



Join MGO in supporting the following candidates and measures in the November 6, 2018 election



Renew your MGO membership

MGO depends on the generosity of members like you to put on programs year-round. Space rental, in particular, is the biggest portion of our budget.

While the MGO membership year normally corresponds to the calendar year, if you renew or join today for two years, your membership will extend through the end of the 2020 calendar year because you are joining *after* our 2018 endorsement meetings. Two-year rates are as follows:

- \$50 – individual
- \$75 – family (two individuals living at the same address)
- \$20 – student / senior / low-income

Please join at www.mgodems.org/join-us, or remit a check and the form to the right (please fill out all fields) to:

Steve Statler, Treasurer
 MGO Democratic Club
 PO Box 11622
 Oakland, CA 94611

Thank you for your support!

I confirm that this contribution is not made from the general treasury funds of a corporation, labor organization, or national bank, or from the treasury of an entity or person who is a federal contractor. The funds are not being provided to me by another person for the purpose of making this contribution. I am at least 18 years old.

Name (include name of your partner if “family” membership)

Street Address

City/State/Zip

Phone / email (please list both)

Employer

Occupation

FPPC #790500 (California) FEC #C00402651 (U.S.)

MGO was honored to meet with candidates on the November 2018 election ballot at three endorsement meetings held in the last few weeks. To earn MGO’s endorsement, a candidate or measure must earn at least 60% of the votes cast for that particular contest. MGO’s slate includes those who were endorsed in our April meetings for the June primary and who have advanced to the November election.

Oakland city races. MGO is proud to support Oakland Mayor **Libby Schaaf** for re-election. She is balancing the needs and interests of myriad stakeholders, for example encouraging investment in Oakland while also taking care of and creating opportunities for longstanding residents. She will make further headway towards Oakland’s challenges in a new term.

MGO has also endorsed **Abel Guillén** for re-election to the Oakland City Council from District 2. At our endorsement meeting, Abel demonstrated his responsiveness to constituent needs and his ability to provide financial oversight.

Meanwhile, MGO did not arrive at an endorsement for the Oakland City Auditor, City Council District 4, City Council District 6, and OUSD District 4 races. Incumbents for OUSD Districts 2 and 6 have no opponents on the ballot.

Regional and county races. For Alameda County Assessor, MGO is pleased to endorse **Phong La**, a real estate attorney who specializes in state and local taxation and, from his interactions with the office, has many ideas on how to improve its accessibility and delivery of services. He is an almost life-long county resident and is a longtime Democratic club activist.

Also, MGO is pleased to support longtime club member **Robert Raburn** for re-election to the BART Board of Directors from District 4. He is the only Democrat in the race and will continue to provide steady, knowledgeable oversight.

In the race for Peralta Community College District Director, Area 5, MGO was impressed with **Cindi Reiss**’s energy and knowledge. An instructor at a nearby community college district and an accreditor for community colleges, Cindi knows first-hand the challenges that Peralta faces.

MGO was also greatly impressed with **Malia Cohen**, District 2 candidate for the State Board of Equalization. She is the president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and will bring a wealth of experience to the BOE.

MGO did not reach an endorsement for the Peralta Area 3 and AC Transit At-Large Director races. Incumbents in EBMUD Districts 3 and 4, AC Transit District 3, and Peralta Area 7 have no opponents on the ballot.

State legislative races. MGO proudly endorses **Rob Bonta** for re-election in Assembly District 18. He is a dynamic, effective leader on issues such as bail reform, cannabis conviction reform, and net neutrality, and is championing solutions to homelessness, OUSD funding, and an A’s ballpark.

MGO also proudly endorses **Jovanka Beckles** in Assembly District 15. She supports repealing Costa-Hawkins and limiting the growth of charter schools; is dedicated to clean campaign funding; and boasts lengthy experience as a Richmond City Council member and as an activist here in the East Bay.

Statewide races. MGO enthusiastically endorses **Tony Thurmond** for state superintendent of public instruction. From his representation of AD15, we know he is dedicated to closing the achievement gap, providing adequate pay and funding for teachers and schools, and banning for-profit charter schools.

MGO also endorses **Gavin Newsom** for governor, **Fiona Ma** for treasurer, **Betty Yee** for controller, **Ricardo Lara** for insurance commissioner, and **Xavier Becerra** for attorney general. MGO did not reach an endorsement for lieutenant governor.

