

Letters to the Editor

Uniquely qualified for council

It is not often that Lafayette voters can add the only uniquely qualified candidates, Susan Candell and Ivor Sansom, to fill much needed positions on the City Council. The current council members do not have engineering backgrounds, or legal expertise. Susan is a highly qualified Nuclear Engineer, with degrees from MIT and Cal. She is currently a Circulation Commissioner, Community Foundation Board Member and President of the Springhill Valley Homeowners Association. She has deep, local understanding of Environmental Impact issues, i.e. health and traffic safety problems. Ivor is a lawyer. But not just any lawyer. He has also been Lafayette Citizen of the Year, California Lawyer of the year, and a "three term" Lafayette City Councilman in prior years. He was also a founding member of the Lafayette Homeowners Council and has served on the Planning Commission.

As long time residents, Sara and I have worked on Lafayette issues with each of the candidates. We know them to be independent thinkers, who have invested their time tirelessly to understand the needs of our fellow citizens. And more important, taken action on those needs. They have certainly earned the trust and support of many of us in the community. Our city will almost immediately need the professional eye of Susan regarding new or updated Environment Impact Reports. If Mayor Tatzin is correct in predicting legal action against the city, it will be imperative that Ivor be right there, to play a significant City Council role. Timing is everything. This election is about selecting the right talent to build the strongest, formidable City Council to face, with confidence, the significant challenges before us. Vote Candell and Samson. We really need them!

Sara and Ron Brown
Lafayette

Candell and Samson for council

We write to endorse Susan Candell and Ivor Samson for Lafayette City Council. All of us taxpayers and voters know that Lafayette will be different in five years. AB 2923 is law, but we don't know how its implementation will unfold. Steve Falk has resigned as City Manager, but we don't know who will replace him. Whether those changes are for better or worse depends directly on the City Council we elect next month. As the saying goes, we live in interesting times.

Susan and Ivor share three crucial qualities. First, as a highly accomplished engineer and attorney respectively, they are professionally qualified to make sense of the complicated land use choices, and the countless overlapping regulatory and financial constraints, that Lafayette will face. Second, they are loyal to no one but the Lafayette voter. They fought an uphill fight to enact our new Conflict of Interest ordinance, to ensure that every voter in Lafayette knows that our City acts solely for us and our best interests. Third - just what are those interests? Reasonable people may disagree on every issue, and Lafayette's homeowners' associations are famously strong-willed, but that doesn't make us wrong. Indeed we're still blessed with founding members of our community, the generation who built the Lafayette we love and preserved it all these years - those folks' voices must be heard in any discussion about the future. Susan and Ivor have the long robust histories of service to our community, and the established relationships with Lafayette HOAs, to understand what a "best outcome" looks like through the lens of our values and priorities.

Our City Council's job is to

get that best outcome for us from every opportunity and challenge that lies ahead. For that we need Councilmembers with the professional acumen to watch our back; the transparency and integrity to bargain for our side only; and the local wisdom to know what Lafayette voters want. On November 6, please vote for Susan Candell and Ivor Samson.

Cathy Beier, Secretary; George Burt, Vice President ; Dr. Barbara Persons, Director; Peter Yun, Director
Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association

Trotter and McCluer for Moraga Town Council

Of the three candidates running for Moraga Town Council, Dave Trotter and Mike McCluer are the clear choice for those of us who value open space and want to preserve the look and feel of Moraga.

McCluer is new to the planning commission but prior to that as a private citizen he participated in the hillside/ridgeline project and supported stricter regulations.

I didn't always support Trotter. As a planning commissioner in the 1990s he favored the Palos Colorados project which I and other open space activists opposed. We also opposed his first Council campaigns. But that was then and this is now. I haven't changed much but Dave has. Beginning with his successful Council election in 2006 he's become a strong proponent of open space issues in Moraga. The recently approved Hillside/Ridgeline Ordinance that he personally initiated five years ago is the latest example of his commitment to protect Moraga from unwise development.

Why is open space so important? Because our remaining open space and semi-rural landscape are the essence of Moraga. In the past I've called our community an oasis in an East Bay gradually choking on housing density and traffic. In the 40+ years I've lived here, I've seen gradual change in Moraga. That will continue, but it's vital that we have council members who will stand up to the developers who are still banging on the gates, clamoring to build, build, build on lands that can't handle building and ought to be left alone.

