



BCA Newsletter

June 2014 - Election Issue

Meet the Candidates

State Assembly District 15:

Nancy Skinner has termed out and the following candidates are running in this primary election.

Join Berkeley Citizens Action and East Bay Democracy for America at a Candidate Forum:

Thursday May 22 at 7pm, at the Rockridge Library at 5366 College Ave, Oakland.

Clarence Hunt, a graduate of Howard University, has lived in Oakland for 30 years, where he is the owner of a staffing company. Democrat

Elizabeth Echols served as an Internet and e-commerce advisor to Vice President Al Gore during the Clinton Administration. Most recently, President Obama appointed Elizabeth as Regional Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration and Senior Advisor on Clean Tech and Energy Efficiency Initiatives. Democrat

Sam Kang, who leads the legal team at the Greenlining Institute, a prominent civil rights advocacy organization that fights redlining, serves on the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)'s Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Committee and has served on several committees and commissions. Democrat.

Rich Kinney managed several businesses in the Bay Area, owned his own business, coached high school basketball and tennis, and served as Chaplain for police and sheriff's departments in Contra Costa county. In 2012 he was elected to the City Council in San Pablo. Republican.

Pamela Price is a survivor of the juvenile justice and foster care system, later to get a full scholarship at Yale, has worked all her life for justice of everyday people, opening her own law firm and practicing as a civil rights attorney. Democrat.

Election Day is Tuesday, June 3rd

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berkeleycitizenaction@gmail.com

Eugene Ruyle is a veteran and grandfather for peace, he is the Peace and Freedom Party write-in candidate. Retired Anthropology professor who supports the Peace and Freedom Party Platform and Occupy Oakland. Peace and Freedom.

Tony Thurmond graduated from Temple University and then earned a masters from Bryn Mawr College. A social worker, he served on the Richmond City Council from 2005-2008 and the West Contra County School Board from 2008-2012, as well as numerous commissions and committees. Democrat.

Bernt Wahl, a mathematician, entrepreneur and author holds degrees in Physics and Math from UC Santa Cruz, MBA from UC Davis and MA from the School of Information at UC Berkeley. He served as CEO of several tech firms, and is member of the faculty of UC Berkeley. No Party Preference.

Statewide Measures

Prop 41: Veterans Bond: The last bond passed in 2008 has not been used, as the rates offered were not competitive. This measure would refocus much of the funds on multi-unit housing for tenants. Greens reject this bond, ask the state to come back with a better measure in November.

Prop 42: Public Records, Open meetings: Eliminates state funding for local government costs related to Brown Act. Greens also say no.

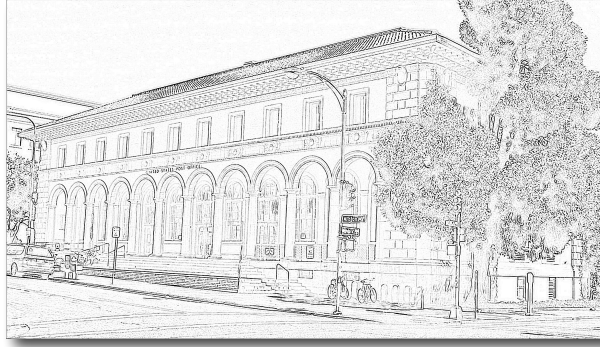
Alameda County Measures

Measure AA: Health Care Safety Net: renews existing 1/2 cent sales tax for health care in the county. Funds the county hospital and clinics, as well as public health and preventive efforts. Greens support.

For more information on the June Elections, we refer you to the AC Greens Green voter guide:
http://acgreens.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/greenvoterguide_6_2014.pdf

Berkeley's Green Downtown and Public Commons Initiative

In November of 2010 Berkeley's citizens approved a "Green Vision" for the Downtown that promised preservation of historic and cultural resources; green buildings and environmental features; affordable and family housing; safe, lively and enhanced public space; good jobs; enhanced public transit; public parking and more.



In response to threats to privatize public assets such as the Post Office, the need to designate Berkeley's Civic Center core as an area dedicated to civic and community uses has gained urgency.

This initiative provides specific provisions to implement Berkeley's Green Downtown Vision and to preserve our Civic Center as a Public Commons.