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More on MGO's November 2018 election endorsements

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Federal races. MGO unequivocally endorses **Barbara Lee** for re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 13th District. She has been a visionary, effective champion for the progressive values we hold dear and will continue to be a leader that all Americans can admire.

MGO is also pleased to endorse **Kevin de León** for U.S. Senate. Our "new normal" of bare-knuckle politics in Washington calls for a forceful, progressive voice on California's behalf, which Kevin will provide on issues such as Medicare for all, clean energy, living wages, and a humane approach to immigration.

Ballot measures. MGO is pleased to endorse the stated "yes/no" positions on the following ballot measures.

YES, California Prop 1 – authorizes bonds to fund specified housing assistance programs

YES, California Prop 2 – authorizes bonds to fund existing housing program for individuals with mental illness

YES, California Prop 3 – authorizes bonds to fund projects for water supply and quality, watershed, fish, wildlife, water conveyance, and groundwater sustainability and storage

YES, California Prop 4 – authorizes bonds funding construction at hospitals providing children's health care

NO, California Prop 5 – changes requirements for certain property owners to transfer their property tax base to replacement property

NO, California Prop 6 – eliminates certain road repair and transportation funding; requires certain fuel taxes and vehicle fees to be approved by the electorate

NO, California Prop 7 – conforms California daylight saving time to federal law; allows Legislature to change daylight saving time period

YES, California Prop 8 – regulates amounts outpatient kidney dialysis clinics charge for dialysis treatment

YES, California Prop 10 – expands governments' authority to enact rent control on residential property

NO, California Prop 11 – requires private-sector emergency ambulance employees to remain on-call during work breaks; eliminates certain employer liability

YES, California Prop 12 – establishes new standards for confinement of specified farm animals; bans sale of noncomplying products

YES, Measure E – Peralta Community College District – parcel tax

YES, Measure G – Peralta Community College District – bond issue

YES, Measure V – City of Oakland – cannabis business taxes

YES, Measure W – City of Oakland – vacant property tax

YES, Measure X – City of Oakland – graduated real estate transfer tax

YES, Measure Y – City of Oakland – amending eviction ordinance

YES, Measure Z – City of Oakland – minimum wage and employment standards for Oakland hotel workers

YES, Measure AA – City of Oakland – parcel tax for education

YES, Measure FF – East Bay Regional Parks District – extension of existing parcel tax

MGO needs your help

MGO is Oakland's oldest Democratic club and is celebrating its 60th anniversary in the 2018-2019 program year. MGO remains an active, credible, and visible presence in Oakland politics because of the ongoing volunteer efforts of both its Executive Board ("eBoard") and members like you.

The newly re-elected eBoard members for the 2018-2019 year are **Judy Cox**, **Annie Flores** (vice president), **Vincent Leung** (president), and **Steve Statler** (treasurer). MGO's eBoard nominating committee is entertaining additional nominations to the Board that will be filled by the end of the year.

While serving on the MGO eBoard does not involve an extreme commitment of time, Board members must attend both general and Board meetings regularly and contribute on an active, year-round basis to program and club development.

If you are interested in serving on the MGO eBoard or can recommend someone who can serve in a full capacity, please contact Vincent at vincent.oakland@gmail.com. Also, MGO needs volunteers to execute meeting logistics, generate programming ideas, and monitor specific issues like education.

Thanks to **Gary Sirbu**, **Jim Mordecai**, **Marlo Rodriguez**, **Arlinda Befort**, **Linda Olvera**, and **Karan Balaji** for their invaluable support – and **thank you for your ongoing support of MGO!**

Are you getting MGO emails? You might be missing MGO notifications!

MGO is printing this newsletter as an extra means of informing members about ongoing activities and election endorsements. Most MGO communications are in the form of email newsletters from "**Vincent Leung, MGO Democratic Club**," with vincent.oakland@gmail.com as the email address.

If you haven't received these emails, check your spam folders and mark the MGO emails as "not spam," or *email Vincent directly to join our email newsletter mailing list and update your contact information.*

MGO also makes an effort to update its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mgodems and its web site at www.mgodems.org regularly.

From time to time, MGO officers will also try to call members to inform them about club activities. Because all MGO officers are volunteers, however, and are busy with day jobs and other obligations, email newsletters are the fastest, most efficient means of reaching the entire membership.

