

# Letters to the editor

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## No on R

The Measure R Sales Tax measure is placed on the ballot as a “general” tax; as such, it would need only a majority vote for approval. Despite the fact that the City Council therefore cannot legally say how the \$60 million that will be raised by this ‘general’ sales tax over the next 20 years will be spent, at a recent candidate forum one City Council member actually stated that this revenue will in fact be ‘front-loaded’ toward fire prevention/mitigation. This statement runs counter to the City’s own ‘Needs Report’ which showed the vast majority of the funds would be used other than for fire safety (which ‘Needs Report’ this candidate termed ‘misinformation’ at the forum). The problem here is that not only has the City Counsel apparently changed its collective mind on use of funds but also that any statement making this changed plan publicly known will once again run counter to this tax being a “general tax.”

The Measure R sales tax, which would double the sales tax rate and live on for 20 years, had been masquerading as a fire safety measure but all along has also been masquerading as a “general tax”.

I am hoping that the City Council, and all subsequent City Councils over the next 20 years, doesn’t change its mind, once again, when what is needed right now (look out your window) is a true fire safety tax that all Orindans can count on in the future. What the City is asking for is a 20-year year blank check so it can decide that some other use of your money is more important.

I am voting NO on Measure R and am asking you to do the same.

It has been almost 30 years since the devastating Oakland/Berkeley Hills firestorm, and the City has spent virtually nothing on fire safety or fire preparedness.

The City does not need this new, doubled 20-year sales tax right now -- in the middle of the worst pandemic in a century with unknown economic repercussions -- especially since the City currently has a multi-million dollar fund on hand and our present

sales tax, currently generating revenue, doesn’t expire until March of 2023.

This is the wrong tax at the wrong time.

Vote NO on Measure R.

Bob Finch  
Orinda

## Jex and Jorgens and MOFD financials

As a Moraga resident, I have read with interest letters to the editor during this last month. Several of them mentioned the financial challenges MOFD is facing now and in the years ahead. I decided to examine for myself the financial statements and budgets available on the MOFD website. I verified what others have commented regarding the implications of MOFD being burdened by a huge long-term debt of almost \$50 million. This includes unfunded pension benefits and other employee benefits. There is also almost \$17 million of debt for pension obligation bonds and debt incurred for capital projects. The debt service for these obligations required a payment of \$4.3 million last year which is 17% of the property taxes received for the district last year.

Servicing these obligations and payments of salaries and other employee benefits limit what the district has left to spend on other community fire prevention projects. We need to pay attention to Directors Jex and Jorgens who have repeatedly addressed these issues during the last four years, and seem to be centering their platform during this election on the continual balance. Without their continued direction and focus on solving these issues, MOFD could run into serious financial problems.

Ken Shin  
Moraga

## Experience Matters, David Stromberg for Moraga Town Council

I strongly support David Stromberg for Moraga Town Council. In my time working with David on Moraga’s Planning Commission, I have wit-

nessed his fair minded and principled approach to decision making. Time and again, David’s knowledge of Moraga’s General Plan and Municipal Code have proved invaluable in helping the Commission navigate the challenging issues that have been brought before us.

At our recent Planning Commission meetings on the Moraga Center Specific Plan, David took an active role in communicating the concerns he has heard from Moraga’s residents regarding safety, aesthetics, traffic congestion, urban open space and recreation opportunities. In doing so, David helped to lead the Commission to a framework for the Moraga Center that will ensure that when development does occur, it will be safe, smart, and reflective of Moraga’s historic character.

With two seats on the Council being vacated and a third up for hopeful reelection, Moraga needs experienced leaders to help our Town navigate the difficult issues on the horizon. I know David has what it takes to help move Moraga forward.

Please visit David’s website, www.Stromberg2020.com, for more information on why David Stromberg is a leader Moraga needs on the Town Council.

Kerry Hillis  
Planning Commissioner and Moraga Community Foundation Board Member

## Anduri for Council

Seventeen years ago I attended a Lafayette city council meeting seeking a proclamation approving an effort by Lafayette residents to raise funds needed to build a school in Afghanistan that girls would attend. I was not seeking funds nor help from the city, simply the council’s support. Some questioned why we should help people living in Afghanistan. The request was continued to another meeting. Several days later I asked the clerk to drop my request from the calendar. I certainly didn’t need more stress in my life and frankly didn’t care whether they approved or not. Upon learning it was being dropped, Carl Anduri called

urging me to leave it on the calendar. He knew then what I didn’t. The issue of whether we should care about the welfare of others wherever they live was worth debating. The motion passed four to one. Since then both Carl and his wife, Sharon, have, along with hundreds in Lamorinda, actively supported our work in Afghanistan. We need more compassionate and caring leaders willing to stand up for what’s right. Carl proved then and over the years that he is one. He will have my vote.

