

**Please Help Us Select the Best Candidates!**  
**2014 November Election Forum - the Candidates will be there**  
**Sunday, September 21, 3:30-5:30pm**  
**Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar Street at Bonita**

Berkeley Citizen Action & Berkeley Tenants Union, along with the Social Justice Committee of the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, will hold a forum for candidates in the 2014 election. Meet the candidates and hear their ideas! After the speeches, BTU and BCA members will remain to vote on their respective endorsements for progressive candidates and measures.

Local Candidates and representatives for local measures will speak. All are welcome to attend. If you intend to vote for the BCA Endorsement, you must be a paid up BCA member. Join now. Former members may pay their membership fee at the door.

The November Election is coming. Some races and ballot measures will be contentious. We need your help to continue BCA's longstanding tradition of amplifying the voice of Berkeley's progressive citizens. Members enjoy these benefits:

- Member newsletters, Facebook and Webpage
- Forums on elections and issues important to residents
- Opportunity to help select the candidates and measures that best reflect Berkeley's values. Some have likened the BCA endorsement to the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval" for Berkeley progressives. Whether voting by mail or at the polls on election day, voters all over Berkeley refer to BCA endorsements to guide their choices.

**Join or renew your membership.**

**Yes! I'll help BCA maintain a committed, progressive presence in Berkeley!**  
**Each mailing costs about \$300. Please send us your working email address.**  
**If possible, please make an additional donation to cover costs!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership \$35

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Low-Income Membership \$10

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

One Time Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly sustaining pledge:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to participate in the following:

Steering Committee     Organize Education forums     Maintain Web Page and Newsletter     Outreach

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# State Assembly District 15 Candidates

Nancy Skinner terms out this year. Elizabeth Echols came in 1<sup>st</sup> in the June Primary, Tony Thurmond came in 2<sup>nd</sup>. These two Democrats are running against each other.

## Berkeley Candidates:

### City Auditor

- Ann-Marie Hogan incumbent, Unopposed

### City Council District 1

- Alejandro Soto-Vigil (Rent Board Commissioner)
- Linda Maio (City Councilmember)
- Merrilie Mitchell (Community Volunteer)

### City Council District 4

- Jesse Arreguín (City Councilmember), Unopposed. This candidate is recommended by Berkeley Citizens Action Steering Committee.

### City Council District 7

- Kriss Worthington (City Councilmember). This candidate is recommended by Berkeley Citizens Action Steering Committee.
- Sean Barry (Health Communications Manager)

### City Council District 8

- George Beier (Entrepreneur)
- Mike Alvarez Cohen (Director, Innovation Development)
- Jacquelyn McCormick (Small Business Owner)
- Lori Droste (Educator)

### Rent Board Commissioners

Five vacancies. These 5 candidates selected at the Berkeley Tenants Convention are running unopposed. All are recommended by the Berkeley Citizens Action Steering Committee:

- Katherine Harr (Rent Board Vice-Chair)
- John T. Selawsky (Youth Program Instructor)
- Paola Laverde-Levine (Video Producer/Interpreter)
- James Chang (Cooperative Housing Administrator)
- Jesse Townley (Rent Board Member)

### School Board Director

- Norma Harrison (Community Volunteer)
- Karen Hemphill (School Board Director)
- Julie Sinai (Appointed School Board Director)
- Ty Alper (Law Professor)
- Josh Daniels (School Board Director)

# Berkeley Measures:

**Measure D - Berkeley vs. Big Soda** - Imposes a general tax on distributors of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages. The nation's obesity epidemic has hurt Berkeley - 40% of our 9<sup>th</sup> graders are overweight. This measure establishes a panel of health and education experts to recommend programs aimed at reducing the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages in Berkeley while promoting healthy habits. Widely supported by the NAACP, Latinos Unidos, Berkeley Federation of Teachers, Michael Pollan, Alice Waters, Community Health Commission and many more. Vigorously opposed by the Beverage Industry. Needs majority vote to pass. YES vote recommended by BCA Steering Committee. [www.BerkeleyvsBigSugar.com](http://www.BerkeleyvsBigSugar.com)

### Measure F - Increase Existing Special Parks Tax.

Although parks staff has been reduced by 25% and maintenance scaled back, the Parks Department continues to run a deficit. Without increased public funding, supporters say park facilities will continue to deteriorate and parks will be closed. Supported by the Sierra Club. Opponents say property taxes are too high and city employees are over compensated. Needs 66.67% to pass.

**Measure O** - Amendment to the Recall Provisions in Article IV of the Berkeley City Charter. This measure would modernize recall procedures bringing these in conformance with recent changes in the law, reducing the need for special elections. Placed on ballot by unanimous city council vote. Needs majority to pass.

**Measure P** - Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate Corporate Personhood. This measure would call to amend the US Constitution to abolish the legal conceit that corporations are persons entitled to constitutional rights, and the ridiculous doctrine that money is to be treated as speech. No argument filed against. Requested by California Public Interest Group (CALPIRG), placed on the ballot by unanimous city council consent. Needs majority to pass.

**Measure Q - Allowing Workers to Request to Work Part-Time.** Advisory measure calls on city, state and federal governments to make it easier to allow flexible working arrangements like part-time work, compressed working week, and telecommuting. Small businesses are exempt. No argument filed against measure. Supported by local author Charles Siegel, Joan Blades and Sophie Hahn. Needs majority to pass.

