

Letters to the Editor • Letters to the Editor • Letters to the Editor •

offered by either measure. Current laws PROHIBIT homes on major ridgelines and severely restrict development on slopes. Taking the small remaining land we've reserved for single family housing will have permanent and profound consequences for Moraga's character, short and long-term financial situation, ultimate quality of life, and even municipal survival.

Measure K will force all current and future affordable housing into our downtown. Our current mandate of high-density affordable housing is very-low (84), low (64), and moderate-income (97) units. These unsubsidized 245-units are today's requirement AND Moraga has told the state that they will rezone 20 acres in our center to 24 units per acre, for affordable housing.

Moraga is projected to go into a deficit next year and worse yet we are exceeding \$80 million in deferred infrastructure costs. Exchanging expensive single-family homes for these affordable units, which do not pay impact fees, and are taxed at the subsidized market rate, will strain the town's ability to provide necessary services. Additionally, it has been estimated that the town of Moraga will lose more than \$400,000 in future revenues each year if Measure K passes. The other losses to our schools, police, and fire departments are likely to total in the millions. We can't afford this.

Vote NO on K and YES on J. www.moragasfuture.com.

Mark Solomon
Moraga

Dear Moragans,
Please join me and the Moraga Citizens Network Steering Committee in offering a heartfelt thank you to the Lamorinda Weekly for co-sponsoring our recent and very successful candidates' night and land initiative forum. Together we have worked to promote an informed Moraga citizenry. Approximately three hundred Moragans attended each event. In addition to providing advertising of the events, the Weekly videotaped in segments each event in its entirety so that people who were not able to attend can view the meetings by accessing www.lamorindaweekly.com or moragacitizensnetwork.org.

Again, thank you Andy and Wendy Scheck, and the Lamorinda Weekly for your generosity and dedication to our community.
Yours gratefully,
Janet Forman

Lafayette

To the Editor:

I have had the privilege to serve alongside three Lafayette Councilmembers running for reelection in 2008—Mike Anderson, Carl Anduri, and Carol Federighi. I do not always agree with each of them on every issue, but I always know these things:

- They each bring years of professional experience and volunteer service to the City.
- They each express their positions and arguments articulately and, when necessary, passionately.
- They each consider the views of others. They listen carefully to our citizens, our staff, and each other.
- They each seek positive consensus or compromise that will enable Lafayette to move forward.
- None of them allow ideological intransigence to stand in the way of decisions that serve the interests of Lafayette.
- They each put in the hard word it sometimes takes to work out an effective solution to a difficult issue.

The result is a record of efficient management of City resources and accomplishment of City goals: conservative fiscal management, protection of hillsides and ridgelines, careful development of the downtown, and continuing efforts to repair and maintain our roads. Lafayette has been well served by these talented and experienced public servants, and I encourage you to return them to office.

Sincerely,
Brandt Andersson

Dear Editor,
The Lafayette City Council uses taxpayer funds to publish Lafayette Vistas, a newsletter used to influence public opinion. This month's Vistas is aimed at influencing the results of the upcoming election. It is a one-sided propaganda piece that uses facts selectively and specifically rebuts many of the criticisms that Gabriel Froymovich, their only challenger, has raised.

Public funds should not be spent for political propaganda, but the article printed on the back page upset me even more. The article, entitled "Ten Ways to Destroy Your Town," is a condescending screed chastising Lafayette's residents for being too troublesome. The number one way to destroy Lafayette, according to the article? "Complain about local government officials."

I cannot believe someone felt that a good use for our tax dollars would be to print an article telling us to pipe down. This is wildly offensive, un-democratic and a poor way to spend our money when there are roads that need to be fixed.

I urge any of Lafayette's residents who would rather not pay to be told to quiet down to vote for only one candidate for Lafayette City Council: the only challenger, Gabriel Froymovich.

Sincerely,
Gordon Mattonen
Lafayette

Dear Editor,
My late husband and I moved to Lafayette sixty years ago and he practiced medicine here for over 35 years. There were no stop lights, plenty of pear and walnut orchards, wonderful neighbors that have remained life long friends and excellent local schools attended by all of our five children.

I have never written a letter to the editor in support of a local candidate, but am doing so today in support of Carl Anduri's re-election to the Lafayette City Council. Carl is well educated with the right kind of experience that allows him to properly oversee City finances with fiscal integrity. He also supports maintaining Lafayette's semi-rural atmosphere as do I. There have been letters to the editor calling on Lafayette residents to vote for only one candidate for the Lafayette City Council. That seems to be rather 'un-democratic'. I am voting for Carl along with the other two incumbents so Lafayette will continue to be 'inclusive' rather than 'exclusive'.

