

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

CAMPAIGN SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

9/13/2018 – Curtis Hall, Sacramento

ENDORSEMENT CONSENT CALENDAR

Cordova Recreation & Park District Board, Folsom Cordova Unified School District Board, Natomas Unified School District Board, Rancho Cordova City Council, Sacramento Municipal Utility District Board, San Juan Unified School District Board, Measure C, Measure D, Measure E, Measure G, Measure H, Measure J, Measure K, Measure L, and Measure U

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR CORDOVA RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT BOARD:

Name	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC	Panel Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Terri Leimbach <i>(i)</i>	X	X	X	X

INTERVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Endorse Terri Leimbach *(Ayes: 6; Noes: 0)*

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon *(chair)*, Andrew Becker, Ric Barreto, Bruce Pomer, Dee Emmert, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

Ms. Leimbach demonstrated not only a wealth of knowledge regarding the issues facing the District, but also a deep commitment to Democratic values and a comprehensive vision for how she enacts those values on the Board.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0)*

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD:

Name	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC	Panel Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Jaya Badiga	X	X	X	

INTERVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Endorse Jaya Badiga *(Ayes: 6; Noes: 0)*

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Andrew Becker, Ric Barreto, Bruce Pomer, Dee Emmert, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

Ms. Badiga would provide important, missing representation on this at-large Board as someone from Rancho Cordova, a woman of color, and a Democrat.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. (*Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0*)

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD:

Name	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC	Panel Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Teri Burns (<i>i</i>)	X	X	X	
Cynthia Connell	X	X	X	
Lisa Kaplan (<i>i</i>)				

INTERVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Endorse Teri Burns (*Ayes: 6; Noes: 0*)
.....Endorse Cynthia Connell (*Ayes: 6; Noes: 0*)

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Andrew Becker, Ric Barreto, Bruce Pomer, Dee Emmert, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

While the Panel appreciated the knowledge of Ms. Burns from her long career in education policy, it is Ms. Connell who stole the show. As a teacher, Ms. Connell has a unique perspective that is missing on the board—and the strong support of her union. Her frank answers to the Panel's questions were a breath of fresh air, and demonstrated a willingness to think through tough problems facing the district.

Ms. Kaplan sent our Committee Chair an email describing how she does not appreciate our advocacy against her more conservative stances, and that she would not be seeking our endorsement.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. (*Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0*)

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR RANCHO CORDOVA CITY COUNCIL:

Name	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC	Panel Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Garrett Gatewood (<i>i</i>) Donald Childs	X	X	X	

INTERVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Endorse Garrett Gatewood (*Ayes: 6; Noes: 0*)

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Andrew Becker, Ric Barreto, Bruce Pomer, Dee Emmert, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

There are two seats up for election on the Rancho Cordova City Council. While Mr. Childs did not seek our endorsement, the Panel saw Mr. Gatewood as someone worth endorsing. While some of his views were mixed with regards to our platform, he demonstrates a commitment to most of our values. We believe he is needed on the City Council.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. (*Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0*)

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD WARD 4:

Name	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC	Panel Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Rosana Herber Mark Graham	X X	X X	X	X

INTERVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Endorse Rosana Herber (*Ayes: 6; Noes: 0*)

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Andrew Becker, Ric Barreto, Bruce Pomer, Dee Emmert, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

Ms. Herber has a long history as an employee of SMUD, and appears uniquely qualified and poised to assume this office. She has been a part of some of the most influential policies in SMUD's more recent history, and her depth of knowledge about SMUD's operations could

probably not be matched by the extant members of the Board. Her long history with the Party also demonstrates a strong commitment to our values.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0)*

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD:

Name	Returned Questionnaire	Interviewed by DPSC	Panel Recommendation	DPSC Member/Donor
Zima Creason	X	X	X	X
Magali Kincaid	X	X		X
Myel Jenkins	X	X		
Michael McKibben <i>(i)</i>	X	X		

INTERVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Endorse Zima Creason *(Ayes: 2; Noes: 0)*
 Do not endorse Michael McKibben *(Ayes 2; Noes 0)*

PANEL MEMBERS: Cecile Nunley *(acting chair)* & Ric Barreto

PANEL REPORT:

This Board is elected at-large, and there are two open seats. Again, the only Panel recommendation is to endorse Ms. Zima Creason. The panel appreciated her knowledge of the issues facing the School District, and her approach to solving those issues. Additionally, her lived experience and her professional work in mental health offer a unique voice that would strengthen the Board.

The Panel deadlocked on endorsing Ms. Kincaid or Ms. Jenkins, with no panel members voting to recommend endorsement of Mr. McKibben. Panel members saw Ms. Jenkins' experience with the more conservative California School Board Association as either a benefit or a detriment. Others saw Ms. Kinkaid's experience with the public interest law and advocacy group Public Advocates and her being the only candidate or Board member from Arden-Arcade, the area of the District with the worst and most neglected schools, as a benefit. All of the Panel members seemed to see Mr. McKibben as quite defensive of an inadequate status quo in the district, despite his depth of knowledge on the issues.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel recommendation to endorse Zima Creason. *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0)*
 Recommend the endorsement of Myel Jenkins. *(Ayes: 3; Noes: 2; Abst.: 0)*

MEASURE C:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Oppose Measure C (*Ayes: 3; Noes: 2*)

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, Ric Baretto, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

