

Letters to the editor ... continued

Lafayette City Council election

I love Lafayette. I've lived here for 30 years – all my life. I've attended school here and now live and work in the City. I've seen a lot of change, which is good. Our city leaders have worked hard to retain the charm and small town feel of the city and at the same time allow new housing as they are required to do so. We need to prepare for change and invite and listen to new ideas. That's why I support Carl Anduri for City Council. As a current Council member, he listens to the concerns of the community and makes decisions based on the good of our town. He is fair, smart and thoughtful. He also supports the IDD community at Las Trampas, a community that is an integral part of our city. Please vote for Carl so he can continue to guide our city (and us) in the right direction. Frankie Tinley Lafayette

Wendy Reicher, A Unique Lens

I'm endorsing WENDY REICHER for AUHSD Governing Board. Wendy is a smart, energizing member of our board who, as the incumbent candidate, already knows how our schools operate behind the scenes. Her experience working in and with so many facets of our schools provides her a certain acumen in regards to curriculum, programming and budget. On top of that, Wendy is a staunch supporter of our students themselves, their educational resources and their mental wellbeing. In addition to the myriad of school positions she has held over the last EIGHT CONSECUTIVE YEARS as a high school parent (see her extensive résumé at wendyreicher.com), Wendy has worked one-on-one with our teens, both as the Acalanes College and Career Counselor to 1200+ students, and as a private college counselor. Discussing essay after essay, Wendy has an understanding of our students' inner worlds that, frankly, most of us will never have... witnessing their biggest fears, proudest moments and greatest challenges as a trusted guide. This unique insight sets her apart as an invaluable resource on our board. Vote for Wendy to keep her seat at the table, for our kiddos and community. Sincerely, Beverly Jane Peatross Lafayette

Endorse Candidates Who Support Housing for Teacher

Lafayette's teachers, business owners, police officers, fire fighters, and other important members of our community cannot afford to live here. Our quality of life is suffering because of our housing shortage: small businesses cannot find employees, long distance commuters clog our streets, our middle class is shrinking.

Anyone who cares about creating homes for our essential workers should vote for John McCormick, Gina Dawson, Carl Anduri and Jim Cervantes this election.

John, Gina, Carl, and Jim are the only candidates who support Lafayette's housing element, a plan for new homes that the city spent almost four years creating. Lafayette's housing element makes disappointingly incremental changes to enable new homes. But those incremental changes represent a huge amount of effort to find a compromise among many residents, a compromise that will create more housing for all parts of our community.

Lafayette needs local leaders who can navigate complex politics at the state, regional, and local levels to find solutions that create new homes while maintaining the things we all love about our town. John, Gina, Carl, and Jim have the experience and the approach our community needs for the coming years. Jeremy Levine and Alison Hill Lafayette

Moraga School District Governing Board election

I have known Stephanie Dickerson for nearly a decade. She has been very active in our community and engaged the Town Council on a variety of Safety topics regarding children in a constructive and collaborative manner. She is the kind of person who sees an issue and takes it upon herself to roll up her sleeves, get involved, and get the job done. She has been a strong advocate for MSD School Safety for the past eight years. As a Moraga Rotarian, she participated in grant writing and co-chaired their major fundraiser, Night at the Races, in 2020 to bring tens of thousands of dollars to the MSD for School Safety upgrades, such as cameras, two way radios and medical kits. She has

also been deeply engaged in the local schools, serving on the MEF Board, LP PTA Board and MSD Safety Committee. She is the only candidate with children in our local schools at this time. She has the experience and a deep sense of commitment to the community of Moraga and has a service mindset. Please vote Stephanie Dickerson for MSD School Board! Thank you Teresa Onoda Moraga

Paul Chopra for Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board

Paul Chopra is the clear choice for this important role. While he is an accountant by training, Paul's expertise extends far beyond financial matters. He possesses a genuine commitment to collaboration with fellow board members to achieve the goal of ensuring that every student feels a sense of belonging and can thrive academically. His unique perspective as an individual of Indian descent and American heritage enriches our board's diversity. Furthermore, his years of service as the Treasurer for Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE) and as a member of the Lafayette School District Budget Advisory Committee—where he played a crucial role in identifying over \$2 million in cost savings and revenue opportunities—demonstrate his capability to address the pressing challenges of education funding and resource allocation. Paul will undoubtedly leverage his experience and insights to benefit our district in ways that no other candidate can. I wholeheartedly endorse Paul Chopra for AUHSD Governing Board. Cathy Chang, Moraga Citizen of the Year 2023, eSteam Youth Advisor, Former Joaquin Moraga Intermediate PTA DEI Committee Chair, Former Camino Pablo Elementary PTA Community Services Committee Chair Moraga

50 Year Moraga Tradition Eliminated by Town Council

On Oct. 9 the Moraga Town Council voted 3-2 to eliminate voting results as the primary focus for selection of a Mayor.

Council members Shapiro, Hillis and Onoda voted to pass this.

This tradition had served the Town of Moraga well as a quantitative focus for Mayor selection AND includes judgmental factors as consideration.

So if there is a better, more current process for Mayor selection, I'm for that but they didn't identify anything better.

Rather a completely subjective, judgmental process of experience, collaboration, leadership, seniority and "any other factor" all of which are part of the current process utilized in judgment.

Votes are mentioned as an optional item but removed as the primary focus, which can be ignored.

So where's the improvement? Why eliminate voters from being the primary focus?

Was this important topic communicated to residents for input?

No specific reference to changing the process of Mayor selection was highlighted in the Town Newsletter or any other specific public communication.

What changed?

The TC discussed this September, 2023 and decided to retain the current process and tradition.

A recent election occurred resulting in three candidates for three spots and thus no election. This exception to voting results could have been handled without changing a long term policy where elections occur.

Council Member Shapiro commented that voting results are "popularity contests" which is disparaging to our 9,000 voters who do read campaign statements, websites, position on key issues, watch debates to see who is most qualified to lead Moraga.

And why change now?

This council ends in two months so why eliminate a 50 year tradition on your way out the door? Why not let the next council discuss if they'd like?

Very disappointing as this action is disrespectful to the 9,000 residents who vote and the new judgmental process will be ripe for political back room agendas and deals to be mayor which doesn't serve our residents and community.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, was a very, very sad day for our wonderful town! Mike McCluer, Former Mayor of Moraga Moraga

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FOR A BRIGHTER LAFAYETTE

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Mario DiPrisco
Financial Analyst/Father
Candidate for Lafayette City Council



Paid for by Mario DiPrisco for Lafayette City Council 2024 FPPC #1470660