

# Letters to the editor

## Current and Former Mayors Support Foreman, Smith & Sturm

We know as community leaders that a city thrives on excellence in all its institutions, and here in Lafayette, we highlight the importance of one in our slogan: Green Hills and Great Schools. Our schools are a magnet for families to choose our city, and parent involvement begets a long-term commitment to our community.

Schools are prominent on our ballot for the November election. We believe that the schools will prosper and continue to improve with the most highly qualified board members. We endorse candidates Foreman, Smith, and Sturm for the Lafayette School District. Incumbents Smith and Sturm have been strong partners to the City on issues including traffic and safety, and we are working in common on inclusion and belonging for all residents, families, and students. Katy Foreman has been a parent leader who has partnered with the City on safety issues and supported the schools constantly in volunteer roles.

We are confident these candidates will pursue continuous improvement for our schools, supporting access to a strong core curriculum for all students, and student wellness through meaningful social and emotional learning experiences. Please vote on November 8 to ensure our schools remain a vital part of our community. Mike Anderson, Brandt Anderson, Carl Anduri, Cam Burks, Teresa Gerringer, Anne Grodin, Erling Horn, Don Tatzin, Carol Federighi

## Support for Foreman, Smith and Sturm

As Lafayette community members who attended school here as children, and returned to raise our own children, we are writing to voice our support for Lafayette School Board candidates Katy Foreman, Dave Smith, and Rob Sturm. Each of these three have demonstrated a deep commitment to Lafayette's public schools and will provide critical leadership to move our schools forward.

Lafayette's public schools have a tradition of academic rigor and excellence, providing a safe and supportive environment for all children and creating pro-

gramming to prepare students to meet the challenges of the future. Lafayette's schools and students have benefited greatly from the significant involvement of parents and the broader community. Katy, Dave, and Rob are leaders among parent volunteers.

Rob Sturm has been a member of the Lafayette School District Governing Board since 2017, most recently serving two terms as Board President. Dave Smith has served on the Lafayette School District Governing Board since 2021, and on the LPIE Board for the two years prior. Katy Foreman has been a volunteer leader in a variety of roles throughout the district since 2018, including PTA President. Each of these parent volunteers are committed to continuing the school district's academic excellence, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and to providing a safe and supportive environment for all of the district's students.

The Lafayette School District has had a long tradition of forward-thinking programs to ensure that our students are prepared for the future. At this critical time, we require experienced leaders who will look forward and not backwards as they guide our school district. For those reasons, we believe Katy Foreman, Dave Smith, and Rob Sturm are the best candidates to lead the Lafayette School District. Jacinta Pister, Mary McCosker, Kathy & Rick Biro, Danielle Gallagher Lafayette

## Ledeen for AUHSD board

I strongly encourage voters to read Gabe Ledeen's blog post at [forbetterschools.org](http://forbetterschools.org) in response to his experience as a candidate running for AUHSD. Gabe is extremely well-qualified to serve on the board. Unfortunately, a small, but vocal minority of individuals are attempting to discredit him. Gabe is a father, Stanford Law graduate who served two tours of duty in Iraq after 9/11 and extremely bright. He is an exemplary person who has tossed his hat into the ring of local politics and would be an excellent addition to the AUHSD Board.

Jim Landau's "Trump Appointees Running" letter questioning the motivation of Nowac/Woolworth/ Ledeen "as they don't have children" in the district is misleading. neither of

the incumbents Severson and Kendierski nor newcomer Chen have children in the district either!! More smoke and mirrors from Jim Landau who is notorious for smear campaigns! Makes me wonder what else Landau (or his ghost writer) has wrong?

The COVID-related damage done to children because of incumbents Severson and Kendierski's choices are devastating. Their misguided decision to cancel grades in AP classes, refusal to reconvene in-person classes and elimination of differentiated courses (i.e higher level math) is an assault to the district. Severson and Kendierski capitulated to the detriment of children and it is clearly time for a change! Rebecca Van Voorhis-Gilbert, JD, PhD Orinda

## When did school become political?

I was compelled to write a letter regarding the local school board elections as someone who grew up in Lafayette and have lived here for 20 years to raise my family. I have never been an active political voice but I felt the need to be heard for our children's well-being.