This measure would impose a limit of 4 consecutive 4-year terms for members of the Folsom City Council. The Panel generally regarded the 16 year consecutive limit as unique and strangely long, largely negating even its supposed usefulness. Ultimately, the majority regarded elections as the proper avenue for deciding if a Councilmember has served too long.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. (*Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0*)

MEASURE D:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Support Measure D (*Ayes: 4; Noes: 1*)

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, Ric Baretto, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

This measure increases the campaign contribution limit of Folsom City Council candidates from \$150 to \$500. The Panel agreed that the \$150 contribution limit has unnecessarily restricted the ability of candidates to successfully campaign in Folsom's at-large elections, which has allowed conservative independent expenditures to determine elections in Folsom. One member felt that the limit should be set at an amount greater than \$500, and so opposed the measure.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. (*Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0*)

MEASURE E:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Support Measure D (*Ayes: 4; Noes: 1*)

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, Ric Baretto, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

This measure would institute a ¢50 sales tax for the City of Folsom. The Panel was opposed to the regressive nature of this tax, which will make lower income people pay a much higher percentage of their income than wealthy individuals will. The Panel was further concerned that, as a general tax that cannot be dedicated for particular uses, the Republican majority on the Folsom City Council will not use these funds for any beneficial purposes, but instead to fund developers pursuing ecologically damaging suburban expansion in the area recently added into their Urban Growth Boundary.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. (*Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0*)

MEASURE G:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Support Measure D (*Ayes: 5; Noes: 0*)

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, Ric Baretto, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

This measure would make the City Clerk for the City of Galt an appointed position, instead of an elected position as it is currently. The Panel concluded that the public is not harmed, and may be enhanced, by retaining their ability to directly hire and fire this position.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. (*Ayes: 3; Noes: 2; Abst.: 0*)

MEASURE H:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Support Measure D (*Ayes: 5; Noes: 0*)

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon (*chair*), Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, Ric Baretto, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

This measure would allow the Robla Elementary School District to issue \$46,200,000 in bonds for school facility construction and modernization, repaid by ¢5.8 in property tax per \$100 of assessed value. The Panel recognized the need for this money in the District.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0)*

MEASURE J:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Support Measure D *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0)*

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon *(chair)*, Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, Ric Baretto, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

This measure would allow the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District to issue \$26,900,000 in bonds for park and recreation facility construction and repair as well as protection of open spaces, repaid by ¢1.9 in property tax per \$100 of assessed value. The Panel recognized the need for this money in the District.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0)*

MEASURE K:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Support Measure D *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0)*

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon *(chair)*, Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, Ric Baretto, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

This measure would remove the City Auditor as an independent office and combine it with the office of the City Budget Analyst. The Panel saw this move as bad policy, as those two roles are incompatible and should not be combined. Those helping set the budget cannot reasonably be expected to be the watchdogs against themselves. The Panel was even more suspicious of the arguments in favor of this measure, which work very hard to imply that there currently is not a City Auditor and that this measure is needed because it would create one—which is not true.

Hidden in this measure is an amendment to the City Charter eliminating the requirement that the Council hold a majority of their meetings after regular office hours. The context for this is surely the Council's consternation against the protests their meetings are regularly met with, and a desire to conduct their business at times of day when activists would not be as able to attend.

The Panel viewed this measure as equal parts bad policy and sneaky Trojan horse. It is disappointing that the Mayor and City Council would hide things in this measure in a deceptive manner, and those with a background in auditing found the overt premise flawed in-and-of itself.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0)*

MEASURE L:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Support Measure D *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0)*

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon *(chair)*, Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, Ric Baretto, and Gigi Rayford

PANEL REPORT:

This measure would allow the Natomas Unified School District to issue \$172,000,000 in bonds for school facility construction and modernization, repaid by ¢6 in property tax per \$100 of assessed value. The Panel recognized the need for this money in the District.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. *(Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Abst.: 0)*

MEASURE U:

PANEL RECOMMENDATION: Stay Neutral on Measure U *(Ayes: 3; Noes: 0; Abst. 1)*

PANEL MEMBERS: Shaun Dillon *(chair)*, Dee Emmert, Andrew Becker, and Ric Baretto

PANEL REPORT:

This measure would institute a \$1 sales tax for the City of Sacramento. The Panel was opposed to the regressive nature of this tax, which will make lower income people pay a much higher percentage of their income than wealthy individuals will.

The original Measure U was advocated for as a *temporary* ¢50 sales tax to temporarily maintain city services during the height of the recession's impacts to the City budget. This Measure U would not just make permanent that supposedly temporary ¢50 sales tax, but would double the amount of that permanent tax, bring it to \$1.

During the Panel's interview with proponents, the Mayor's staff indicated that more than half of the additional sales tax would go towards repaying interest on bonds that they plan to take out, which would be securitized by this sales tax. This was alarming, and the Panel viewed the creation of such large amounts of public debt, and the use of so much tax money simply to pay interest, as misguided. The Panel was further concerned that, as a general tax that cannot be dedicated for particular uses, the unanimously pro-corporate members of the City Council will continue to use this money for misguided economic development schemes—directly subsidizing profitable companies, as they have recently done for Sentine.

Again, this sales tax revenue would go to the General Fund, and the Council is not obliged to do any of the things they may promise to do with these funds. The Panel was greatly concerned that the Mayor was only telling us what he thought we wanted to hear: highlighting a laundry list of progressive wish list items that the current City Council members are actually neither obliged, nor in our opinion inclined, to actually support.

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold the Interview Panel's recommendation. (*Ayes: 3; Noes: 2; Abst.: 0*)
