

Endorsement Consent Calendar – February 2018

•Democratic Candidates for Sacramento City Council District 1:

Name:	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC Panel	Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Angelique Ashby (i)	X	X	X	

Interview Panel Recommendation: Endorse Angelique Ashby. (Ayes: 6; Noes: 0)

Panel members: Michelle Pariset (chair), Manuel Buenrostro, Maureen Craft, Orlando Fuentes, Anna Molander, and Edson Perez.

Panel Report:

The committee was impressed with Councilwoman Ashby’s deep involvement in her District. From inclusionary housing to playgrounds to transit, Ms. Ashby clearly has an abiding love for her city and endless energy to take on new projects. Ms. Ashby shows a demonstrated understanding and belief in the tenants of the California Democratic Party platform. The only issue of concern is marijuana legalization but, although she is personally opposed, Ms. Ashby voiced a desire to see the local ordinance succeed. (We would like to spend some time discussing with her social justice issues related to marijuana over her next term.) Overall, her tenacity and drive make her an excellent representative for her council district. The committee unanimously recommends endorsement.

Executive Board Recommendation:

Uphold the interview panel's recommendation to endorse Angelique Ashby. (Ayes: 7; Noes: 0)

• Democratic Candidates for Sacramento City Council District 5:

Name:	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC Panel	Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Tamika L’Ecluse	X	X	X	X
Jay Schenirer (i)	X	X		X

Interview Panel Recommendation: Endorse Tamika L’Ecluse. (Ayes: 5; Noes: 2)

Panel Members: Orlando Fuentes (chair), Maureen Craft, Harold Fong, Kate Lenox, Derek Matthews, Jeff Otter, and Cynthia Shallit.

Panel Report:

Tonight’s panel interviewed 2 candidates for District 5 in the City of Sacramento.

First we interviewed Tamika L'Ecluse who is President of the Oak Park Neighborhood Association, Acting President of the Promise Zone Resident Council, and a Governing Board member of the Montessori Project. Tamika is a licensed preschool teacher with a passion for the education of young children. She is interested in protecting the quality of life for all residents, increasing protection for renters, and improving police-community relations. She supports by-district elections and would make herself accessible to community members and other stakeholders. She supports single-payer healthcare for all and has worked to reduce African American infant mortality, supports just cause evictions and rent control.

We interviewed the incumbent, Jay Schenirer entering his 8th year as councilmember. Jay shared a litany of programs and services on his questionnaire, in his campaign brochure, and in his interview that he was responsible for or played a role in: workforce development especially for youth to gain valuable internship experiences, chaired a task force to increase the minimum wage, championed the development of 90 affordable housing units for seniors, worked with community leaders to reduce gang violence.

After the two interviews, the 7-member panel discussed each candidate's strengths. By a vote 5-2-0, the panel voted to endorse Tamika L'Ecluse. She would be a bright new addition to the city council, she would represent her city council district well, especially the Oak Park neighborhood that is currently facing new challenges including gentrification and rising rents. She meets about every 2 weeks with the police captain over her area about ways to improve police-community relations. Overall, we could see that as a member of the city council she might just be a transformative figure.

Executive Board Recommendation:

Uphold the interview panel's recommendation to endorse Tamika L'Ecluse. (Ayes: 6; Noes: 0; Abstentions: 1)

● **Democratic Candidates for Sacramento City Council District 7:**

Name:	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC Panel	Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Tristan Brown	X	X		X
Rick Jennings (i)	X	X		

Interview Panel Recommendation: Adopt a "neutral" position. (Ayes: 3; Noes: 2)

Panel Members: Michelle Pariset (chair), Kerri Asbury, Maureen Craft, Orlando Fuentes, and Andres Ramos.

Panel Report:

The panel appreciated Mr. Brown's progressive policy positions on a range of issues.

Particularly, Mr. Brown expressed his opposition to a public subsidy for a soccer stadium, and support for creative ways of expanding affordable housing such as through land trusts. The panel also appreciates Mr. Brown's wide range of activism in the Democratic Party. However, the panel was concerned about Mr. Brown's short amount of time living in the district, his intention of being a part-time councilmember since he will keep his day job if elected, and his openness to supporting a strong mayor form of government. Additionally, the panel felt that Mr. Brown needs to develop a better plan for how he would represent the socio-economically disadvantaged, ethnically diverse, and underrepresented neighborhood of Valley Hi. Mr. Brown stated that he would hire a staff person who lives in Valley Hi. The panel felt that a more substantive plan is needed for ensuring that Valley Hi gets the representation it needs should Mr. Brown be elected.

The panel appreciates Mr. Jennings' sincere commitment to his community. He has built roots in District 7 and has no plans for higher office. Mr. Jennings is very aware of the issues faced by Valley Hi and expressed concern that residents in the Detroit Park neighborhood not be cut off from access to the Delta Shores development. The panel appreciated Mr. Jennings's equity-oriented perspective. However, the panel disagrees with Mr. Jennings' unequivocal support for a strong mayor form of government, strong support for a potential soccer arena subsidy, personal support for parental notification, and other prior votes that he has taken.

The panel found admirable qualities in both candidates, as well as areas of either disagreement or concern with both. Accordingly, the panel recommends that the DPSC adopt a "neutral" position for Sacramento City Council, District 7.

Executive Board Recommendation:

Uphold the interview panel's recommendation to adopt a "neutral" position. (Ayes: 6; Noes: 0; Abstentions: 1)