Budd MacKenzie  
Trust in Education, Lafayette

## A vote for Farschad Farzan

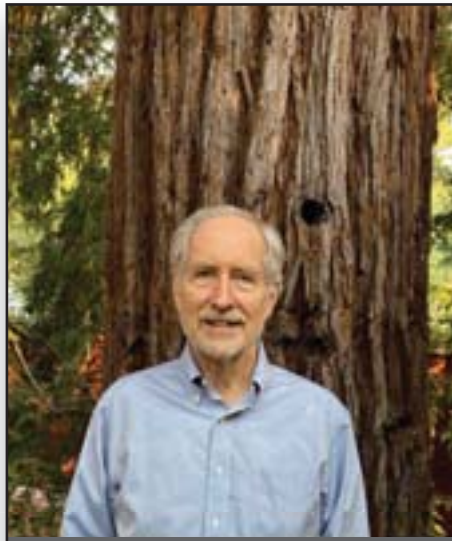
One candidate truly shines for Lafayette City Council – Planning Commission Vice Chair Farschad Farzan. If you have had the pleasure to watch any of the candidate events (Chamber of Commerce, Inclusive Lafayette, Lafayette Homeowners Council), you will see that he is intelligent, compelling, and has outstanding ideas for our city. As a current Commissioner, Farschad is up to speed on all current projects, and will bring valuable planning expertise to Council. In light of the increasing number of lawsuits facing the city, his career as a practicing attorney and litigator is a strength we absolutely need.

What I like best about Farschad, after reading many reports from Planning Commission, is that he is willing to roll up his sleeves and thoroughly tackle the issues. I would be honored to work with Farschad on Council because he is an independent thinker who consistently shows he can work collaboratively with a positive attitude.

With so many big issues facing Lafayette, we need Councilmembers who don’t back down from tough issues or legal threats, and Farschad is exactly that candidate. Please vote for Farschad Farzan for Lafayette City Council.

Susan Candell  
Vice Mayor, City of Lafayette

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# Carl Anduri Lafayette City Council

*“Carl and I served together on our City Council. He cares deeply about our community and its future. I know Lafayette will be in good hands with Carl’s proven leadership.”*

- Mike Anderson, Mayor, Lafayette

*“We need Carl’s proven experience, judgment and vision on the Council. He will be, once again, a great Councilmember for our entire community.”*

- Anne Grodin, Former Mayor and Lafayette Citizen of the Year

## Please Join Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support Carl!

### ELECTED/APPOINTED LEADERS

**Candace Andersen**, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 2  
**Rebecca Bauer-Kahan**, State Assemblymember, 16th Assembly District  
**John Coleman**, Board Member, East Bay Municipal Utility District

**Mike Anderson**, Mayor  
**Steven Bliss**, Councilmember  
**Cam Burks**, Councilmember  
**Teresa Geringer**, Councilmember

**Brandt Andersson**, Former Mayor  
**Carol Federighi**, Former Mayor  
**Judy Garvens**, Former Mayor  
**Anne Grodin**, Former Mayor  
**Erling Horn**, Former Mayor  
**Don Tatzin**, Former Mayor  
**Avon Wilson**, Former Mayor

**Kristina Sturm**, Chair, Planning Commission  
**Geoff Bellenger**, Chair, Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission  
**Terry Ann Black**, Chair, Senior Services Commission  
**Carl DiGiorgio**, Chair, Transportation & Circulation Commission  
**Anne Wondolowski**, Chair, Community Center Foundation

**Gary Huisingsh**, Planning Commissioner  
**Karen Maggio**, Planning Commissioner  
**Greg Mason**, Planning Commissioner  
**Tom Chastain**, Former Chair, Planning Commission  
**Patricia Curtin**, Former Chair, Planning Commission  
**Rick Humann**, Former Chair, Planning Commission  
**Will Lovitt**, Former Chair, Planning Commission  
**Jamie Harris**, Former Planning Commissioner  
**Joe Dougherty**, Vice Chair, Parks Trails and Recreation Commission  
**Alison Hill**, Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner  
**Mark Poole**, Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner  
**Carol Singer**, Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner  
**Abigail Fateman**, Former Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner  
**Richard Craig**, Transportation and Circulation Commissioner  
**Gayle Taylor**, Transportation and Circulation Commissioner  
**Ruth McCahan**, Senior Services Commissioner  
**Carol Yates**, Emergency Preparedness Commissioner  
**Jeff Gilman**, Vice Chair, Creeks Committee  
**David Clark**, Member, Creeks Committee  
**Ronald Hufft**, Member, Creeks Committee  
**Susan Price Callister**, Board Member, Community Center Foundation  
**Sue Cross**, Board Member, Community Center Foundation  
**Nancy Hu**, Vice Chair, Environmental Task Force  
**Bart Carr**, Member, Environmental Task Force  
**Steve Richard**, Former Member, Environmental Task Force  
**Linda Staaf**, Former Member, Environmental Task Force  
**Janet Thomas**, Former Member, Environmental Task Force  
**Susan Dannenfeler**, Former Member, Public Art Committee

**Rob Sturm**, Member, Lafayette School Board  
**Ann Appert**, Former Member, Lafayette School Board  
**Roger Falcone**, Former Member, Lafayette School Board  
**Mary McCosker**, Former Member, Lafayette School Board  
**Tom Mulvaney**, Former Member, Alacanes UHSD Board

