

Letters to the Editor

Love Lafayette

Sadly, "Save Lafayette" has succeeded.

They have succeeded in saving Lafayette from the most intelligent, creative, honest, energetic, thoughtful and caring City Manager we could ever hope to have. Why, oh why if these people do not like how Lafayette is organized, don't they move elsewhere and leave those of us who love Lafayette in peace?

Mary Ann Hoisington
Lafayette

Danziger for MOFD District 3

I heartily endorse Steve Danziger for Moraga-Orinda Fire District 3. I've known Steve since he was Scoutmaster of my son's troop 16 years ago. Steve is genuine, honest and extremely capable with a great sense of humor. He has over 20 years of public service experience, including as an Administrative Manager with the Oakland Fire Department, and has the knowledge and the background to hit the ground running. His goals include, but are not limited to, maintaining and enhancing fire safety, being fiscally responsible and accountable and strengthening relationships with the staff and the community. He will bring a knowledge, passion and experience that will help guide MOFD into the future. If you are in District 3, I urge you to vote for Steve Danziger on or before November 6th.

Susie Epstein
Orinda

Acalanes Union High School Governing Board

Steve Woehleke for council

I am writing to strongly and enthusiastically recommend that all Moragans cast their vote for Steve Woehleke for Moraga Town Council. My wife, Marianna Laurence, and I have lived in Moraga for 20 years and have known Steve and his wife Peggy since our daughters became friends while attending Moraga's public schools. I have personally served as trustee on the Moraga School Board so understand what it takes to be a successful public servant representing our special community. Since getting to know Steve, I have seen his unwavering commitment to our town demonstrated through sustained leadership serving on both the Design Review Board and Moraga Planning Commission. This exemplary level of service combined with Steve's education background and professional experience make him an ideal candidate to serve on our Town Council at this critical time. What we need most now is a seasoned leader who brings an objective, analytical and disciplined approach to decision-making. Steve has the temperament and expertise to set the right priorities, taking into account sound management of our fiscal resources and physical assets while keeping in mind the quality of life we enjoy. Steve uniquely brings these critical leadership and business skills to the table. We can count on Steve to be laser-focused on immediate critical issues without losing sight of the need to plan for the future. Steve's platform says it best, "Better decisions. Better outcomes."

Please join Marianna and me and vote for Steve Woehelke for Moraga Town Council.

Steve Hirsch
Moraga

Susan Candell and Ivor Samson for Lafayette City Council

We are so fortunate to live in this small tightknit community where volunteering is the norm and where we all know one another. Most of the candidates running for City Council have served our community in many ways, for many years.

But unfortunately, simply being involved in our community isn't enough for someone to earn our vote. Our vote needs to be based on issues and facts, voting records and the candidate's philosophical ideas about our community and how it should be governed.

For me, it is simple. I am voting for the two candidates that I feel have the professional experience and technical background that we need, the sincere willingness to listen to all sides and work together on issues, the strength to stand up for their constituents on difficult issues, and the integrity that will help them guide our city.

So before you cast your vote, I encourage you to ask all the candidates questions, attend a meet and greet, read their websites or flyers. Make sure that your priorities align with theirs, and that you share the same vision for Lafayette.

If you do, I am convinced you will come up with the same answer as me. While we have five nice people running for office, Susan and Ivor are the best qualified candidates to lead our city. They have earned my vote.

Traci Reilly
Former Vice Mayor 2015, City Council Member 2012-2016

Bauer-Kahan and immigration

In this election, our values matter more than ever before. The Trump Administration has acted completely antithetical to American values by instituting a Muslim ban and separating children from their parents. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan is the only candidate running for Assembly who has stood up to Trump time after time. When the Administration announced the Muslim ban, Rebecca rushed to SFO to coordinate legal services for those impacted. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Rebecca is paying it forward, to provide refugees and immigrants the ability to strive for the American Dream that her own grandparents had. In office, Rebecca will continue to fight the Administration's anti-immigrant policies, including ensuring state resources aren't used to divide children from their parents. I've known Rebecca for years as a valued member of our community. She's a person of character and integrity, with a strong moral compass, who always stands up to injustice and fights for what's right. She is the clear choice for Assembly District 16.

