



P.O Box 11622,  
Oakland, CA 94611

[www.mgoclub.org](http://www.mgoclub.org)

This Platform was composed by Joe Trapp,  
I can be reached at [jtrapp1@aol.com](mailto:jtrapp1@aol.com)

## LOCAL CANDIDATES ENDORSEMENT MEETINGS

**We will have two endorsement meetings this month.** Both meetings will be at the Dimond Library at 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, CA.

Non-members are welcome to attend, but cannot vote. New members joining the Club for the first time shall acquire voting rights **20** days from the date of their joining. Lapsed members of the MGO whose dues are not more than two years in arrears shall acquire voting rights immediately upon payment of the current years dues.

Dimond Library Directions:

By car, **580 east** to the Fruitvale Avenue exit. Turn left onto Fruitvale Avenue. **580 West** to Coolidge Avenue/Fruitvale Avenue exit, merge onto Montana Street and turn right at Fruitvale Avenue.

By AC Transit, take 53, 57, or NL to Fruitvale Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard.

By BART, exit at the Fruitvale Station. AC Line 53 up Fruitvale to MacArthur. Walk east (towards the hills) one block. **The library is on the left across from Safeway.**

### **Thursday, September 16th, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

#### Tentative Schedule –

Club Business – Vote on Nominated Executive Board for 2010-2011, 7:00 to 7:10

Oakland City Council District 2: 2 Candidates, 7:10 to 7:20

Oakland City Council District 6: 3 Candidates, 7:20 to 7:35

Superior Court Judge Seat 9: 2 Candidates, 7:35 to 7:45

BART District 4: 3 Candidates, 7:45 to 8:00

AC Transit At Large: 2 Candidates, 8:00 to 8:10

AC Transit Ward 3: 3 Candidates, 8:10 to 8:25

State and Local Initiatives, 8:25 to 9:00

### **Thursday, September 23th, 7:00 PM to 9:05 PM**

Oakland Mayor: 10 Candidates, 7:00 to 7:50

City Auditor: 2 Candidates, 7:50 to 8:00

Oakland City Council District 4: 7 Candidates, 8:00 to 8:35

Oakland School Board District 4: 2 Candidates, 8:35 to 8:45

Peralta College District 3: 2 Candidates, 8:45 to 8:55

Peralta College District 5: 2 Candidates, 8:55 to 9:05

## AN OPEN LETTER TO LOCAL CANDIDATES

First of all I want to thank Judy Cox for her service as MGO President these last few years. Judy has represented us all well, within the group and outside, with great dignity and patience.

I last served as President of MGO in 2001-2002. A few years before, I ran for East Bay Municipal Utility District, Ward 3. As anyone knows who has run for competitive office, and as those who are running now for the first time are finding out, besides draining your bank account, the work takes up much of your time and mental, emotional, and physical effort. Fundraising and cultivating political allies can be treacherous ground, and one sees how easy it is for politicians to lose their way during a campaign.

Maintaining integrity 100% without making enemies is impossible, and most normal people do not wish to make any enemies! And, as we have learned from the internet age, most people do not naturally handle political conflict gracefully (perhaps we look back upon not a more civilized era, but one that was publically handled by the experts in civic diplomacy). Campaigns do generate a certain amount of energy, especially as Election Day approaches, but the act of campaigning is ultimately emotionally draining. So, from those of us who have done it before, to those who are running now, we understand how difficult it can all be. But please remember, it also is the best job interview for actually doing the work of an elected representative, and those hours spend knocking on doors, calling, and interviewing, do give the prospective elected official feedback on whether or not their ideas and methods are accepted by the general public.

That Oakland and its neighbors comprise a solid Democratic Party area is no great secret. Republican candidates rarely contest an election here. That fact acknowledged, we have a hard time blaming the Republicans if we blow it here, and many of us feel that Oakland is not what it could be. Oakland is a Democratic town; if we believe in progressive principals, and want to see them flower and succeed, this is the place to start. Failure, for the greater part, is our own fault.

