers.

Assembly (41st District)

LINDA PIERA-AVILA
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Linda Piera-Avila insists that because of the "environmental and social crises of our time, the Green Party voice needs to be heard... that's why I'm running for State Assembly." She is a near lifetime resident of her district, lives in Santa Monica where she works as a physical therapist and serves on the Santa Monica Urban Forest Task Force.

Piera-Avila would work for an "ecological balance," defending against attacks on the California Environmental Quality Act, the citizens' protection from environmental harm; ensuring compliance with AB 32, California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which limits greenhouse gas emissions, and protecting state parks, old growth forests, habitats and open spaces.

She defends the ban on offshore drilling, opposes the siting of liquefied natural gas facilities off the California coast, supports the sonar testing ban, encourages household rainwater harvesting and water conservation, the recycling and reclamation of "gray" water. She would also work for renewable energy sources, preservation of streams and other waterways, encourage organic, urban and community farming and facilitate a bike friendly infrastructure.

Piera-Avila puts social justice and human rights high up on her list, including the halting of the growing crime of human trafficking, protecting farmworkers, raising the minimum wage to a living wage, enacting single payer, universal healthcare, amending the 3 strikes law to apply only to felonies and working with the federal government to stop inhumane immigration.

She also supports proportional representation and instant run-off voting, public financing of elections, non-restrictive ballot access laws, community based economics, including community supported agriculture programs and co-ops, legislative majority to pass the state budget and revised taxation so all pay their fair share.

- Decentralization**—Move power and responsibility away from larger and more distant institutions toward individuals and communities, with the goal of a decentralized, democratic society.
- Community-Based Economics**—Redesign work to encourage employee ownership and work-place democracy, and establish basic security for all and a fair distribution of wealth and income.
- Feminism**—Replace the ethic of dominance and control with cooperative ways of relating to each other.

- Respect for Diversity**—Honor cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, reclaiming our country's shared ideals—the dignity of the individual, democratic participation and liberty and justice for all.
- Personal and Global Responsibility**—Learn from and be of genuine assistance to grassroots groups in all parts of the world.
- Sustainability**—Act not for the short range narrow interest of one country or group of people, but for the collective future of the entire planet.

Assembly (51st District)**CYNTHIA SANTIAGO**new.menu.org/cynthia.santiago
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Cynthia Santiago, 25, is a young law student and Green Party member since she first registered to vote.

Santiago has a strong background in raising youth activism through mentoring and leadership programs, prisoner education and resource programs, and environmental justice for low income communities.

"This election gives us a chance to show younger people that getting involved in Green politics is a natural extension of their activism. I've been a Green ever since I first registered to vote, and was a Green when elected Associated Student Body President at Santa Monica High School in 2002. Soon afterwards, I was included in a Los Angeles Weekly cover story on young Greens," she said.

Santiago sees a rare opening for the Green Party to take for the second time a state assembly seat. She says the circumstances are very similar to those when California Greens won their only state assembly race back in March 1999.

"My race offers a fantastic opportunity to build the Green Party," she said. "There is only the male Democratic incumbent and myself running. [We can] compete head-to-head with the Democrat, without the bug-a-boo of 'seeming to help the Republican win,' and to run a female challenger against a male incumbent." 2000 census results show 44 percent Latino in her district, with 32 percent African-American.

"This also gives us a chance to expand the Green Party in a district with a very different demographic than that in most districts in which Greens run—one reflective of the increasing diversity we can expect in California's future."

Santiago joined the Green Party because of its commitment to grassroots democracy.

She said the Green Party is an alternative to top-down politics and to corporate-controlled politicians. "The Green Party advocates for the rights of local people and communities to be heard and to shape their destinies for generations to come."

Assembly (53rd District)**LISA GREEN**www.votelisagreen.net
lisagreen@votelisagreen.net

Lisa Green, 45, is a member of the Green Party of California and the current co-facilitator of the LA Greens.

She resigned from a 20-year corporate budgeting and finance career in 2008 to pursue her own artistic "organic and green" business. She is frequently found walking on Venice Beach boardwalk.

Lisa's former corporate career has given her a firm foundation to be an effective legislator for AD53.

She has spent 20 years in a variety of chaotic, fast-paced, challenging environments and has consistently found ways to build productive, healthy relationships, as well as developing methods that have measurable and attainable goals.

Green current creative and artistic endeavors use messages that educate, advocate and liberate thought while educating others about holistic sustainability (environmental, social and economic).

Her platform is about balance, and assisting in the transition to a holistic way of life, while recognizing the interconnectedness of our life and all systems.

Green's platform begins with universal single payer healthcare to provide coverage for all with a balanced, holistic approach.

She supports the full legalization and taxation of cannabis for sale to adults, as well as the production of industrial hemp.

She would work for environmental sustainability, including the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, protection of the ocean and forests, clean air for our cities, and regional water planning and management.

Green said she would fight for reform of various aspects of the electoral system, such as Clean Money to give third-party candidates a fair chance, the elimination of corporate personhood, instant run-off voting and proportional representation.

She also supports the idea of a State Bank to infuse money into local banks and credit unions.