Tamara Ireland Stone
Orinda

No on Prop 8

I am a client of the Fresenius dialysis clinic in Walnut Creek. The care I have received at this facility is anything but what is depicted by the "YES" on 8 television commercials. The staff is well trained, attentive and obsessed with cleanliness and maintaining sterility. I have never seen a client/staff ratio of less than 5:1. This, in addition to nurses and doctors who are on site. Contrary to what is depicted in the "Yes on 8" commercials, I have never seen any cockroaches and the only bloodstains I have seen are my own.

While some patients may be charged \$150,000 for treatment, the reality is, under Federal law, the vast majority of dialysis patients are covered under Medicare. In my case Fresenius bills Medicare \$4,952 for each treatment - 3 times per week. Medicare "allows" \$345! I'm not smart enough to know if Fresenius charges too much or Medicare allows too little. However, it does not appear that Fresenius is coining money. Their annual report confirms this: In 2017, they reported net income of \$1.3 billion. Euros on revenues of \$17.8 billion. Euros, a 7.3 percent profit margin. The average for Fortune 500 firms in 2017 was 11 percent.

Even the smart money on Wall Street agrees they are not coining money. Their stock has seriously under performed the averages during the two-year old bull market. (Fresenius is a German-based company whose stock is traded on the NYSE as FMC.)

We don't need another costly, inefficient state bureaucracy monitoring the activities of dialysis clinics. Medicare already keeps a tight reign on these facilities.

Proposition 8 has nothing to do with patient care in dialysis clinics or its cost to the taxpayers. It is an attempt by the unions to organize the workers in these clinics and fatten their coffers with increased dues.

Steven Richards
Orinda

Bauer-Kahan gets my vote

As an attorney, I pride myself on being able to sift through inconsistent facts and assertions; I search for hard evidence that will lead me to the truth. I am the recipient of multiple mailers from Catherine Baker that severely distort the truth about her record on environmental protection. The California League of Conservation Voters carefully tallied up all of Baker's votes and gave her a low grade on environmental issues. I am particularly repelled by Baker's slanderous television ad implying that Bauer-Kahan has taken bribes from lobbyists. The ad is almost identical to the one she ran against her opponent in 2016. I need a candidate who shares my values on environmental protection and basic human decency. Baker had demonstrated a lack of decency in her disgusting attacks on Bauer-Kahan. Democrat Rebecca Bauer-Kahan gets my vote!

Elaine Gerstler, Esq.
Orinda

In support of gun violence prevention laws

As a mother of three, I'm beyond concerned about the horrific, bloody gun violence in our schools. Children and teachers are dying - we have no more time to waste. We must elect leaders who will enact gun violence prevention laws right now. I was upset to discover that my own Assemblymember, Catharine Baker, did not support closing a loophole in 2017 to keep guns off school campuses (AB 424), even though her mailers say she supports gun safety. I am now supporting Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who has pledged to vote on the side of gun sense every single time, to protect all human lives, especially those of our children.

Holly Grossman
Lafayette

Eve and Kathleen straightforward choice

Like many Orindans, my wife and I attended the City Council Forum to hear positions and responses to questions from the five candidates. We thought the moderator did a good job asking a variety of questions that the audience submitted. She asked enough pertinent questions to clarify roughly two distinctive perspectives among the candidates.

As a long-term resident, active in volunteering and political affairs, I am concerned with maintaining our excellent schools (presumably all candidates are), safety, quality neighborhoods, and the semi-rural character of Orinda, the basis of our General Plan. For those questioning "semi-rural character," refer to the General Plan, (<https://www.cityoforinda.org/269/General-Plan-Housing-Element-Sections-1,2,4,5>). Semi rural character includes the idea of "organic development" - projects like the Montessori school, which would have been located in the old abandoned

Phairs building site, that along with dozens of young mothers I strongly supported, and projects like Bella Oaks, which would have been across from the library. In both cases, the developers went to great measures to comply with the General Plan and Orinda's municipal code, including height and volume requirements. The City Council at the time (except for incumbent Eve Phillips who supported Bella Oaks) killed both of these projects. Eve Phillips and Kathleen Jenkins, whom I know well, favor an "organic development" approach to improve Orinda's downtown, and make it more vibrant.

Listening to candidates Dennis Fay and Nick Kosla, I got the opposite impression and am troubled by their perspective. Both said they viewed Orinda's General Plan as a living document. Both seemed less concerned with preserving Orinda's semi-rural character. Nick Kosla, thought the downtown should be more centralized. This approach reminds me of The Urban Land Institute recommendations. Those recommendations focus on "housing as the value enhancer" theme (to fund the development). As mentioned in their presentation, ULI recommended 240 new downtown condos, in six new buildings, with a six-story building height. This seriously violates our general plan and semi-rural character, let alone numerous other problems. My take away from the City Council Forum is that candidates Dennis Fay and Nick Kosla are in accord with this kind of vision for the downtown.