Certainly, Oakland has its set of challenges: we have many, poor, marginally skilled people, and the margin for error in governing this City is less than richer, smaller towns. Certainly, this City has progressed some since I first moved here in 1989: our neighborhood shopping and dining districts, for one, have definitely become destinations the past few years. But there are core problems that have seen small and ephemeral progress: public safety, education, and the general advancement for each succeeding generation in Oakland. Beyond progressive pronouncements during the campaign, we need honest governing and effective execution. We need governing that is not afraid of admitting and learning from mistakes. We need leaders who always put the greater good first, regardless of the affect on their political futures. We need civility and leadership, so that the people of Oakland will feel proud of not just of what can be, but of those who we elect as leaders. All of these governing qualities appear to reflect the consensus of the Club, and I anticipate that they will be part of a proposed Platform of MGO.

Of course, we do see these qualities at least some of the time, from at least some of our leaders. We just need more of it – as much of it as we can get. Many of us may not wish to acknowledge this, but politics takes skill and natural ability – like hitting a baseball or playing a ukulele. Some people are both born and driven to pursue this craft. To those locally who do possess this gift (and to those who don't but somehow end up elected anyway!) all we can ask, is that when elected, that you treat your office as a sacred trust; if you do, we can forgive your missteps.

**Joe Trapp, MGO Acting President**

## **NOMINATED CANDIDATES FOR MGO OFFICES**

**JOE TRAPP** is a past MGO President (2001-2002), a politically a “middle-of-the-road” Bay Area liberal, believing in the free debate of ideas, where all sides and all issues are listened to and evaluated with an open mind. Joe has been active in my local community, especially with Oak Glen Park, where he has worked with his neighbors in making the Park more clean, safe, as well as more natural, as they continue to replant California native plants around Glen Echo creek which runs through the park. Joe received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Pennsylvania State University, and I currently work as a Civil Engineer for the Port of Oakland. Joe is currently the Acting MGO President and **has been nominated as President of the Club.**

**RALPH KANZ** has lived his entire life in the Bay Area. He was born and raised in Palo Alto, and lived the last 30 years in Oakland. His mother’s family moved to a home on MacArthur Boulevard in 1896, and his father, the son of German immigrants, lived for several years in East Oakland. Ralph’s wife Martha and Ralph own a home in East Oakland that they share with two dogs, both products of the Oakland Animal Shelter. Martha and Ralph volunteer regularly with German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California. After many years operating a commercial fishing business, Ralph now works for the Alameda Creek Alliance where he was involved in negotiating conservation agreements with the Oliver deSilva Company for the Sunol Valley and Apperson Ridge. He served a term on, and for one year chaired, the Oakland Public Ethics Commission and has participated in local political campaigns. Ralph looks forward to expanding the base of MGO and making it an important voice in the City of Oakland. **Ralph has been nominated for Vice President of the Club.**

**STEVEN STATLER** was born in Findlay, Ohio, and grew up in Ohio and Indiana, and graduated from The Ohio State University as Business Major. He Served in US Navy as a Supply Corps Officer, worked in retail and electronics distribution management, and for the Social Security Administration. Steven currently works as an advocate with Mental Health Association of Alameda County. Steven also has been the Club Treasurer for several years, and **Steven has been re-nominated for Club Treasurer.**

**HOWARD EGERMAN** is a lifelong Bay Area resident; Vice President Health and Safety for Local 3172 American Federation of Government Employees which represents Social Security workers in Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada; Health and safety representative for all Social Security employees nationally. Delegate to Alameda County Central Labor Council and serves as the Council’s Sergeant at Arms. Howard lives in Oakland with wife Diane, who is also a club member. Howard is a member of the County Committee.

**GARY SIRBU** is an MGO past president. He grew up in San Francisco and attended Lowell High School, then attended Cal, receiving an A.B. in anthropology and later a law degree from Boalt Hall. After graduating from law school, Gary worked for several years as an Alameda County Assistant Public Defender, co-founding the Alameda County Public Defenders Association, which functioned as a union. He then entered private practice. For Gary, MGO has maintained a significant record of achievement for over fifty years, including a commitment to fight for accountability and transparency in local government. “I feel fortunate to be actively involved in the club. I also currently chair an MGO-initiated coalition of organizations known as the Proposition 13 Reform Task Force ([www.prop13reformtaskforce.org](http://www.prop13reformtaskforce.org).)”