Sincerely,
Shirley P. Callister

Dear Editor
This month's Lafayette Vistas, the informational, monthly mailing from our city government saddened me. Most of it seemed to be aimed at making pro-council arguments during election season, which strikes me as an unethical use of taxpayer money. But what do I know? According to an article in this month's Vistas, complaining about local government officials is the number one way to destroy our town.

Well, if I can't complain I guess I'll vote. I have decided this year to vote for Gabriel Froymovich because I believe, given the chance, he will make a difference in our spending policies.
David Weidberg
Lafayette

Dear Editor:
I have worked with Carl Anduri for three years on the Lafayette Roads Task Force, a group of volunteers endeavoring to raise funds to repair our failing neighborhood roads and drains. This group, which is co-chaired by Carl, was set up to study all the possible alternative ways to fund our road and drain repair shortfall. In addition to initiating the last Road Campaign ballot measure, which received 65% voter approval, this group under Carl's tutelage has worked with other City Council members and staff to allocate every available dollar of the City's General Fund toward road and drain repair. Over \$15 million dollars has been allocated by the City Council since 2004 to resolve this once \$30 million problem. I am confident with Carl's leadership the City will continue to allocate every possible General Fund dollar to repair our remaining failing roads and drains. Please join me in re-electing Carl Anduri to the Lafayette City Council.
Guy Atwood
Lafayette

Dear Editor:
The City of Lafayette is constrained in its revenues due to its having, in 1968, incorporated as a "no tax" city. In spite of this limitation the City has attained an AA Bond rating for its General Fund revenues and an A Bond rating for its Redevelopment Agency Fund (RDA) revenues. The A Bond rating on RDA Funds makes Lafayette the smallest city in California with such a high rating. Bravo!! Such success is primarily due to strong fiscal management of its finances and operations by its staff and careful oversight by its City Council members. Carl Anduri, Carol Federighi, and our mayor, Mike Anderson, have shown strong leadership in managing the City's finances and supporting the many grant programs that have upgraded the city's infrastructure and improved safety for all of our residents. For example, the City Council has allocated over \$15 million to repair the city's failing roads and drains during the past four years.

I am confident that under their proven leadership the City will continue its history of strong fiscal management.

Please join me in re-electing Carl Anduri, Carol Federighi and Mike Anderson, who is also our current mayor, to the Lafayette City Council on November 4th.

Lynn Hiden
Lafayette

Editor:

I am a Lafayette resident, and write to urge fellow residents to support the three incumbent City Council members who are running for re-election - Mr. Anduri, Ms. Federighi and Mr. Anderson.

There is one challenger – Mr. Froymovich. In the voting booth, I urge you to silently thank him for his involvement and good intentions, then vote for the incumbents.

I am a practicing land use attorney with nearly ten years of experience. Land use, and related impacts to a city's finances, is the predominant and most complicated issue that cities like Lafayette must confront. California has some of the most, if not the most, complex land use laws in the country. The existing Council members have extensive experience grappling with these laws.

Mr. Froymovich has demonstrated in his campaign literature a tenuous - and incorrect at that - grasp of these laws. More troubling, he exhibits a highly ideological predisposition that would prevent him from objectively learning and applying these laws. I submit that we have had enough of ideology trumping considered judgment in this country in recent years. Please keep it out of Lafayette.

James Andrew
Lafayette

Fireboard, Measure E, Measure WW

Dear Editor,

Schools, like all government entities, are masters at marketing their insatiable desire for more money. Money for them is 'fungible', in that ANY money raised simply frees up other money for other purposes. They do not have to be honest about why they want to raise the money. As a result, they simply market to you what you want most, even if the increased supply of money simply enables them to increase payrolls. What could be easier for them than to market to your love of your children. Too bad you can't judge the competent use of all the funds. Top heavy administrative staffs are typical.

Look at your property tax bill. Look at both sides of it (i.e. Special Taxes, and Ad Valorem taxes). Acalanes district schools have been generously funded. Government entities receive better hedges against rising costs than you do with your wage increases. Parental love leads you to leap well over protection given you by Proposition 13. Great education is not a function of more spending. Measure E is nothing more than a transfer of your discretionary wealth to the School's discretionary wealth; which then becomes your BONDED ENDEBTEDNESS for 10 years.

Sincerely,
Gordon Mattonen
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

For one raised in a 2-generation park ranger family, by a former school teacher mother, it's always been relatively easy to support tax measures for schools and parks. No longer though - Acalanes School District measure "E" - and, East Bay Park District Measure "WW", both reflect imprudent application of scarce taxpayer levies.

"E" is both deceitful and reflective of ill-apportioned earlier Measure "B" tax revenues (over half of proceeds to athletic facilities - with, mostly single digit percentages going for vital infrastructure needs).