Of course these are my generalizations. But for me, they are sufficiently clear that voting for Kathleen Jenkins and incumbent Eve Phillips is the best choice for Orinda. Be sure to vote. It's your city.

Chris Kniel
Orinda

Vote for Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio ... and also get involved!

As the mother of a 3 year old, a small business owner and someone who strives to be an active member of our community, I realize how much work it is to sometimes get out the door, never mind get big things done. It's difficult and time consuming to navigate the system, learn all of the players and create the time to not only get involved, but also be a leader.

There is value in years of experience in volunteering on school boards, a local commissions or citizens task forces. For that reason, among others, I am supporting and voting for Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio in this election.

These two women are great examples of what it takes to be invested in our community. Vote for Teresa and Karen.

Most of all, I encourage all of us to learn by their dedication to our city and get involved in whichever way you can. Yes, use social media to be engaged, and also vote and identify a civic passion to give your time. That is how we can all Love Lafayette a bit better this Nov. 6.

Thanks!
Lauren McCabe Herpich
Lafayette

A vote for women's rights

Many of my surgical patients are women with breast cancer, so I am naturally appalled at the Trump Administration's efforts to severely rein in women's rights, including limiting funding for critical women's health programs. I was worried about these issues in California, so I did some research. Our Assemblymember, Catharine Baker, opposed funding for the "Every Woman Counts" program that provides women in underserved communities with cancer-prevention tests including clinical breast exams, pelvic exams, mammograms,

and Pap tests. Baker also opposed the Reproductive Fact Act, which sought to protect women from unlicensed medical providers. As a surgeon, I cannot in good conscience vote for Baker given her votes. I am voting for Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who has pledged to reliably champion women's rights.

Mary Cardoza, MD, FACS
Lafayette

Recommendations for Moraga Town Council

Dave Trotter: Dave and I have not always seen eye to eye on some issues, but we recently had an open and fair conversation about those subjects and walked away agreeing to let bygones stay there. Dave is a tireless worker on Moraga's behalf, a convincing mediator/negotiator, and a personable, congenial man. Notwithstanding, our past differences are outweighed by the continuity, intelligence and immense 'local knowledge' and leadership he brings to our Town Council.

Mike McCluer: Mike is relatively new to me, but the first thing that struck me about this fellow was his upbeat, contagious and powerful personality. Of course, I investigated his curriculum vitae and found him highly qualified, including an MBA. He has also worked with non-profit groups relative to children and the homeless. I see him as a selfless man with boundless energy and optimism along with solid business experience and credentials. It appears he has a realistic, broad-based view of our world and its problems.

He also appears to me, first impression, to be skilled at a natural discourse with folks unknown to him, affable and unassuming.

Woehleke: The person or persons responsible for making election signs which appear to imply that McCluer and Woehleke are running in combination is blatantly false. McCluer has publicly denounced this peculiar practice. These two men are very different in both their views and personalities.

I cannot in good conscience recommend Steve Woehleke. My own grandfather was a Civil Engineer who described his own professional associates as "a group that looks through the wrong end of the telescope," meaning they might be unaware and thus ignore many of the other myriad influences and elements in play which may be important to a project's impact and its influence at large.

I fear he lacks the vision, temperament and 'people' skills for it. He may be a good fit for the Planning Commission, but certainly not the Town Council IMO.

Fritz Stoop
Moraga

Gerringer for Lafayette City Council

We are writing this letter in support of Teresa Gerringer for the Lafayette City Council.

We have worked closely with Teresa for years, including when she was Co-Chairman of the Fundraising Campaign for the magnificent Lafayette Library and Learning Center and also when she was a liaison from the Community Foundation in building the Rotary stage at the Lafayette Reservoir. From personal experience we know Teresa is trustworthy, hard-working, and smart. She knows how Lafayette works and how to make it better.

On the City Council, she would work collaboratively and provide outstanding leadership for our town as it confronts issues of growth, housing, and traffic.

Please join us in voting for Teresa Gerringer for City Council on Nov. 6.

Dick and Robin Holt
Lafayette Co-Citizens of the Year, 2017

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