Please make sure that you are receiving and checking emails regularly because MGO events may be scheduled at quick notice depending on the availability of our busy guest speakers and of suitable meeting space.

MGO's 2018 year in review

MGO isn't all about endorsement meetings. Year-round, MGO conducts panels that examine pressing local issues and offer intimate access to the very decision makers responsible for them. They result in constructive, informative dialogue. Your continued support and attendance ensures that MGO's continued production of quality programming.

OUSD finances. On Friday, January 19th, MGO welcomed OUSD board members **Shanthi Gonzales** and **Nina Senn**, **Troy Christmas** of OUSD, **Gloria Lee** of Educate78, and **Nima Tahai** of GO Public Schools Advocates for a broad discussion of finances at OUSD. Topics included budgeting, financial controls, and prospects for OUSD's continued independence.

Homelessness. On Tuesday, March 6th, MGO welcomed **Joe DeVries**, an assistant to the city administrator who coordinates Oakland's efforts on homelessness, as well as **Lara Tannenbaum**, Oakland's acting manager for community housing services. They discussed the extent of homelessness in Oakland and talked about the city's efforts to reach and house the homeless, including the "tuff shed" program.

Spring endorsement meetings. MGO held endorsement meetings for the June primary on Saturday, April 7th and Saturday, April 21st. Every Democratic campaign for local office was represented, in addition to numerous candidates and campaign representatives for statewide offices.

Housing and vacant parcels. On Monday, June 4th, MGO welcomed Oakland City Council Member At-Large **Rebecca Kaplan** as well as **James Vann** and **Eduard Ytuarte** of the Oakland Tenants Union. They shared their views on SB 827 and discussed challenges and possible ways forward for building affordable housing. Additionally, CM Kaplan addressed questions about her innovative vacant parcel tax, which MGO has since endorsed in the form of Measure W.

What's next for MGO

Stay tuned to MGO emails (or our website or Facebook page) for news regarding:

- Volunteer and fundraising opportunities for endorsed candidates
- An informal gathering over coffee on Sunday 11/4 to give members a last chance to socialize regarding the election
- An MGO meeting on Monday 11/12 where we will invite a panel of guests to discuss election results
- A possible combined MGO holiday / 60th anniversary event in the second or third week of December

Also, please feel free to contact Vincent or any eBoard member regarding programming or guest ideas for 2019. MGO is committed to examining Oakland issues from all points of view.



Legislative update. On Tuesday, July 19th, MGO was honored to meet with State Sen. **Nancy Skinner** (above) and hear about her legislative priorities. She discussed her advocacy of SB 827 (housing density near transit) and shared her successes with SB 1025 (sentencing reform for drug offenses), SB 1421 (public access to police records), and SB 1437 (reforms to unjust felony murder convictions). **East Bay for Everyone** graciously hosted the event at their downtown Oakland offices. **Candidate forum.** MGO extends its deepest appreciation to the **Alameda County Democratic Party** for inviting MGO and other Democratic clubs to co-host a forum for Oakland mayoral and city council candidates on Thursday, August 23rd.

Oakland vegetation prevention and wildfire prevention. MGO was honored to welcome **Vincent Crudele** of the Oakland Fire Department and **Ken and Dinah Benson** of the Oakland Firesafe Council for a discussion of wildfire prevention and vegetation management efforts in Oakland now that there is no longer a Wildfire Prevention Assessment District.

Fall endorsement meetings. MGO held an initial discussion of state and local ballot initiatives on Friday, September 7th as a prelude to three endorsement meetings for the November 2018 election, which were held on Friday, September 28th, Friday, October 5th, and Friday, October 12th. Once again, all local Democratic candidates were invited, and almost all attended.

An open call: MGO history project

MGO is observing its 60th anniversary in the 2018-2019 program year!

This means that MGO is due for a 60th anniversary celebration soon, and calls for a celebratory review of MGO's storied past.

If you have any historical materials documenting past MGO activities of any kind – or if you would like to help create a celebratory program or digital archive – please contact Vincent Leung at vincent.oakland@gmail.com.

Also, please contact Vincent if you would like to help plan and execute a 60th anniversary celebration.

NOTICE TO VOTERS (REQUIRED BY THE CITY OF OAKLAND)

This mailing is not authorized or approved by any candidate, committee controlled by any candidate, or election official. It is paid for by the Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club, FPPC #790500, P.O. Box 11622, Oakland, CA 94611. Total cost of this mailing is: \$100.