I don't normally support long-term politicians, but in this case I'm making an exception. Trotter has served Moraga well on the Council. He's been adaptive and creative and has accomplished much, but he still has one more BIG THING to do: Bollinger Canyon is threatened with a project that requires old-style massive grading to deal with the same landslide soil conditions that prompted the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (which I helped pass). Based on their records, Trotter and McCluer offer the best hope for extending MOSO-type protections to Bollinger Canyon. They deserve your vote. Richard Immel
Moraga

Clarification regarding signage for Moraga Council candidates

I've received some questions from members of the Moraga community regarding signs that have recently appeared asking voters to vote for myself and Steve Woehleke.

These signs were put up by a third party, but have given some the mistaken impression that Mr. Woehleke and I are running together as a slate. I want to state for the record that I'm running as an independent candidate, not as part of any slate.

I strongly encourage all Moraga voters to review the priorities and qualifications of all three candidates and vote for whomever they conclude will most effectively

represent the best interests and values of Moraga.

Thank you,
Mike McCluer
Candidate for Moraga Town Council

Woehleke for Moraga Town Council

We are writing this letter to express our enthusiastic support for Steve Woehleke for Moraga Town Council.

We have known Steve and his family for a number of years and they have lived in Moraga for 31 years. Steve has extensive volunteering service having devoted 5 years on the Moraga Design Review Board; 10 years on the Planning Commission and 5 years on the Hacienda Foundation Board.

Steve brings 33 years of experience as an engineer where he gained extensive expertise in project management and organizational competency in decision making as it relates to project management. Steve also holds an MBA in Finance.

We live in a town with limited financial resources, witness the razor thin budgeted surplus expected this fiscal year. At the same time we also face substantial unfunded liabilities relating to needed storm drain repairs (\$25+ million) as well as a \$6 million (and growing) unfunded pension liability.

Recent history with the Town's approach and overall strategy relating to the temporary Canyon bridge is not encouraging and is of concern - initial cost estimate of \$2 million with a September 17th disclosure that the costs are now \$3.7 million and perhaps more?

Moraga's single largest immediate challenge is to address our needed storm drain system repairs. A funding plan and a prudent, cost effective and a thoroughly vetted project management approach needs to be developed - Steve has the engineering skill set to help the Town achieve these goals.

Steve will also act as a fiduciary for the Town. Witness the discussion at the candidate's night presentation where the other two candidates were in favor of evaluating now the building of a community gym (and adding to the Town's budget, the associated costs of carrying it) when we also face more significant resource needs for the storm drains and pension issues. At this meeting, Steve had the honesty and integrity to say "no" and not be in favor of a gym at this time (but not ruling it out permanently). We both are all in favor of adding facilities that would enrich our community but not when we cannot presently afford it. We need fiduciaries on our Town Council that say "no" when it is appropriate. We need the members of our Town Council to make better decisions - we need Steve in that room to help make this happen.

Moraga needs Steve's skills on the Town Council and we enthusiastically encourage all of Moraga to vote for Steve!
Edward F. and Denise K. B.
Silicani
Moraga

Orinda City Council

Support Amy, Dennis and Nick for Council; Nathan, Lucy & Red MOFD; Christopher AUHSD

We are indeed fortunate there are several outstanding candidates running for local offices in this November's election. Please join me in voting for these capable community members!

Orinda City Council
· Amy Worth
· Dennis Fay
· Nick Kosla
MOFD Fire Board
· Nathan Bell (Division 1)
· Red Smith (Division 3)
· Lucy Talbot (Division 4)

AUHSD School Board

· Christopher Severson
I personally know all candidates and can highly recommend them as great community volunteers, fiscally prudent and welcome open communications. They all deserve your vote.
Sue Severson
Orinda

Thank you, Amy Worth

We have lived in Orinda and Lafayette for 52 years, the most recent 33 years in Orinda. We are grateful for the quality of Orinda's local government. We urge our fellow Orindans to vote to reelect Amy Worth.

