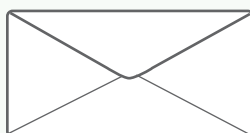
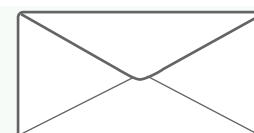


Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Editor,

If you want to understand how California got to be what we didn't want it to be, I recommend the book, "Paradise Lost" by Peter Schrag. Regarding our abuse of the initiative process, he describes it as, "first, a quick-fix autopilot remedy for perceived legislative failure -- a self-enacting political solution that exempts citizens and voters from the need to engage themselves in individual elections; second, a tangle of unintended consequences; and, third, further exacerbation of the tension between reform and frustration, and between the voters and the courts." Schrag points out that many of the major measures enacted by initiative in California have been challenged in court, so the courts have become increasingly engaged because of no checks and balances; no legislative hearings; no studies or expert witnesses; no requirement that majorities in two houses, plus a governor, be in agreement; no possibility, in most cases, that errors and inequities can be amended through legislative action. The next time someone sticks a petition under your nose and tells you that you don't need to understand the proposal because "this is just to get it onto the ballot," don't sign it. Please.

Dale Walwark
Moraga

Dear Editor,

Malignant melanoma can be a fatal cancer when it metastasizes to the brain and causes seizures. Senator McCain, the Republican candidate for the President of the United States has a history of malignant melanoma, yet he has repeatedly refused to fully release his health records. To say the least, this is very disconcerting to a citizen trying to make an informed vote. Senator McCain's last biopsy was reported to the public as "negative." This is of little comfort to me, coming from the candidate whose party has been famous for falsifying scientific documents to suit their purposes. It is imperative that the public be fully informed of the health status of a candidate for the highest office in the land, especially when his running mate is believed by many to be unqualified for that job. Insist that John McCain make a full disclosure of his medical records so that we can cast an informed vote for the President of the United States this November. Are we really a nation of laws? The recent financial calamity has brought to mind the many areas in which the laws and regulations of our country are not enforced. Things are getting out of hand. Pelosi refuses to impeach Bush for his many criminal acts documented in a plethora of recent books. Immigration laws have not been enforced for decades, resulting in the ever worsening of the immigration crisis. Karl Rove thumbs his nose at a Congressional subpoena while enjoying a high paying job on Fox news. Todd Palin refuses to answer a subpoena in Alaska. Are there no consequences to refusing to comply with the law? Is "big money" really the law? Are we returning to the good old "robber-baron" days where the rich ruled and there was no middle class.? This election is crucial to the future of our country. Please take the time to study the issues and vote intelligently.

Forrest J. Cioppa MD
Moraga

Dear Editor,

I feel I'm at a tennis match, listening to one expert, then another. Who to believe, who to trust? "We must move quickly." Isn't that how we got into the mess in Iraq? Two candidates before me, no crystal ball. No expertise to know who's right. What I do know:

McCain

1. Graduated near bottom of his class
2. Admits no understanding of economics
3. Advisor Phil Graham, author of bill responsible for current problems
4. Agreed with Bush, fundamentals sound (then changed story daily)
5. Wants to postpone first presidential debate, denying us info to make decision
6. Denies access to Palin (3 interviews) preventing informed choice

Obama

1. Graduated Harvard Law, President of Law Review (academic excellence)
2. Constitutional lawyer, knows/ respects Founding Fathers' intentions
3. Advisor Warren Buffet, financial genius, does well for investors/ himself, gives generously to charity
4. Carefully weighs options while consulting his experts
5. Recognizes public's need to keep debate schedule
6. Biden (over 84 speeches/interviews to date) gives us insight

And, houses (Mc 8, Ob 1), cars (Mc 13, Ob 1), temperament (Mc hot, Ob careful), Sunni/Shia /Pakistan's borders (Mc confused, Ob clear). For me, just one choice: Obama I trust, he "gets it" and gets my vote in November.

Sandra MacKenzie
Moraga

Measure E

To the Editor:

Voters beware! The Acalanes Union High School District wants more money from district residents. The Acalanes District has put Measure E on the November ballot. The measure, if passed, will allow the district to issue \$93 million worth of bonds. The bonds will be used to establish a technology fund, replace worn out roofs, and upgrade electrical systems. Measure E will not raise tax rates but will extend existing taxes. Measure E is a direct assault on the bank accounts of the district's senior citizens. These citizens, most of whom live on fixed incomes, have been paying outrageous prices for gasoline, food, and medical care. Moreover, the stock market, a major source of income for seniors, has been performing miserably. A few years ago, when the Acalanes District asked for a property (parcel) tax increase, the district offered an exemption for senior citizens. The current Measure E offers no such exemption. Property taxes are especially egregious because they tax an asset (a home) before it is sold. Stocks and bonds are not taxed until sold. Other assets -- like a person's furniture, clothing, and appliances -- have no property taxes. In general, property taxes should be eliminated. If replacement funds are needed, a tiny income tax might be acceptable. Specifically, Measure E should be voted down. It's time to give senior citizens some relief from the greedy hand of government.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda

To the Editor:

As a 15-year resident of Orinda, I've come to appreciate much about the Lamorinda community. Our strong public schools top that list. Moving to California from the east coast, I was surprised and dismayed by the sorry condition of public education in California. The Lamorinda schools are among a handful of schools in Northern California that can compete with some of the best schools across the country; I believe that is due to the long-standing history of community support. In fact, I researched the history of community support of education before purchasing my home. Now, even as my youngest child nears the end of her high school years, I am proud to carry the torch for continued investment in our local schools. I endorse Measure E, the facilities bond measure that will fund repairs and upgrades for our high schools; and I do this with the knowledge and understanding that our community's greatest asset -- and best investment -- is our schools. It's an investment that we can't afford to neglect. Please join me this November in voting Yes on Measure E.

