

Election Season SPECIAL POLICY

Letters to the Editor Letters related to a candidate running for office should be a maximum of 200 words so that we will have room to publish as many letters as possible. Letters regarding ballot measures will remain up to 350 words maximum. Deadline is now NOON on Thursday prior to the issue date.

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

JOIN US FOR A ZOOM WEBINAR

CANDIDATES NIGHT

CITY COUNCIL

October 1 ★ 7PM

AUHSD & BART BOARD

October 6 ★ 7PM

GO TO: LAFAYETTEHOMEOWNERSCOUNCIL.ORG

Letters to the editor

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No on R

The city is asking to raise the current half-cent sales tax to 1 cent for 20 years without telling me how this money will be spent. It is not sufficient to say it will be used for "essential services" without committing specified amounts and providing a, year by year, 20 year, detailed plan for expenditures and the expected results. It feels to me that we are simply being asked to sign a blank check. If the city plans are inadequate or poorly executed I expect they will return, asking me for yet more money. Surely this increased tax will hurt struggling businesses and residents.

I will vote no on this tax as the city already has my half-cent sales tax money for "essential services" till 2023 when the current tax expires. These most unusual times are not conducive to a 20-year tax.
Heather Allen
Orinda resident and teacher

Private road bailout?

So some Orinda residents want the government to bail them out from the costs of maintaining their multi-million dollar homes?

Every homeowner on private streets signed legally binding agreements acknowledging their liability for maintaining the private streets.

But now it is too expensive and they want a government bail-out?

I think the money would be better spent to improve education in low income communities in our state.
Don Mahoney
Moraga

A Time to Refrain From Taxation

If the City truly is serious about protecting us from deadly wildfires, it should not have been waiting for a new tax. It needs to be removing fuel right now, by redirecting existing incoming tax money and postponing some non-essential ongoing projects. Instead, the Council is baiting us with Measure R - a 20-year general tax largely intended for road and drainage infrastructure (based on a poorly researched, incomplete, study) with an insufficient and tiny proportion planned for fire. Please don't fall for this deceptively promoted measure. Instead, we need a 5-year \$150 fire-fuel specific parcel tax on the earliest possible ballot, and postpone any general sales tax increase until we see if and how the local economy recovers. Based on recent survey responses, augmented by terrifying current experiences, a fire parcel tax will easily garner the 2/3 vote. It will also produce more fire-specific revenue. On the other hand, if Measure R passes, those of us who truly care about fire safety and infrastructure will likely be disappointed.

The measure R increase combined with County Measure X sales tax would bring Orinda's already high rate to 9.75%, and hurt our local businesses as some try to survive. While not necessarily driving patrons away, higher sales tax more heavily impacts businesses in a different way. While inventory for resale is not taxable, fixtures and equipment and even many business supplies are taxable. Physical components of most home, building and vehicle repairs are also taxable. A company or unemployed resident needing a repair

or replacement will pay higher sales tax on most or all of the transaction.

While many residents are surviving economically, at least for now, I refuse to vote away the money of those who aren't, to a 20-year uncommitted tax that the City will often spend inefficiently, based on my 26 years in Orinda. Let's let those of our residents and businesses who are struggling, recover. Please vote NO on R.
Joel Libove
Orinda

Yes on Measure R

Orinda residents should vote yes on Measure R. My young family lives in the Orinda hills and each morning that I drive these windy roads with my two preschool aged children, I am reminded what dire need we are of increased fire mitigation to keep all of our families safe.

Wildfire prevention is urgently needed now more than ever because of years of growth buildup and Orinda's all-time high risk of fire danger. Measure R will devote the needed funds to fire fuel reduction including an expanded chipper program and cleanup of overhanging branches and trees that endanger evacuation routes. All Orinda residents will benefit from the funds, including those on private roads. I've seen the terrifying pictures of other fires where trees fell and blocked roads and with these needed upgrades to keep our roads clear from unnecessary brush, we can avoid that disaster in our community.

For our families, for our young children, for the future of Orinda, let's vote yes on Measure R, providing badly-needed funding for fuel reduction along roads and

other measures to improve our chances of surviving a wildfire. Please, vote yes to help keep Orinda safe!
Betsy Ream
Orinda

Anduri and Dawson endorsements

Carl Anduri possesses deep planning and city council experience that is much needed after Mike Anderson's departure. He is a thoughtful problem solver with an experienced legal mind who can provide guidance on tricky issues. As a city, we face unprecedented legislation that has and can continue to limit our ability as citizens to control our zoning and development. Carl will provide strong leadership that encourages working together over expensive litigation.

Gina Dawson is a successful and results oriented community organizer who brought attention to the PG&E gas pipeline neglect that resulted in actions to improve pipeline and community safety. I met Gina many years ago as part of Sustainable Lafayette and have admired her dedication to our community and high regard for safety and sustainability. Climate change, fire, air quality and safety are challenges that face our state and beyond. We need knowledgeable and dedicated people on city council with proven success in navigating these challenges. Gina gets things done.

Please join me in voting for Carl Anduri and Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council
Karen J. Maggio
Planning Commissioner
Former Sustainable Lafayette Board Member
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MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT - Division 2

Experience • Leadership • Fiscal Responsibility

VOTE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

NATE SMITH

Division 2

NateSmith4mofd.com
www.facebook.com/nate4MOFD



- BA Degree in Economics, University of Michigan
- 13 years private sector Silicon Valley
- Endorsed by The Firefighters of Moraga and Orinda



Preparation and Prevention: "Help me to ensure FireWise, CERT and HeartSafe programs are all aspects of our community and throughout MOFD. Let's embrace a culture and mindset of **Emergency Preparedness and Prevention!**"

Balance: "Our community must **balance prevention with suppression** to enhance safety. I will ensure a balanced approach to fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency medical services."

Fiscal Responsibility: "Fiscal prudence is fundamental to the health of the MOFD and our community. My private sector work experience in Silicon Valley and as a Firefighter in San Ramon gives me a unique skill set to help utilize tax dollars wisely."