- Orinda has been financially well-managed and remains one of only a few California cities without an unfunded pension liability, allowing us to use all of our revenues to fund current services;

- Orinda has creatively found a mix of outside grants, county and local sales tax revenues and bond proceeds to maintain our infrastructure;

- Orinda built and secured long-term funding for our wonderful Orinda Library;

- Orinda is one of the safest cities in California, with a City Council that pays close attention to public safety and partnership with our Fire District;

- Orinda's leaders have been dedicated to increasing the vitality of our downtown areas while preserving the semi-rural character of our residential areas;

- Orinda has accomplished these and many other priorities by being led by City Council members in an open, transparent, thoughtful, collaborative way - attentive to community priorities.

Amy Worth deserves great credit and our gratitude for her years of service. We count on Amy to keep up the great work. Amy has our enthusiastic support in the November elections.

Bob Fisher
33 year Orinda resident
Mayor and Councilman, Lafayette, 1968 - 1976
Chair, Lafayette Fire and Police Service Commissions
Chair, Contra Costa County Mayors Conference
Chair, Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission

Dennis Fay for Orinda City Council

I am writing to express my strong support for Dennis Fay for Orinda's City Council. I've gotten to know Dennis as someone who listens respectfully, weighs decisions logically, and in the end just gets things done. We are extremely lucky to have people like him willing to give their time and expertise for the betterment of our city. I grew up in Orinda and am now raising my three girls in this lovely community - I put my full faith in Dennis Fay to represent us all on the city council. Please vote for Dennis!

Arran Schultz
Orinda

I support Dennis, Nick, and Amy ("DNA") for Orinda City Council

I will cast my three votes for Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla, and Amy Worth for City Council. Each candidate brings a different type of valuable experience needed to address the critical issues facing Orinda.

Dennis Fay is a retired transportation engineer with years of service on Orinda's Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) which has overseen the renewal of our public roads.

Nick Kosla is an expert in municipal zoning regulations and entitlement law and has served as chair of the Orinda's Planning Commission.

Amy Worth is respected for her many years of service on the Council and her connections

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and influence on regional bodies whose decisions affect Orinda.

All three candidates will listen closely to citizen views and through long residency in Orinda understand Orinda's values and the quality of life that we all want for ourselves, our children, and future generations.

Please join me in voting for Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla, and Amy Worth for Orinda City Council.

Bob Burt
Orinda

Vote for Jenkins and Phillips

I write to endorse Kathleen Jenkins and Eve Phillips for Orinda City Council. Here's why.

One of the most important issues facing Orinda is the future of our two downtowns. Of the five candidates running for the three seats that are at stake in this election, only Kathy and Eve have committed that any new development must be subject to the current height and density limits, and parking requirements. The other candidates have only made vague statements about preserving our village character.

Kathy and Eve have been the subject of false accusations that they are opposed to new development. Nothing could be further from the truth. Eve was the only member of the City Council to vote in favor of the conditional use permit for the two uses sought by the owner of 25A Orinda Way, across from the library. Kathy spoke out publicly in support of that project.

See the minutes of the June 6, 2017 Council meeting.

<https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/citycouncilmeetings/file/213807886615>

Kathy and Eve, unlike the other candidates, have not made a career of working for the bureaucracy or working as consultants to developers. They bring a breath of fresh air. Eve was the only member of the current Council to vote against the recent \$250,000 streetscape consultant contract. <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1209/Eisen-Letic-winsstreetscape-master-plan-contract.html> Kathy has gone on record as in favor of fiscal responsibility and fewer consultants.

Please vote for Kathleen Jenkins and Eve Phillips for Orinda City Council.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Endorsing Amy Worth

In the current political environment it is easy to feel that our elected representatives should change for the sake of change. However, some leaders only get better with time. Amy Worth of Orinda is one of those leaders.

Over and over, she has shown vision and clear decision-making capabilities as Orinda grapples with crumbling infrastructure, downtown revitalization and regional housing and transportation issues.

Her strong relationships with local, state and national leaders help Orinda on an on-going basis. When our city needs something, she knows whom to contact and they always respond. As a member of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, she is in a unique position to help drive the right balance between local and regional transportation planning interests and to help Orinda leverage regional programs.

Our community is fortunate that Amy has chosen to give her time and energy to us, rather than to the many other opportunities that she has. I look forward to voting for her for Orinda City Council and hope that others will, as well.

Paula Reinman
Orinda

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