Protection for Public, Historic and Cultural Resources & Civic Center Overlay to Preserve the Heart of Downtown as a Public Commons

Creates Civic Center zoning overlay to enhance public, historic and cultural resources at the heart of Downtown, including Old City Hall, Veterans Memorial Building, Civic Center Park, Downtown Y, Berkeley Community Theatre & Central Post Office

Restores Landmarks Preservation Review and provides protections for adjacent neighborhoods

Green Building and Enhanced Environmental Measures

Bike Parking, Electric Vehicle Charging & Car Share space

LEED Platinum or Gold (depending on building size) and a high Energy Efficiency rating

Environmental practices such as no new net water runoff, depaving of spaces, permeable surfaces, rain catchment and bio-filtration systems, and on-site composting

Payment of a Fee to support alternative transportation

Affordable and Family-Sized Housing:

Affordable housing at 20 or 30%, depending on building size

Family Housing at 20% in larger buildings (2 and 3-bedroom units)

Jobs and Fair Wages for Berkeley

50% Berkeley Hire requirement. If too few Berkeley workers are available, East Bay Green Corridor and then Alameda

County workers, and 16% apprentice labor

Construction, building & maintenance, hotel and security workers paid prevailing wage

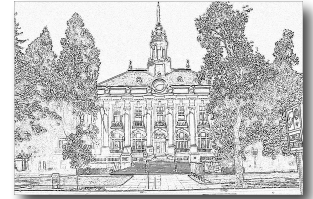
Improvements for Parks and Public Spaces:

All community benefits now detailed and Funding provided for Streets and Open Spaces Improvement Plan, to implement the existing, well articulated plan for improvements to streetscapes, public life, access, sustainability, and other public amenities.

Public Restrooms required in buildings over 75 feet

Funding for Loans to Berkeley Businesses and Entrepreneurs

Projects required to contribute to Berkeley Revolving Loan Fund, providing capital for loans to small business



Other Provisions

All community benefits now detailed and included as specific requirements (previously very vague).

Maximum height limits in all subareas remain same – except that 1) In Corridor (60 feet) and Buffer (50 feet) subareas, previously allowed additional height is removed. 2) In Core and Outer Core, heights remain same, including 5 previously-allowed taller buildings

Proponents will be collecting signatures until Sunday, May 18th. If the initiative qualifies it will be on the November 2014 ballot. To get involved in our campaign please call us at (925) 338-9512.

We also need your help financially. Please make checks out to "Yes on Berk Green Downtown & Pub Commons, 1130 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707.

-by Jesse Arreguin

Council passes timid minimum wage law, progressives respond...

On May 6, Berkeley progressives endured a beating. The measure to raise Berkeley's minimum wage to at least \$13.34, appeared to have strong support from Mayor Bates and councilmembers, and the city's volunteer Labor and Health Commissions, but Capitelli reneged and then Maio expressed opposition. Council adopted a miniscule increase in Berkeley's minimum wage, barely 75 cents more than state law.

The item gets a second reading May 20th where it is anticipated council may move to increase the wage. How much may depend on public pressure.

SEIU 1021 has agreed to fund a ballot initiative and campaign for a special election in Berkeley that would mirror initiatives in Oakland and Richmond. This would raise the minimum wage to \$12.25 immediately, with an automatic COLA, provision for paid sick days. This measure is polling at about 70% approval in Oakland currently. Contact your councilmember, come out for the upcoming city council meeting.

-contributed by Phoebe Sorgan & Nicky González Yuen

Mayor + 5 Gerrymander and Sue We the People, Weaken our Right to Referendum



District lines are redrawn decennially with census data. The Mayor and five colleagues used this opportunity for political purposes, ignoring the vast majority of constituents who weighed in. Our recourse for redress of government is a referendum. Democracy defenders gathered 7,867 signatures over the winter holidays, expecting Bates et al to compromise.

Instead, they violated the City Charter twice, and the Brown Act in deciding, without public notice, to use \$30,000 in public funds to sue, getting a conservative judge to approve use of the gerrymandered map in November, even though the referended map had been stayed because it will be on the ballot. What a sad precedent for Alameda County!

