

# City council candidates share their views on Lafayette hot topics

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**Lamorinda Weekly:** Traffic has long been a concern in Lafayette – especially for the northeast quadrant residents. What steps should the city be taking to address the issue and, especially, what steps can the city take to improve evacuation scenarios, for example in a wildfire?

**Candidates:** Farzan, Dawson and Burks all stress the importance of signing up for the Community Warning System and frequent evacuation drills to help prepare for a wildfire evacuation. Dawson would like to see the city increase the number of annual drills and reissue the Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation Guide on a regular basis.

Farzan notes the worsening traffic in Lafayette, with the worst of it in the northeast quadrant. “In Lafayette, not only do we have Pleasant Hill Road as a route of regional significance, but we also have four inter-jurisdictional routes in Moraga Way, Moraga Road, Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail. We cannot fix our traffic issues on our own because it’s clearly a regional issue.”

Minimally, says Farzan, “I would

propose pushing the CCTA to contract with StreetLight Data to get real-time traffic data analysis on which to guide our decision-making including working with local, sister, and county officials on improving our evacuation scenarios.”

Dawson says the city must identify transportation safety as a priority then implement and enforce measures for traffic reduction and safe routes for residents to travel. “I recommend the city construct additional safe walkways and bike routes and expand reliable public transportation options,” she says as a way to address congestion.

Anduri says that traffic is a problem everywhere. “With respect to traffic in the northeast quadrant, there is benefit each time the city focuses on the area,” he says. “The problem comes from topography, regional traffic flows and systems like WAZE. The city should make the northeast quadrant a priority focus once more with an emphasis on regional collaboration.” But, he notes, “Other areas also need to be the subject of focused attention.”

Regarding downtown traffic Anduri says the city should improve its infrastructure with measured implementation of the Downtown Congestion Plan,

which he says was the result of at least four years of citizen, staff and consultant effort.

Citing safety as his first priority and complete confidence in Lafayette’s police and fire departments, Burks says, “This is why I have decided not to ‘campaign’ for this re-election but to instead commit the thousands of dollars I would have spent ... to the Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriff’s Association; the Contra Costa County Fire Protection Benevolent Fund; and the The National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases,” adding, “We do not need any political distractions during a time of a pandemic, catastrophic wildfires and a major local and national movement to advance social justice.”

Burks says County Supervisors have done little to benefit Lafayette, regarding the traffic in the northeast quadrant. “We must engage these local jurisdictions ourselves, build coalitions and do everything that is legal to compel commuters to use main freeway routes such as the 680/24 interchange,” and he wants to see police enforcement “to discourage commuters taking shortcuts.”

**Lamorinda Weekly:** How would you propose to maintain

Lafayette’s “semi-rural character” while addressing concerns of a growing body of residents calling for inclusivity and diversity? Can semi-rural character be compatible with inclusivity and diversity?

**Candidates:** All four candidates want to promote the city’s semi-rural character.

Anduri says while he would like the city to maintain a semi-rural atmosphere, particularly in its neighborhoods, he would also like to see it become more inclusive and more diverse. “I do not think these goals are incompatible,” says Anduri. “However, I think we will need to reimagine what this means for our downtown corridor, where we should proactively guide the development of housing so that it is more inclusive. Also, we need to remain mindful that diverse citizens are drawn to a community where they feel welcome and included.”

Farzan says, “Inclusivity and diversity should have no bearing on our ‘semi-rural character,’ which we can and should maintain. We should be an open and warm community for everyone,” and he goes on to point out, “Inclusivity and diversity help us live up to our values and create a stronger community, which just happens to have a ‘semi-

rural character.”

Dawson says, “The General Plan update provides an opportunity to reinforce policies which balance a focus on multi-family development and affordable housing in our downtown core close to public transportation and public services, while preserving our scenic hillsides and ridgelines, and protecting and enhancing our open space.”

Noting that he created a new task force on racial equity, diversity and inclusion, Burks says, “I am passionate about advancing equality in our community and our Task Force is but one example of a start to a movement that has been needed for quite some time; we need to embed qualities and elements of greater inclusivity and diversity in absolutely every policy and decision we make as a city government.” He adds that he is grateful Lafayette’s two school districts and residents are passionate in this area, “which I believe will be a force-multiplier in sustaining our community values and semi-rural character,” adding, “This is ... why I have decided to redirect campaign funds to the charities above plus a donation, instead of campaigning, to the Others and Belonging Institute of Cal Berkeley.”

**To learn more:** Inclusive Lafayette together with Sustainable Lafayette will hold a candidates forum at 7 p.m. on Sept. 25. To register for the webinar visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Wf1FeqlsSjKK27u4Fe0c7w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Wf1FeqlsSjKK27u4Fe0c7w) Lafayette Homeowners Council will hold a candidates forum on Oct. 1. Visit <https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/> for details on how to join the meeting. Zoom webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85049934441?pwd=em1nbGxWbU5nbHlicVY2a2k2Ym5iUT09> Passcode: 701591

## Letters to the editor

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### Split MOFD board declines to change reserve balance policy

Director Jex appears to have failed Leadership/Management 101. His use of Ad hominem attacks focused on MOFD Board members closes out any thoughtful discussions or deliberations. Director Jex describing board members who disagree on policy as “incompetent” does not lead to clear and cogent discussions on policy matters.