Pat Rudebusch
Orinda

To the Editor:

As chair of the Acalanes Union High School District's Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee I had a front row seat in watching the prudent manner in which our schools manage facilities funds. All of the school improvements funded under the 2002 Measure B funds have been completed. Moreover, the district completed these projects in a cost-efficient and timely manner. In our final report, the Citizen's Oversight Committee commended the district on its aggressively pursuing all sources of revenue, its leadership in obtaining state matching funds, and for refinancing previous bond issues at lower interest rates thereby saving taxpayer dollars. Now that the Acalanes District is poised to continue its facilities repair and maintenance program, I can wholeheartedly endorse their continued efforts. Measure E is a facilities bond measure on the November ballot that will do just that. Measure E is a sound investment in our local high schools. Please join me in voting Yes on Measure E. For more information, readers can go to www.AboutMeasureE.org.

Art Kapoor
Lafayette

To the Editor:

On the November 4 ballot, one issue will be easy for us to decide: a yes vote for Measure E. Why vote for a school bond measure when the economy is suffering? There are several reasons: Measure E will not raise our current tax rates. It will help maintain our property values by keeping our high schools' facilities in good repair and improving the technology available for students. And by issuing bonds now, while interest rates are low and contractors are looking for work, it will give our schools the biggest bang for their buck.

Our high schools were built between 1940 and 1961. Previous bond measures have provided repairs that kept the roofs in one piece and provided facilities for growing enrollments, but the job is not complete. It is especially important that we keep up with the technology that students need to function in the 21st century. Measure E will do this. The state will not pay for it; we need to do it ourselves. Our property values are high in great part because excellent schools drive demand for housing. Measure E won't create Taj Mahal schools—it just lets us keep the schools in decent condition and able to teach our students what they need to know. Get the facts on Measure E at www.AboutMeasureE.org -- and then join me in supporting our students: Vote yes on Measure E.

Linda Landau
Orinda

Lafayette: Council Candidates

Dear Editor,

Vote for Carl Anduri, Lafayette City Council. I am a 23 year resident of Lafayette and a product of its high ranking schools, and have chosen to raise my own children here largely because of the quality of life that Lafayette has to offer. I have observed the many challenges that the City of Lafayette has faced over the years and am pleased with the work to improve our downtown, to build the new library, and to preserve the integrity of our local neighborhoods. I urge you to support Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council. As a current council member and past Mayor, he has the experience and knowledge that it takes to continue running our great city. He is an incredibly careful listener and weighs every point of view when making his decisions. In fact, all three incumbents running this fall (Carl Anduri, Mike Anderson and Carol Federighi) have worked extremely well together to bring about thoughtful, responsible change in Lafayette and address ongoing challenges. I urge you to vote for all three. Carl also supports the preservation and protection of Lafayette's hillsides, ridges and open space for the enjoyment of all residents. He has done a great job in maintaining the semi-rural nature of our city.

Brad Kisner
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

I have known Carl Anduri since he became a member of the Lafayette City Council in early 2002, and have always been impressed with his fair and unbiased opinions, questions, and voting on matters before the City Council. About two years ago I became very much involved with senior citizens in Lafayette when I organized the Lafayette Senior Liaison Committee and became its chairman. In that capacity, I have been involved in committees, task forces, and discussions with Carl Anduri and have found him always to be very supportive of Lafayette senior citizens, their challenges, and solutions. I support Carl Anduri 100% for his reelection to the Lafayette City Council and urge you to vote for him as well.

Sincerely,
Marechal Duncan
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

I urge Lafayette voters to reelect Carl Anduri to the Lafayette City Council. Carl continues to demonstrate talents that have made him an effective community advocate and problem solver for 16 years. Not only is Carl intelligent, well-organized and hard-working, he is also ethical, thoughtful and fiscally responsible. I have witnessed all of Carl's impressive and balanced leadership qualities while serving with him on Lafayette's Environmental Task Force. I have been particularly impressed with Carl's careful and responsible approach to all problems. When discussing the Environmental goals Lafayette might adopt, Carl has made sure that voices from all community constituents have been heard. He has supported an extensive search of data about communities with similar demographic and geographic features to get a sense of environmental strategies that work, and that are not too costly. In meetings, I am always impressed with Carl's excellent organization, background knowledge, communication and leadership skills, as well as his clear commitment to and forward looking vision for Lafayette. Carl and the rest of our current Lafayette City Council have been an impressive team, and I look forward to benefitting from their experienced judgment and leadership for years to come.

Sincerely,
Janet Thomas
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

I would like to encourage voters in Lafayette to re-elect Carl Anduri for City Council. As a Board Member of the Lafayette Homeowners Council and Burtonvalley.com, I have worked with Carl on several high-profile and controversial issues, and found him to be extremely thoughtful and sensitive to community concerns. Lafayette's General Plan articulates the community's desire to maintain

Public Forum JOIN IT

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.



47 year Orinda Residents

Finally, someone who will represent our interests!



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DR. BOB LARSEN
ORINDA CITY COUNCIL
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