## **Berkeley Measures continued:**

### **Measure R – Save Our Post Office & Civic Center, Ensure actual community benefits for Downtown.**

Provides provisions for implementing Berkeley's Green Downtown Vision & preserving our Civic Center as a Public Commons while getting Downtown developers to provide the community benefits promised but not delivered after the passage of the 2010 Measure R (affordable housing, local jobs, green building). Prevailing wage requirements are broadened, parking requirements are increased and LEED requirements are strengthened for buildings over 75 feet. Authored by Jesse Arreguin with Sophie Hahn and others. Opposed by developers and Downtown Business Association. YES vote recommended by BCA Steering. Needs majority to pass. [www.BerkeleyDowntown.com](http://www.BerkeleyDowntown.com)

### **Measure S – Would concretize the city council's gerrymandered district lines, dividing the student vote and dividing organized neighborhoods.**

This measure is an attempt by the conservative members of the city council to lock in a gerrymandered district plan that was overturned by last winter's public signature referendum. Recommending a no vote are councilmembers Worthington, Arreguin and Anderson, plus several current Rent Board members as well as rent-board candidate James Chang. Needs majority to pass. NO vote recommended by BCA Steering Committee.

## **Statewide Measures**

**Proposition 1 - Water Bond.** Put forward by the legislature after holding back in 2010 and 2012, this is a \$6 Billion bond for Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement. A San Jose Mercury News investigation revealed, when bond service fees and interest are included, "the grand total is \$51 billion to \$67 billion." Jerry Brown claims it's "a no-frills, no-pork." Supported by Association of California Water Agencies and Western Growers and opposed by the League of Women Voters, California Tax Reform Association. Polls show more than 50% of voters would support but requires 66.67% to pass.

**Proposition 2 - State Budget Rainy Day Fund,** codifies the deal brokered by Brown last year, increasing savings in the state's 'rainy day' fund from 5% to 10% of the General Fund, unless bad times come again and the state doesn't have the money to put aside. Supported by Democrats.

**Proposition 45 - Healthcare Insurance.** Health insurance rates soared as ObamaCare was enacted. This measure, which has broad voter support according to polls, would allow State regulation health insurance, as is done with auto and homeowners insurance. Opponents, including hospitals, insurers, and the California Chamber of Commerce have raised a war chest more than \$37 Million compared with less than \$1 Million for supporters, so public support may fade once attack ads start running.

### **Proposition 46 - Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors.**

Consumer Watchdog says medical negligence is the third leading cause of death in the country behind heart disease and cancer. The California Medical Board estimates almost one-in-five doctors (18%) suffer from drug and/or alcohol abuse at some point during their careers – and leading medical safety experts have called for random drug testing to curb substance abuse and ensure patient safety. A 2012 Los Angeles Times investigation found drugs prescribed by doctors caused or contributed to nearly half of recent prescription overdose deaths in Southern California." Supported by consumer Watchdog and Consumer Attorneys, opposed by nearly everyone else, including doctors, hospitals and business interests, and ACLU.

**Proposition 47 - Criminal Sentences.** Reduces penalties for non-serious, nonviolent crimes," such as petty theft and drug possession, unless the defendant has prior convictions for violent and serious crimes. Allows resentencing for such crimes. Redirects savings to Safe Neighborhoods and Schools funds (Estimates range from \$150 million to \$250 million per year.) Opposition from the Police Chiefs and Correctional Supervisors Associations. Field Poll estimates 57% of voters would support.

**Proposition 48 - Indian Gaming Compacts.** A referendum, which seeks to overturn a deal which authorized an off-reservation for North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians. Rival tribes with existing casinos collected enough signatures to put a request to overturn the law on the ballot. Supporters say, "Vote YES to help create jobs, general revenues, and protect scenic wildlife at no cost to state taxpayers." Opponents ask for a NO vote, saying "Years ago, California Indian Tribes asked voters to approve limited casino gaming on Indian reservation land. They promised Indian casinos would ONLY be located on the tribes' original reservation land. Prop 48 breaks this promise." This measure is a veto referendum: a 'yes' vote is a vote to uphold or ratify the contested legislation (AB 277) that was enacted by the California State Legislature while a 'no' vote is a vote to overturn AB 277.

## **Alameda County Measures**

**Measure BB -** Asks voters to authorize additional ½ cent and extend existing sales tax to implement county 30 year Transportation Expenditure Plan to: expand and modernize BART in Alameda County; improve transit connections to jobs and schools; fix roads, improve highways and increase bicycle and pedestrian safety; reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality; and keep senior, student, and disabled fares affordable. Needs 66.67 % to pass.



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

**Please keep your BCA Membership current**  
**If you have paid in 2014, thank you!**  
**The last time your membership dues were paid:**

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 keep Berkeley a proud, progressive and liberal community. Join us. Participate. Democracy is not a spectator sport



## **Important Dates:**

**November BCA Election Forum, Meet the Candidates:**  
Sunday September 21

**Voter Information Pamphlets Mailed out:**  
Thursday, September 25

**Vote By Mail Ballots sent:**  
Monday, October 6

**Last day to register to vote:**  
Monday, October 20

**Last day to request a Vote By Mail Ballot:**  
Tuesday, October 28

**Election Day:** Tuesday November 4

**Find your polling place or sample ballot:**  
<http://www.acgov.org/rov/profile.htm>

**Please pay your  
BCA Membership Dues  
or an advertisement may  
appear here!**