Sued Real Parties of Interest were the three progressive Council Members (Kriss Worthington, Jesse Arreguin, Max Anderson,) Council aides Stefan Elgstrand and Alejandro Soto-Vigil (who will run in District 1,) and activists Phoebe Sorgen, Stephanie Miyashiro, Matthew Lewis, and Paul Kealoha Blake. Most spent countless hours on their defense and

incurred personal debt over legal fees. Re the Brown Act violation, the judge fell for the City Council majority's purported "remedy." With notice this time, the night AFTER the final court hearing, they voted to ignore public comment again and retain the law firm that had already been retained weeks prior. What a farce! What a waste of taxes! Got democracy?

The appeal deadline is June 29. Please sign the petition: http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/berkeley-city-council?source=s.fwd&r_by=363923.

-contributed by Phoebe Sorgan

Housing Advisory Commission Updates

On May 1, 2014, the Berkeley HAC passed three items that collectively promote fairness to tenants, property owners, and neighbors in the context of housing.

Council referred the first item to the HAC, requesting it clarify what recourse should be available to the City and former occupants when multi-family building was destroyed (such as by fire) through fault of the owner, including a pattern of negligence that substantively contributed to the building's destruction. The commission recommended language to define fault, a process to be utilized by the City to make this determination, and a requirement that the property owner pay to the Housing Trust Fund the difference in between the last known rent of the destroyed building and the median rent that the market would bear on the replacement. This necessary would maintain equity in the housing market, as the replacement building would be exempt from rent control and the owner could charge market rents.

The commission also recommended the City Council consider a Property Assessed Clean Energy program to fund seismic retrofits of multi-family buildings in addition to energy efficiency upgrades.

Finally, the HAC suggested new administrative powers for city staff allowing them to hold off on considering permit applications for property owners who own other properties in Berkeley when there is a pattern of documented code violations or nuisance determinations which the owner is not taking good-faith steps to abate.

All of these items are scheduled to be considered by the City Council at its June 24 meeting. A healthy turnout and letters of support would be very valuable. For more information, please contact Igor Tregub at itregub@gmail.com or 510-295-8798.

- contributed by Igor Tregub

Berkeley Citizens Action
A multi-partisan Political Action Club
P.O. Box 9932
Berkeley, CA 94709

Address Correction Requested

We are Berkeley Citizens Action: For the past 40 years, BCA has stood with the people of Berkeley in fighting for a free and humanist community. Unfortunately, many city council representatives seem to stand with developers, landlords and big money. With your help we can make Berkeley a proud, progressive and liberal community once again. Join us. Participate. Democracy is not a spectator sport!

Important Dates:

Last Day to Register to Vote in June

Election: May 19

Last day to request Mail-in Ballot: May 27

Registrar of Voters office open for early voting: Saturday May 31 and Sunday June 1, 9am to 3pm.

Election Day: Tuesday June 3

Find your polling place or sample ballot:

<http://www.acgov.org/rov/profile.htm>

Save the Date Berkeley Tenant Convention 2014

Sunday July 13, 1-6 pm
South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St, Berkeley, CA 94703

Protect Affordable Housing and Tenants Rights –
Select and endorse progressive candidates
<http://berkeleytenantsconvention.net/>



Yes! I'll help BCA maintain a strong, progressive presence in Berkeley!

The June Election is around the corner and the November election promises to be contentious in Berkeley. We need your help to continue BCA's longstanding tradition of amplifying the voice of the 99% in Berkeley. Please join or renew your membership in BCA. Join the steering committee, keep BCA moving forward.

Your dues help BCA build a strong progressive movement in Berkeley!

Each Mailing costs about \$300. Please send us your email address and make a donation to cover costs!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____

I would like to join the following committee/s:

☐ Steering Committee ☐ Education forums ☐ Web Page and Newsletter ☐ Outreach

Other: _____

Annual Membership \$35

Low-Income Membership \$10

One Time Contribution \$ _____

Monthly sustaining pledge:

\$25 _____ \$10 _____ \$ _____

Send to your membership form & money to BCA, PO Box 9932, Berkeley, CA 94709 • Call: (510)982-6528

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