

# Berkeley Citizens Action Recommendations for the November Ballot

**Help Elect a Progressive Majority in Berkeley.** These candidates have been endorsed by Berkeley Citizens Action, Berkeley Progressive Alliance and Berkeley Tenants Union, during two endorsement events in April 2016; Details of the convention can be found [here](#). They were ALL also endorsed by Wellstone Democratic Renewal and John George Democrats plus Berkeley Democratic Caucus. All were also supported or endorsed by AC Greens, see their guide here: <http://tinyurl.com/h8xxhwh>.

Our Progressive candidates have raised significant amount of funds, but this election year is very competitive, as there is an opportunity to elect a progressive majority. Your contributions of money and time are **still very important**. DONATE, WALK & CALL VOTERS. CLICK THE LINKS ON CANDIDATES NAMES, BELOW, TO REACH THEIR WEBSITES.



**JESSE ARREGUIN FOR MAYOR:** Jesse Arreguín. As mayor, “Jesse will bring our city together and get results, so Berkeley moves forward and carries on our tradition of progressive leadership.” A current councilmember, Jesse has progressive vision and a record to back it up. As Mayor, he will work to tackle the affordability crisis by protecting and expanding affordable housing and preventing displacement, so Berkeley remains a diverse and vibrant place to live. Jesse is also endorsed by Bernie Sanders!

Kriss Worthington was the second ranked mayoral candidate at our convention. The BCA Steering Committee suggests you can select him as your second choice.

Laurie Capetelli did not ask for our endorsement and we do not recommend him.



**NANCI ARMSTRONG TEMPLE FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 2:** Nanci Armstrong-Temple, is committed to two things: Berkeley and Justice. She plans to fight for these as Berkeley City Council representative for District 2.” Nanci understands the unique landscape that makes up our small town, which is both diverse and complex. She believes that every resident of Berkeley has the right to experience a safe and equitable Berkeley, as well as responsive and ethical leadership. Cheryl Davila might be your second choice in ranked choice voting. Darryl Moore did not ask for the BCA endorsement and the BCA Steering Committee does not recommend that you vote for him.



**BEN BARTLETT FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 3:** Ben Bartlett, says his “campaign is about defending progressive values, responsive government, inclusion, and environmental sustainability... Berkeley, like most places, has a growing gap between Opportunity and Affordability, and a deepening conflict between Prosperity and Sustainability. These are the issues of our times.” Endorsed by retiring councilmember Max Anderson, Ben's priorities are affordable housing, especially for seniors, preventing displacement of long time residents, keeping Alta Bates open and using emergency response teams, not police for mental health calls. Mark Coplan also asked for our endorsement, you may want to rank him second. Al Murray and Deborah Matthews did not ask for endorsement by BCA.

Renew your membership (\$35 annual/\$10 low income): Berkeley Citizens Action, P.O. Box 9932, Berkeley, CA 94709  
Web: [www.BerkeleyCitizensAction.org](http://www.BerkeleyCitizensAction.org) • Email: [berkeleycitizensaction@gmail.com](mailto:berkeleycitizensaction@gmail.com) • Join us on Facebook



**SOPHIE HAHN FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 5:** Sophie Hahn, active in Berkeley since High School, Sophie’s “commitment to this community, and to causes that exemplify core Berkeley values, has been expressed through continuous leadership, advocacy and service.” As a member of the Zoning Adjustment Board, Sophie has been “the leading advocate for affordable housing and sensitivity to neighborhood concerns.” Her election would move the council significantly toward green progressive values. Her opponent is Stephen Murphy, current chair of the Planning Commission and solidly in the camp of the pro-development power structure. He did not ask for the BCA endorsement and we do not recommend him.



**FRED DODSWORTH FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 6:** Fred Dodsworth, a Berkeley resident since the mid-seventies, a journalist, teacher and former business owner with a lifelong commitment to the environment and social justice issues, Fred’s an independent candidate who will speak truth to power. A pragmatic progressive, Fred supports affordable housing, will work to save Alta Bates and Herrick Hospitals (Fred is the only candidate in District 6 endorsed by the California Nurses Association). He will also work to create real solutions to the needs of homeless and mental health needs in our community and develop responsible, transparent budgets. Fred supports Isabelle Gaston as your 2nd choice in Ranked Choice Voting. The BCA Steering Committee recommends that you not vote for Susan Wengraf. Also refer to his Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/fred.dodsworth>

**PRO TENANT RENT BOARD SLATE**

**CHRISTINA MURPHY, ALEJANDRO SOTO-VIGIL, LEAH SIMON-WEISBERG & IGOR TREGUB**



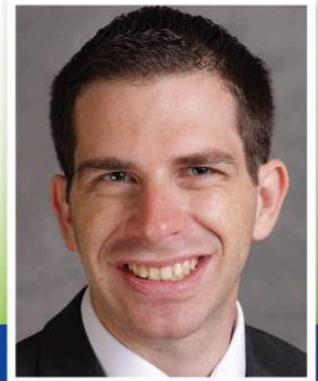
**CHRISTINA MURPHY**



**ALEJANDRO SOTO-VIGIL**



**LEAH SIMON-WEISBERG**



**IGOR TREGUB**

Nearly 400 Berkeley residents packed the South Berkeley Senior Center to select this year’s Pro-Tenant Affordable Housing Slate. With 11 candidates vying for four positions, Berkeley had a large field of housing advocates and tenant activists running for the endorsement. Four very experienced housing experts emerged as the 2016 Berkeley Tenants Convention nominees. Vote for all four. They are opposed by two candidates supported by the Berkeley Property Owners Association, Judy Hunt and Nate Wollman, avoid these two.