**GUY A. BRYANT** is a partner in the law firm of Bryant & Brown, P.C. Mr. Bryant’s principal areas of specialty are Education Law, Public Agency, Business, and Labor Law. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Boston University School of Law in 1988, and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Connecticut in 1985. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1990. He is currently a member of the Bar Association of San Francisco, Alameda County Bar Association, Los Angeles Bar Association, Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the Charles Houston Bar Association, Oakland Chamber of Commerce, and is the treasurer of the Alameda County Democratic Lawyers Club. Mr. Bryant is often a guest lecturer in the field of Education Law and he is currently an adjunct law professor at Argosy University.

**JUDY COX** has been president of MGO for the last three years. Prior to that, she was co-president of League of Women Voters of Oakland for three years, during which time the LWVO worked to get the limited charter review on strong mayor, after defeating Jerry Brown's attempt to make the strong mayor trial period sunset and the original strong mayor proposal permanent. She also was one of seven people who put instant runoff voting on the Oakland ballot in 2006, and managed and ran the campaign to successful completion. She is a retired training and organization development consultant, specializing in team building and management development. She is also a member of National Women's Political Caucus, Common Cause, Wellstone Dem. Club, and is co-chair of the East Bay Working Group for Clean Money Elections.

**CHRISTOPHER DOBBINS** is a third-generation Oakland teacher (his grandfather taught at Castlemont during the 30's and his mother taught 29 years in Oakland!). Chris taught over a ten year period at a few different Oakland middle schools.) He is in his fourth year on the Oakland Board of Education, representing District 6 in East Oakland. He currently works for the Bay Area Defense Associates. Chris is an Eagle Scout, a member of St. Paschal's Church, and he founded a non-profit, The Green Stampede, which does after-school tutoring at the Oakland Coliseum and is sponsored by the Oakland A's. On the school board, he serves as Chairman of the Facilities Committee, member of the Teaching and Learning Committee and Rules and Ethics Committee, as well as Board Representative to the Chabot Space and Science Center, and to the Oakland Athletic League (OAL) Policy Committee.

**DAN KALB** is the California Policy Manager for the Union of Concerned Scientists, Dan works with state legislators, agency officials, civic leaders, environmental groups and others to craft legislation promoting renewable energy, clean transportation and global warming solutions in California. Dan has appeared on the PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and has been quoted in the L.A. Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and the San Jose Mercury News, among other publications, on selected environmental issues. Immediately prior to his tenure at UCS, Dan worked on regional issues for the Sierra Club. Dan was a board member on the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Metropolitan Bay Area for eight years. Dan also serves as a delegate to the California Democratic Party State Convention from the 14th A.D. He received his Baccalaureate of Science degree in Conservation of Natural Resources from the U.C. Berkeley, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco. He also serves on the Board of the League of Conservation Voters of the East Bay.

**WAYNE NISHIOKA** has been on the Board of MGO since around 2006. Wayne believes that MGO has a long established reputation for taking on tough issues in Oakland and forging a positive progressive direction for the area. Wayne is an elected delegate to the 16th AD for the California Democratic Party and has been honored to serve in that capacity for more than five years. He has enjoyed moving various progressive issues forward with his fellow delegates from the 14th and 16th ADs, including the election of Hilary Crosby to take care of the CDP's finances and the election of Karen Bernal to head the Women's Caucus. He has represented MGO at special 16th AD County Central Committee meetings which brought together its delegates, CCC members, and chairs of various democratic clubs. Wayne is also on the Board of the API Democratic Caucus of Alameda County. He has been on the MGO Board around seven years and hopes to continue to make a contribution in the coming year.

**IRIS WINOGROND.** After a long career in teaching social policy and health issues in public education followed by 10 years in private psychology practice in Milwaukee WI, Iris retired and moved to northern California in 1995 with her husband. Her community activism is focused on the League of Women Voters, Montera Middle School, and Adams Point Action Council. She has served several years as President of the Board of Directors of Family Paths, a mental health agency, and currently serves on the Huskey Study Group for Juvenile Justice Reform.