

Measure E. Goes Down to Defeat

By Chris Lavin

Orinda voters said “No” once again June 5 when the city asked them to approve a bond to fix the roads, drainage ditches and water pipes along much of the city’s 92 miles of collapsing infrastructure.

The measure failed 4,031 to 2,323, a majority of 63.44 percent. It needed 66 percent to pass.

The special election for Measure E had proved contentious, with those against approving \$59 million in bonds saying that city officials had made poor fiscal decisions in recent years – including building

a deluxe new City Hall – and failing to require the fire district to pony up more funds. A similar measure also failed last November.

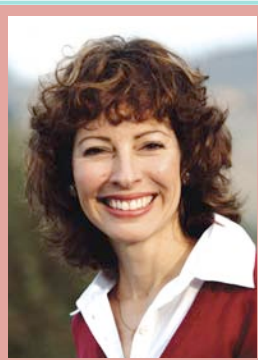
“I’m very disappointed in the outcome,” said Mayor Steve Glazer.

The failure at the ballot box leaves the city in a conundrum; less than \$1 million is allocated each year to road repairs, and a Citizen’s Infrastructure Committee assigned with the task estimated Orinda needed as much as \$95 million to bring roads and pipes up to standard. Potholes proliferate throughout

residential roads, and some areas – including along Moraga Way and Glorietta – are facing eroding substructure that, unless repaired soon, will cost many times what it would to repair now, Glazer said.

It appears that supporters of a bond measure, who responded so quickly to the bond’s failure in November by immediately mounting a campaign for a special election, will take a break from a new attempt, for now.

“Maybe someday,” Glazer said.



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