During Director Jex’s almost four years as a MOFD Board member he has made a significant contribution in the auditing of MOFD’s Financials. His skill as an auditor are more than adequate; however, Director Jex has demonstrated repeatedly a lack of understanding of the mission of MOFD and conflates MOFD’s life-saving mission with the administrative operations of a private sector company. In an executive role, Director Jex notably demonstrates a lack of understating of public sector financing, local government organizational requirements, and the key role of Contra Costa County’s Teeter Plan. His executive thinking is reflective of a commodity-based private enterprise not an organization dedicated to saving property and lives. Further, Director Jex does not understand the fiscal history of MOFD. Over the last decade, the MOFD board, acting with fiscal prudence, has raised the reserve balance three (3)

times to its current level of 17%. With multi-million dollar balances in various District funds, Director Jex has forgotten the cardinal rule of governmental accounting: all dollars are fungible.

Director Jex’s statement of Board incompetence blocks any meaningful discussion on policy differences. His Ad hominem attacks simply demonstrate a need for less “deep dives” into accounting and more training in executive/enterprise management. Stephen Anderson Orinda

### Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council

As a former Planning Commissioner and City Councilperson, Carl has been a highly respected member of our community for years. In brief, he sets the standard for the ethics, attention, knowledge, and outlook required to be effective.

Carl was co-chair of our Senior Housing Task Force. The task, facilitating the development of low income senior housing in Lafayette, involved researching potential sites downtown, selection of a nonprofit senior housing development partner, and meeting the City’s ordinances. Efficiently completed, it was the ONLY 100% affordable housing project to be built in Lafayette in the last 30 years. Carl’s leadership was critical in that process as we successfully blended planning requirements with design, costs and financing.

Lafayette faces continuing planning challenges to meet local and external requirements. Carl’s knowledge and experience in Planning and on the Council are needed.

For more information: [www.anduri2020.com](http://www.anduri2020.com) Will Lovitt Lafayette

### Support for Inga Miller

Inga Miller, running for re-election to Orinda’s City Council deserves our unqualified support.

I agree with Steve Glazer, State Senate Representative (and former Mayor of Orinda), who has endorsed Ms. Miller (as well as Darlene Gee!).

She is a strong supporter of completing Orinda’s road repairs. As Mayor, Ms. Miller helped guide the City, in 2019, through a shocking, difficult time when the Halloween shootings occurred. Starting in 2019, she began working with the Police Chief Cook on wildfire preparedness. Ms. Miller operates her small business right here in Orinda; that is, her law practice focusing on real estate issues. She finds time to be a volunteer driver helping Orinda non-driving seniors to get to important appointments.

Ms. Miller helped bring to the November 2020 ballot the much needed – and timely - measure to beef up fire safety (on City and private road rights of way), flood

prevention and road repair. She works to keep Orinda road maintenance/repair costs in check.

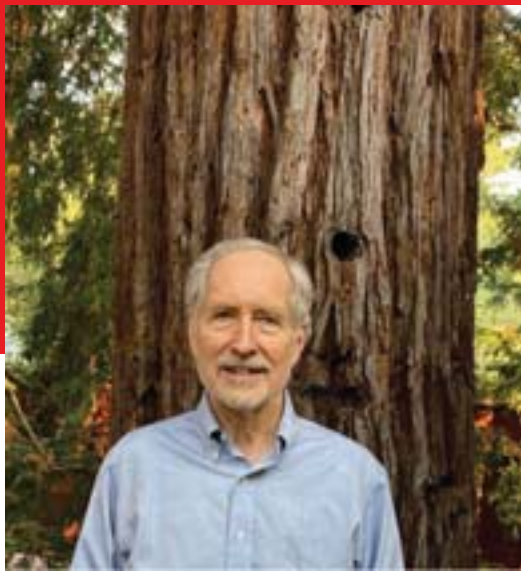
Ms. Miller supports our downtown Orinda Library, a long-time center for students seniors and avid readers. She worked with the Council and The Friends of the Library to place a measure on the ballot, and advocated passage vigorously in the press, to maintain library hours and services; continue programs for children, families, and seniors; undertake building maintenance and repairs. The measure passed by 75% Yes (June 2018), providing \$500,000 annually for 7 years. The measure included an independent resident oversight committee, reflecting her commitment to fiscal prudence.

Ms. Miller addresses social issues that resonate in this City. On June 7, she marched, as a City Council member (with 3 other council members), in support of Black Lives Matter, a gathering which drew a large, dedicated crowd.

Inga Miller grew up here in Orinda. She has the temperament for public service, and the experience, having worked as Mayor, Vice Mayor and council member, during a challenging, stressful 4-year period.

She knows our City. She has my vote, and I hope, that of my fellow Orindans as well. David Anderson Orinda

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*“Carl and I served together on our City Council. He cares deeply about our community and its future. I know Lafayette will be in good hands with Carl’s proven leadership.”*

*Mike Anderson, Mayor, Lafayette*

# Carl Anduri

## Lafayette City Council

### Proven Experience

- Lafayette City Council: Councilmember, 2002-2012; Mayor, 2005 and 2011
- Lafayette Planning Commission: Commissioner, 1997-2002; Chair, 2001 and 2002
- Served on numerous Lafayette task forces and committees, including the Hillside Task Force, the Open Space Task Force, the Environmental Task Force (Co-Chair), the Senior Housing Task Force (Co-Chair), the Park Theater Task Force and the Roads Task Force (Co-Chair)

## Please Join Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support Carl!

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