The CALI slate was also endorsed by Bernie Sanders. Website: <http://berkeleyrentboard.org/>; Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/CALISlate>

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# BCA MEASURES & PROPOSITIONS ENDORSEMENTS

## City Measures

**T1 Infrastructure (YES)** Permits \$100 million in bonds to fix sidewalks, storm drains, streets, parks, Senior & Rec Centers, etc. For a property assessed at \$600,000, increases taxes by \$128/yr. Public Works plus Parks & Waterfront Commissions will provide community input. Some Steering Committee members want more specificity and accountability about how funds spent. No argument filed against. Needs 66.667% to Pass.

**U1 Rental Unit Business License Tax - City Sponsored (YES, YES, YES!)** Real Affordable housing, protects tenants from homelessness. Written with community & housing advocate input, has broad support, as real estate investors earned more than \$100 million per year in windfall profits. Increases rental property tax about \$30 per unit per month. Housing Advisory Commission to oversee how \$\$ is spent. Provides many exemptions: landlords with only 4 or less units, affordable-housing nonprofits, subsidized low-income units, units with long term tenants, new units for 12 years (to encourage new construction), landlord hardship. Increases cannot be passed to tenants. Conflicts with Measure DD; if both pass, the one with more votes prevails. Needs 50%+ 1 to pass.

**DD Big Landlords Bad Rental License (NO, NO, NO!)** Bankrolled by Big Landlords to get themselves off the hook and confuse voters, who have already spent more than \$780,000 opposing U1. Their initiative raises much less money than U1, costs more, and taxes more small landlords, so Big Landlords pay less. If both U1 and DD pass, the one with more votes prevails. Needs 50%+ 1 to pass.

**V1 Gann Appropriations Limit (YES)** City must get voter approval to spend interest earned from investing previously passed taxes for next 4 years. No Brainer to approve this. No argument filed against. 50%+ 1 to pass.

**W1 Redistricting Commission (YES, YES)** Creates independent body to determine district boundaries, randomly selected from volunteers; won't be appointed by politicians. No argument filed against. Needs 50%+ 1 to pass.

**X1 Public Financing of Campaigns (YES)** Provides candidates for mayor and city council with 6X matching for funds from donors, if they accept new donations limits (maximum \$50). Permits up to \$120,000 for mayor & \$40,000 for council runs. Maplight proposal, heard at BCA forum. No argument filed against. Needs 50%+ 1 to pass.

**Y1 Youth Voting (YES)** Lets 16 & 17 year olds vote for school board candidates, if no city \$\$ is spent & city elections can still be consolidated with county ballots.

**Z1 Low Income Housing Authorization (YES)** Constitution says cities must get periodic voter approval to develop, construct, or buy up to 500 units of housing for low-income tenants. No argument filed against. 50%+ 1 to pass.

**AA Rent Board Ordinance (YES)** Increases tenant protections: delays "no fault" owner-move-in evictions (OMIs) of families with school-age children until end of school year. Voters have required landlords in OMIs to provide relocation help of \$4,500 to only low-income tenants, since 2000. Measure AA would update this amount to \$15,000, and require that it be paid to all tenant households, plus an additional \$5,000 for low-income, disabled, age 60 or older, or long-term (since 1998) tenants. No argument filed in opposition. Needs 50%+ 1 to pass.

**Minimum Wage:** The minimum wage measures on the ballot have been superseded by a late City Council compromise. The new ordinance raised the minimum wage to \$15 per hour on October 1, 2018, with yearly increases; allows up to 72 hours of paid sick leave; ensures employees receive service charges, provides flexible youth-job-training wage for non-profits. Advocates of both measures then went to court - the ballot arguments & rebuttals were pulled. Both sides now ask you "to support the City Council's progressive minimum wage ordinance by **voting NO** on both measures BB & CC, thus enabling the Council ordinance to be the governing law."

**BB Business Backed Minimum Wage Ordinance (NO)**

**CC Citizens Choice Minimum Wage Ordinance (NO)**

**E1 Berkeley Schools Funding (YES)** Renews parcel tax for 8 years. Known as BSEP, first passed in 1986, this tax now provides 20% of school budget. Funds smaller class sizes, enrichment programs, counseling and academic support, and teacher training. Tax is 37 cents per square foot of residential property, with annual cost-of-living increases. Exempts property occupied by very-low-income seniors. Needs Supermajority (66.667%) to Pass.