"E" also claims "no increased tax" - yet, it will now tax "seniors" "opted out" from the \$43 mil. earlier bond. And, the proposed \$93 mil tax will be extended beyond existing bonds maturation, thus for kids and grandkids to pay (hugely increased tax and bond interest totals).

"WW" plays an equally unwarranted game on region taxpayers!

It aims to buy even more land - this, when unable to maintain that already owned. Further, existing over-generous public employee wages, salaries and benefits, consume revenues which otherwise could go to maintenance - especially, if major portions of upkeep and maintenance were put up for outsourced contact bids.

Vote NO on "E" and "W"
Donald Lively
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

This letter is directed to my friends and neighbors in the Moraga Orinda Fire District Zone 2 who will have the opportunity on November 4 to reelect Fred Weil to the MOFD Board of Directors.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Fred. He is a man dedicated to the Fire District and wants only the very best for its residents. This has been clearly shown by his continued support for service improvements, such as the upgrading of a second ambulance to full-time staffing, a strong Public Education program and continuing education for all personnel. His past experience as a Board member of our two local school districts is an invaluable asset to our Fire District. He has a keen eye for financial matters and understands the issues facing the District. He is a consensus builder and tries to seek solutions to difficult problems, but is not afraid to make the tough decisions.

The only choice for Fire District Board Director of Zone 2 is Fred Weil.

Gordon Nathan
Past Director of the
Moraga/Orinda Fire District

To the Editor:

When our daughters attended Campolindo High School, California's public schools stood as benchmarks for excellence. Sadly, California's leadership among school systems has declined due to the failure to adequately invest in public education. Our local schools, however, have retained their place among the best public schools in the nation for one reason - local support.

Now, as we watch our grandchildren head off to our local high schools, we see, firsthand, the need to continue local investment in our quality schools. Campolindo, which was built 47 years ago, is in desperate need of repair and upgrades. Similarly, each of the schools in the Acalanes district is in need of infrastructure upgrades to support the technology our students are expected to use today. Measure E will provide the funds to make sure that our local high schools continue to provide access to the same excellent education that once made California's schools the envy of the nation.

Please join us in voting Yes on Measure E. It's a vote for our future, our children's future, and the future of our children's children.

Bill and Connie Mueser
Moraga

To the Editor:

When it came to chose a place to raise our family, the Lamorinda area rose to the top of the list for one simple reason: the quality of the schools. Good public schools and good communities are nearly inseparable and Measure E is an investment in both.

Measure E dollars will stay right here in Lamorinda to update our local high schools and upgrade the infrastructure to support the computers and technology that is essential for today's students. Additionally, Measure E will establish a \$6 million technology replacement fund to ensure that our students gain the skills expected in today's businesses.

Some may argue that this is not the time to ask voters to approve a school facilities bond. I'd argue that just the opposite is true. With historically low interest rates and declining construction costs, this is the best time to approve an investment in our schools.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure E. It's one vote guaranteed to bring a return on our investment.
Stacy Ashby
Moraga

To the Editor:

I urge Lamorinda voters to join me in voting Yes on Measure E for the four high schools in the Acalanes High School District. Each of the Acalanes District schools is approximately 50 years and each is need of repairs, electrical upgrades, and numerous infrastructure improvements.

Measure E asks Lamorinda voters to protect their investment in the schools by approving a bond measure that will raise the funds to renovate our high schools and establish a

ten-year technology replacement fund to ensure that computers and classroom equipment are up-to-date and accessible to students. And, Measure E does this without taking scarce funding from classroom programs and without raising homeowners' current tax rates.

I'm sure I speak for many of the Lamorinda families who, like me, attended the Acalanes schools and have returned to this community to raise our own children and send them to the same excellent schools. Our schools are community assets that serve us well and are worthy of our investment.

Mary McCosker
Lafayette

Editor:

Fred Weil has had a profound, positive impact on Moraga during the 35 years he and his family have lived here. He has 26 years total service on three local governing Boards: our Moraga-Orinda Fire District (where he is currently Board President); the Acalanes High School Board (4 times President) and the Moraga Elementary School board (President twice). Undoubtedly, he has the Board service, leadership experience and the managerial, financial and legal skills that are the essential prerequisites one should look for when voting for a Fire Board candidate.

Fred has also "given back" to our community in a multitude of additional ways, from serving as President of the Campolindo Homeowners Association, to chairing the LMYA Girls Softball League, through serving as Director of the Soda Aquatic Center... the list goes on and on.