### ORGANIZATION LEADERS

**John McCormick**, President, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
**Bill Bucher**, President, Lafayette Homeowners Council  
**George Burt**, Past President, Alacanes Valley Homeowners Association  
**Dennis Garrison**, Executive Committee, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
**Chris Lane**, Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
**Kathy Merchant**, Executive Committee, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
**Matt Pease**, Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
**Caesar Perales**, Executive Committee, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
**Jesse Wellen**, Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
**Danielle Gallagher**, Past President, Springhill Parent Faculty Club

### COMMUNITY LEADERS

**Janet and Rick Cronk**, Lafayette Citizens of the Year  
**Marchal Duncan**, Lafayette Citizen of the Year  
**Lynn Hiden**, Lafayette Citizen of the Year  
**Robin and Dick Holt**, Lafayette Citizens of the Year  
**Don Jenkins**, Lafayette Citizen of the Year  
**Budd MacKenzie**, Lafayette Citizen of the Year  
**Karen Mulvaney**, Lafayette Citizen of the Year  
**Larry Blodgett**, Lafayette Businessperson of the Year  
**Steve Cortese**, Lafayette Businessperson of the Year  
**Jennifer Perlmutter**, Lafayette Businessperson of the Year  
**Bob Athayde**  
**Patty Battersby**  
**Joe and Lucy Beck**  
**Bill and Betty Brown**  
**Jeff Black**  
**Karen Blodgett**  
**Lorinda Carson**  
**Larry Challacombe**  
**Michele Chalmers**  
**Dianne and Jim Chandler**  
**Phil Chernin**  
**Sereta Churchill**  
**Kathy Daly**  
**Francine Donner**  
**Ann Drevno**  
**Tom Duckworth**  
**Jeff Eyet**  
**Pat Falcone**  
**Beth Ferree and John Eaton**  
**Jim Fitzsimmons and Kris Torske**  
**Sean Gallagher**  
**Danielle Gogo-Gallagher**  
**David Gold**  
**Marshall Grodin**  
**John Hall**  
**Martha Harris**  
**Dave Hiden**  
**Jeanie and Jimmy Hill**  
**Mary Ann Hisington**  
**Barbara Hollenbach and Bill Abbott**  
**Patricia Horn**  
**Linda Jenkins**  
**Cody Keller**  
**Liz and Matt Keyser**

**John Kiefer**  
**Kristin and Ken Kisner**  
**Wei-Tai Kwok and Violet Hsu**  
**Todd and Betty LaPorte**  
**Bill Lau**  
**Mei Sun Li**  
**Jay Lifson**  
**Sharon Lingane**  
**Lynn MacMichael and Howard Weamer**  
**Michael Marchetti**  
**Bruce Marlowe**  
**Kathleen and Richard Marshall**  
**Byrne and Oystein Mathisen**  
**Daryl McCosker**  
**Jan McHale**  
**Mike Merchant**  
**Gordon and Nancy Mills**  
**Suzanne Muraki**  
**Carol Murota and Neil Zelin**  
**Courtney Murphree**  
**Terry Neifing and Doug Sterne**  
**Earl Piermattei**  
**Ellen Reintjes**  
**Annette and Wil Roberge**  
**James Rockafellow**  
**Jennifer Rosen**  
**Bob Russell**  
**Jeanie and Roger Samuelsen**  
**Katrina and Rick Silvani**  
**Beryl and Ivor Silver**  
**Dave Smith**  
**Karen and Pete Smyth**  
**Richard Staaf**  
**Dale and Carol Statley**  
**Alice and Gary Stern**  
**Martha Strook**  
**Tony Suh**  
**Ramsay Thomas**  
**Frank Tinley**  
**Tracy and Donn Walklet**  
**Joan West**  
**Barbara and Mark Wille**  
**Avon and George Wilson**  
**Diane and Fred Wilt**  
**Hugh and Mary Anne Winig**  
**Mary-Jane Wood**

Partial list. Titles for identification only.

*“There is a reason people who served with and worked with Carl are supporting him -- they know his experience and leadership will make Lafayette a better place to live for all of us.”*

- Teresa Geringer, Councilmember, Lafayette

## PROVEN EXPERIENCE to deal with our most pressing challenges:

- ▶ Proactively manage the development of our downtown corridor, including affordable housing
- ▶ Protect our hillsides, ridgelines and open space
- ▶ Deal with the causes and effects of climate change, including planning for wildfire evacuation
- ▶ Promote inclusiveness and equity
- ▶ Revitalize our downtown in the wake of the pandemic
- ▶ Improve traffic flow and parking
- ▶ Prudently manage our City's limited resources

- Lafayette City Council: Councilmember, 2002-2012; Mayor, 2005 and 2011
- Lafayette Planning Commission: Commissioner, 1997-2002; Chair, 2001 and 2002
- Served on numerous Lafayette task forces and committees, including the Hillside Task Force, the Open Space Task Force, the Environmental Task Force (Co-Chair), the Senior Housing Task Force (Co-Chair), the Park Theater Task Force and the Roads Task Force (Co-Chair)

Learn more about the issues at:

## www.anduri2020.com

Paid for by Anduri for Lafayette City Council 2020 FPPC #1430748