## Other Local Measures

**A1 Alameda County Affordable Housing bond (YES)** Creates & protects affordable housing options for those who need it most: homeless, seniors, vets, disabled, & workers who cannot find affordable housing near work. Raises up to \$580 million, must be used in our county only, helps renters & homeowners. Needs Supermajority (66.667%) to Pass.

**C1 AC Transit (YES)** Extends existing \$8/month parcel tax at current level for 20 years – no increase in tax rate, raises approximately \$30 million annually. Needs Supermajority (66.667%) to Pass.

**RR BART Bond (YES)** Would authorize BART to issue \$3.5 billion bonds for repair and upgrade of aging tracks, tunnels, train control systems and other infrastructure. Needs Supermajority (66.667%) to Pass.

## Statewide Propositions

**51 School Bonds (YES)** \$9 Billion for school construction. Allows funds to be used for charter schools. Opponents say local bond measures are a better way to raise money for this purpose. Jerry Brown opposes. 66.667% to Pass.

**52 State Fees on Hospitals (YES)** Locks in existing hospital fee gets matching federal \$\$ for the state's Medicaid program for the poor. In 2011, some of this money was diverted to general fund. SEIU-UHW opposed, now neutral, California Nurses didn't take a position.

**53 Revenue Bonds (NO)** Stymies passage of big public work projects by forcing state to go to voters to borrow \$2 billion or more. Bankrolled by wealthy central California farmer.

**54 Legislature 72 hour hold (NO)** Requires bills be available for public and legislative review at least 72 hours before voting; written/funded by billionaire Charles Munger, has the support of Common Cause, League of Women Voters and good governance advocates, incl. Kriss Worthington. Opposed by California Dem. Party, environmental & labor groups.

**55 Tax Extension for Education and Healthcare (YES)** Extends personal income tax for wealthier folk, to support community college, Cal State and Kindergarten through 12th grade funding.

**56 Cigarettes (YES)** Increases cigarette tax to \$2/pack, increases on other tobacco products, e-cigs. Funds health care & quit smoking programs. Broad support, incl. Berkeley Community Health Commission. Opposed by Big Tobacco.

**57 Juvenile Criminal Sentences (YES)** Increases parole and good behavior opportunities for those convicted of nonviolent crimes; allows judges, not prosecutors, to decide whether to try certain juveniles as adults.

**58 Bilingual Education (YES)** Makes it easier for schools to establish bilingual programs for both English learners and native English speakers seeking to gain fluency in a foreign language.

**59 Overturn Citizens United (YES)** Money out, Voters in. Instructs California's elected state and national officials to act NOW to pass a 28th Amendment to US Constitution, end corrupt Super-PACS, end corporate constitutional rights and stop secret money in our elections.

**60 Adult Films (NO ENDORSEMENT)** Requires condoms in sex films, producers to register with state, pay for STD testing. Allows anyone to sue studios, distributors if condoms not used. Condoms are already required, but industry may ignore. Opponents (CA Dems, Republicans & Libertarians, performers group, SF AIDS Foundation) fear this drive industry further underground; sets up proponent Michael Weinstein as "state's porn czar, apparently for life.

**61 Prescription Drugs (YES)** Prohibits state agencies from paying more for medications than US Veterans Affairs pays. Supported by Bernie's Our Revolution. Opposed by Big Pharma.

**62 Death Penalty Repeal (YES, YES, YES)** Repeals death penalty, replaces with life without parole, convicts must work in prison, more of their pay will be taken for restitution.

**63 Automatic Weapons Ammunition (YES)** Background checks for ammo purchases, bans large-capacity magazines, (already prohibited by state law in July). Exempts police/retired police, reports purchases to State, so it is opposed by gun lobbies, police, SF & AC Greens, Black Lives Matter, Peace & Freedom; support by gun control proponents.

**64 Marijuana (YES, YES, YES)** Legalizes growing marijuana & hemp; enacts 15% sales tax plus cultivation tax, exceptions for medical marijuana. Prevents licenses for corporate or large-scale marijuana businesses for 5 years.

**65 Plastic Bag Fees (NO)** Bag fees for carryout bags would go to a special fund handled by state Wildlife Conservation Board, not to retailers. Four out-of-state plastic bag companies, who keep interfering with our efforts to reduce plastic pollution, put this on the ballot.

**66 Reform Death Penalty (NO)** Increases risk that an innocent person will be executed. Requires appeal to be heard and lawyers assigned sooner. Opponents (Ella Baker Center, labor groups, exec board of Ca. Dems, ACLU) say this would make it harder to appeal death penalty; Supported by sheriffs, police & DAs.

**67 Reaffirm Plastic Bag Ban (YES, YES, YES)** Veto Referendum. Reaffirms bag ban. A "YES" vote is a vote in favor of upholding legislation banning plastic bags enacted by the Legislature. Say NO to Big Plastic Bag Manufacturers, by VOTING YES to reaffirm the Plastic Bag Ban.

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