Our Moraga-Orinda Fire District is currently facing some difficult financial challenges. Fred has successfully faced similar budgetary challenges during his prior service on our two local school boards. He's been there before and has come through for us taxpayers. When you consider whom to vote for, please select Fred because of his outstanding record of prior Board service, his superior knowledge of our Fire District's finances and operations, his laudable past service to our community, and his commitment to serving only the interests of our Fire District's residents, voters and taxpayers.

Stan Holcenberg
Moraga

Editor:

Voters in Orinda and Moraga have a clear choice in the upcoming election for two Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board seats. Current Fire Board members, Dr. Gene Gottfried and Fred Weil, have outstanding records of public service, not just on the Fire Board, but across a wide spectrum of activities in their respective communities. The Orinda Association recently selected Dr. Gottfried as "Orinda's Volunteer of the Year" for his broad public service. Mr. Weil has 26 years of local Board Service. In addition to our Fire Board (where he is currently President), Weil has also served on the Boards of the Acalanes High School District and the Moraga Elementary School District. Both gentlemen have the Board experience, the knowledge and the financial skills that we need now during these difficult economic times that will certainly bring new financial challenges to our fire district.

They are being opposed by two former members of the Firefighters Union's Local 1230, which Local represents the Fire District's employees. Thanks to a recent investigative story in a local newspaper, we now know that the Firefighters Union has bestowed large sums of money on both Union candidates. The Local has paid for their signs and slate mailers and has also given \$1,000 cash to each. The same news story also reported that Mr. Weil's opponent had totally failed to report those Union donations in his campaign finance statement filing. The Union's two candidates loudly proclaim that their firefighting experience somehow qualifies them to be Board members. Not so! Where firefighting experience really matters is in the Fire Chief's and Battalion Chief's positions. Fire Chief Pete Nowicki and each of his Battalion Chiefs have all attained higher educational levels, have more professional certifications and collectively they have far more firefighting experience than either of the Union's candidates. The Union's candidates would therefore add absolutely nothing to our Fire District's firefighting knowledge base and skill set.

The choice is absolutely clear. Vote for Gottfried and Weil. Only then can you be totally confident that your Fire Board's members will represent only the interests of Moraga's and Orinda's citizens.

Richard J. ("Dick") Olsen, Former Moraga Fire Commissioner
Moraga

Advertising

Dear Orinda Community

Bob Larsen should be ashamed of himself for engaging in a sleazy campaign for Orinda City Council. In newspaper ads, debates and letters to the editor, he makes false claims, insults community volunteers, and is hypocritical on issues central to his campaign. These are pretty strong words but let me back them up with specifics – something he routinely fails to do.

Larsen claims I appoint my friends to City Commissions: I am proud of the fact that we have 78 Orinda residents involved in governing our city on various commissions and task forces. This is an increase from 35 just two years ago. There is no truth to his charge that I appoint my friends. In fact, I do not have a social relationship with any of the current appointees. He is mad that he applied for three commissions and was not selected. He fails to note that his wife was appointed to the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture panel and the spouse of his campaign treasurer's was appointed to our new Budget Committee. I am sorry Larsen's feelings are hurt but that is not a reason to make a false claim and to insult the many other volunteers appointed.

When I ran for Council, and during my four years of service, I have recused myself from any discussions and decisions on the Wilder project. I have a relationship with a financial partner of the project and the law requires this. Larsen lives next to this project and dislikes it. He has attended numerous Council meeting to raise concerns about it. About 18 months ago, he spoke to the Council and said I should be recalled because of my legally required decision to leave the room (recusal). He wanted me to vote on his concerns. When he declared his campaign for Council he sent out a news release attacking my recusal; now he says that he must recuse himself if he is elected. He also says that even though he will recuse himself, he will stay in the meeting room to help his friends. While his compassion is admirable, his ignorance of the law is not.

In newspaper ads, Larsen screams scandal with his "follow the money" attack. He doesn't give a single example of where any contribution influenced a council vote. It is simply a smear. In the last reporting period for contributions, 99% of my contributions came from Orinda residents. On the other hand, Larsen received 95% of his contributions from folks outside of Orinda. I don't care if Larsen has "friends" from outside Orinda contributing. But if he is going to make a claim of corruption, he should back it up with specifics.

The voters of Orinda deserve better than Larsen's sleazy campaign.

Steve Glazer, Orinda
City Council Member

Steve Glazer for Orinda City Council,
61 La Espiral Road, Orinda, CA 94563

Gabriel Froymovich

No Challenger Has Won a Race for Lafayette City Council in Over 35 Years!

Let's Give the People of Lafayette a Voice on the Council.



Vote for Gabriel Froymovich for Lafayette City Council.

Visit www.Vote94549.com for more information or call Gabriel at **299-1807**.

Committee Information:
Campaign for a Fiscally Responsible Lafayette, 3546 Wildwood Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549.