Assembly (72d District)**JANE RANDS**www.janerandsforassembly.com
jane@janerandsforassembly.com

This is Jane Rands' second run for this off office this year - she garnered more than five times the number of registered Green Party voters in the district in a special election earlier.

"My goals are to increase Green Party registration and increase awareness among all the electorate of the solutions the Green Party has to offer. Single payer healthcare for all Californians is at the top of my priority list.

"It is one of the best solutions to combat the skyrocketing cost of health insurance while insuring that all people have access to healthcare.

"Single payer is also good for small businesses that typically find it difficult to afford health insurance for their employees. Single payer also helps California businesses compete internationally, where some competing businesses in other countries have lower costs because universal healthcare is provided for their employees," she said.

Rands is also promoting a long-term solution to bring water to communities without harming the natural environment.

"Conservation should be the centerpiece of any state water plan - desalination plants, dams and a Peripheral Canal for imported water are energy inefficient, environmentally harmful and are not sustainable.

"Another imperative for our state is expanding and improving public transportation. Transportation funding priorities are backwards; public transportation being referred to as the alternative rather than the norm. To resolve the never-ending gridlock/road-widening cycle, state transportation money needs to go to public transportation instead of roads.

Also, Rands supports more funding to education - finding money from new funding sources, including closing prisons, modifying 3 strikes, decriminalizing marijuana, a 10 percent gas and oil extraction tax and removing tax breaks that allow the wealthiest Californians to effectively pay a lower tax rate than the poorest Californians.

SUPERVISOR (Mendocino)**DAN HAMBURG**www.votehamburg5.org
dan@votehamburg5.org

Dan Hamburg, the Green Party candidate for Governor of California in 1998, is a former member of Congress (before he left the Democrats for the Green Party) and Mendocino County Supervisor.

Recently he is known for his work as executive director of Voice of the Environment.

Hamburg began working towards his run for the Supervisor seat a year before the filing deadline, talking to friends and residents about what would be needed to implement his vision of a self-sustaining local economy in tune with the county's natural beauty.

Although the race is supposed to be non-partisan, the local Democratic Party machine said it would be willing to back Hamburg only if he would register as a Democrat.

Dan refused, instead turning their offer on its head by recruiting many Democrats and independents to work on his campaign.

The Hamburg campaign has highlighted the issues of building the local economy, in particular, organic food production; protecting the coast while keeping the local fishery economically viable; restoring fiscal stability to the county; creating openness and transparency in county government; and better serving the real needs of this mainly rural community.

Hamburg is known as someone who can get things done and can push for what is needed in a diplomatic manner.

His campaign workers are highly motivated and largely coincide with the group that passed Measure H, which made Mendocino County the first GMO-free zone in the nation.

"I will continue (a) progressive tradition," said Hamburg, who is promising to keep Mendocino the No. 1 county for "off-the-grid" homes, and nationwide leader in solar, wind and non-fossilized energy production.

He is a strong supporter of a ban on all federal oil and gas lease sales, and attempts by the U.S. Navy to use the coast for weapons testing.

MAYOR (Oakland)**DON MACLEAY**www.macleay4mayor.org
candidate.macleay4mayor.org

Don Lachlan Macleay is a long-time environmentalist and labor activist, and he's running for mayor of Oakland because he says he wants to support and empower people in his community.

"As mayor, I will be hands on, and a tireless advocate for the basic rights and well-being of people in our city. I will create a transparent government, and accountability," he said.

Macleay, a machinist by trade who worked on environmentally-sound projects in Central America, explains he will seek community solutions to social issues.

"I will also commit resources to grassroots organizations, those people who are improving the lives of citizens in our communities daily," said Macleay, who was a project director for Earth Island Institute.

Leaving the machinist trade because of a crippling injury, Macleay strongly believes in the right to organize - he worked to organize fellow plastic workers into a union in Canada, and was a shop steward in Albany, CA.

He is also multilingual, speaking Spanish and French along with a passable German and Italian and even Chinese, after working in those countries.

But Macleay says he's seen firsthand single payer health insurance in Canada, elections using Proportional Representation in Mexico, Nicaragua, Germany and Italy, saw high quality rapid transit in Montreal, Europe and Mexico. He has seen what other cities are doing to solve their problems and wants to bring that vision to Oakland.

"Oakland's issues are interrelated and nuanced. I will ensure that a healthy balance and alignment is maintained among our most pressing social and business issues.

"Hope for positive change is realized when we act decisively on behalf of all citizens in our community," said Macleay, who has one son at UC Davis and a younger son in Oakland public school.

Los Diez Valores Fundamentales del Partido Verde

Sabiduría Ecológica—Debemos actuar en la sociedad humana con el entendimiento de que somos parte de la naturaleza, y aprender a vivir dentro de los límites económicos y de los recursos del planeta.
Democracia de Bases—Elaboración de sistemas participatorios que nos alienten a controlar las decisiones que nos afectan la vida.
Justicia Social—Creación de un sistema que promueva la igualdad y la dignidad de todas las personas.
No Violencia—Encontrar alternativas para erradicar los patrones actuales de violencia a todo nivel, y al mismo tiempo eliminar la injusticia y sentido de

impotencia que conducen a la misma.
Descentralización—Transferir el poder y la responsabilidad de instituciones grandes y lejanas a los individuos y comunidades, siendo la meta eventual una sociedad democrática y descentralizada.
Economía Basada en la Comunidad—Rediseño de las estructuras de trabajo para fomentar la propiedad para los empleados y la democracia en el trabajo, al mismo tiempo que se establece una seguridad básica para todos y una distribución justa de la riqueza y los ingresos.
Feminismo—Sustituir la ética de dominación y control por la de relaciones de cooperación.

Respeto por la Diversidad—Respeto a la diversidad cultural, étnica, racial, sexual, religiosa y espiritual, volviendo a los ideales compartidos de nuestro país: la dignidad de cada persona, la participación democrática, y libertad y justicia para todos.
Responsabilidad Personal y Global—Debemos aprender de los grupos de base del resto del mundo y ser de verdadera ayuda para ellos.
Sostenibilidad—Pensar en términos del futuro colectivo del planeta entero, no en los estrechos intereses de corto plazo de un país o grupo de personas.



Green Party of California
 Post Office Box 2828
 Sacramento, CA 95812

An appeal to support the best candidates on the ballot

Spring, 2010

Dear Voter:

Green Party of California candidates continue to be true to their values – **they don't take corporate money** from the same people bailed out with our tax dollars, **they oppose the wars** (unlike Democrat and GOP lawmakers who continue to support war), **they fight for social justice** and the working class, and **they support saving our planet.**

And, Greens have been rewarded. **Greens continue to thrive** with nearly 40 city council, school board and other local elected office-holders, including an elected mayor in Richmond, appointed mayors in other cities and a majority on the Fairfax city council.

Here's how Green Party member Sandy Stiassni puts it:

"...I'm impressed by each of the eight California Green Party state wide constitutional, U.S. Senate, five Congressional, and five State Assembly candidates.

"...Thank you Laura Wells, for once again demonstrating to be Green is to put it out there. Thank you Deacon Alexander, for your spunky, upbeat campaign, and bold, activist challenge to the Green Party. Thank you Jimi Castillo for your Lt. Governor bid, and showing us, when one door closes, another opens.

"...Thank you Ann Menasche of San Diego, for your Secretary of State campaign. Thank you Ross Frankel, for not giving up, and trying this time for Controller. Thank you Kit Crittenden, for coming out of retirement to run for Treasurer. Thank you Peter Allen, for your passionate, intelligent Attorney General campaign. Thank you William Balderston for your run as Insurance Commissioner.

"...Thank you Duane Roberts, for stepping from behind the Orange Curtain to run for U.S. Senate. Thank you Carol Wolman, for your courageous, principled run in Congressional District 1. Thank you Ben Emery and Dave Heller for your runs in Congressional Districts 2 and 9. Thank you Jeremy Cloward for your stick-to-it-iveness in your repeated runs for Congressional District 10. Thank you Eric

Peterson for your Congressional District 17 campaign. Thank you Jack Lindblad, for your relentless, never-say-die, repeated run at Assembly District 39. Thank you Lisa Green, Linda Piera-Avila and Cynthia Santiago, for your first-time offensives upon Assembly Districts 53, 41 and 51. Thank you Jane Rands for your continued harrying and insightful attack (in) Assembly District 72."

Sandy goes on to say we're "lucky to have each of these 18 Green Party candidates running for statewide, federal office, and hundreds who actively support them...Behind this loyal band of brothers and sisters are thousands of Green Party members."

He's right. But it's **not just members of the Green Party who should support real candidates**, with real beliefs (against war, for the environment and not "bought and paid for" by corporations.)

It's every voter. No matter what party.

Because these candidates won't take the blood money from corporations, and they've earned and deserve our support to run strong campaigns for freedom and open government.

That's why we're encouraging Greens, and other voters, to support these candidates with financial contributions, and volunteerism.

Help us, the Green Party of California, to bolster these campaigns. **Green candidates do win.** But they still need a little bit of help.

Please, send what you can TODAY to support truly progressive candidate campaigns across the state. Complete the form below and return the remit envelope enclosed in this news magazine.

And, if you're not registered Green, re-register today. If you are a Green already ask a friend or relative to join you. Thank you.

Peace,

The Green Party of California

YES! I want to help Green candidates. Enclosed is a contribution for:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

(please make checks payable to GPCA, PO Box 485, San Francisco, CA 94104)

YES! I'd like to become a sustainer of the Green Party of California.

I will contribute \$_____ per month.

I will contribute \$_____ per quarter.

(please include credit card information below)

YES! I would like to volunteer. Please pass my information on to local organizers!

The law requires we use our best efforts to collect and report the name, street address, occupation and name of employer of contributors. Contributions of \$100 or more must be returned if we do not have the above information on file. Contributions are not tax deductible. Other restrictions on the size and source of contributions may apply. Thank you for your cooperation. R 2010

Name _____

Street address (if contribution \$100 or more) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

Email _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Credit Card # _____ Expires _____

Signature _____