I am not active on social media but like many people, may log onto Nextdoor or Facebook every now and then to see what's happening. The anger and contempt that exists online is revolting.

I believe a school's primary focus should be academics. Pushing things like gender fluidity or accusations of white fragility onto young, impressionable children is a very serious and personal subject that generally should be discussed at home.

I admire anyone that has agreed to run for their local school board(s). It seems the main divide between the candidates is, do you want your schools to get back to focusing on academics, or are you in favor of pushing more social issues? Personally, I would like teachers to generally stick with reading, writing, and arithmetic and leave the social issues to the family.

I'm for getting back to education. Paul Souza Lafayette

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# Re-Elect Sarah BUTLER

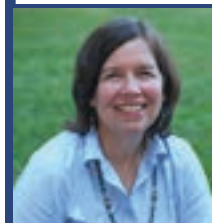
## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, AREA 2

### Experience Matters!

County Board of Education Trustee since 2018  
former Orinda School Board Member (2012-2016)  
Board President, 2022, County Board of Education

### Priorities include:

Student and Classroom Resources & Support  
School Safety and Mental Health Resources  
Transparency, Accountability and Oversight  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Parent and Family Engagement

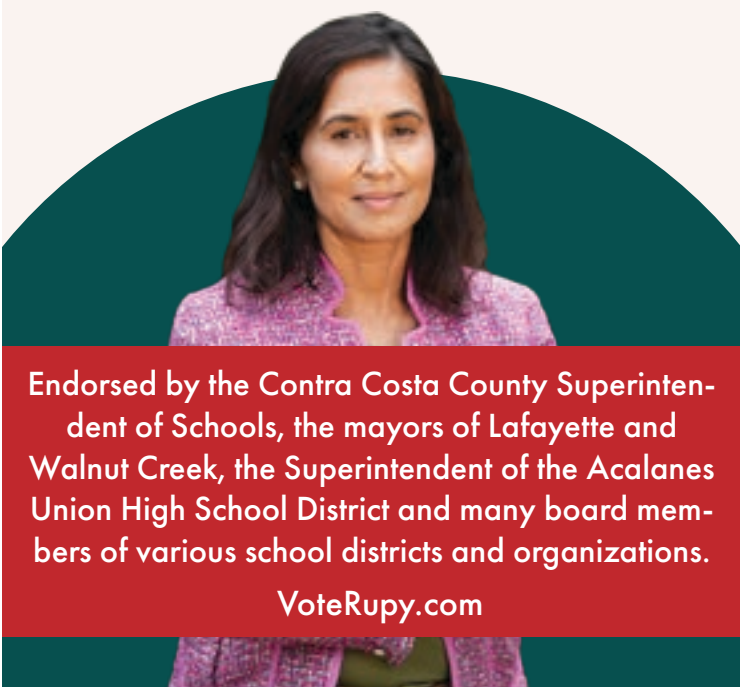


Endorsements on website:  
[www.SarahButler2022.com](http://www.SarahButler2022.com)

Paid for by Sarah Butler for CCC Board of Education 2022, FPPC #1410196

# RUPY KRISHNAN

FOR CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AREA 2



Endorsed by the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools, the mayors of Lafayette and Walnut Creek, the Superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District and many board members of various school districts and organizations.

[VoteRupy.com](http://VoteRupy.com)

PAID FOR BY RUPY KRISHNAN FOR CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AREA TWO 2022 FPPC #1453504

# STUART HOUSE FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL

## STUART SUPPORTS ...

- Orinda's schools in areas of intersection with the City to enhance OUSD's quality education plans.
- Senior Housing and Teacher Housing as primary components of the State-mandated Housing Element.
- The Precise Plan which improves the vitality and retains the charm of Downtown Orinda.
- Wildfire mitigation efforts including Measure R, the Orinda FireWise Council, and the MOFD wood chipping program.
- Traffic Safety and Traffic Calming measures (currently Vice-Chair of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee).

**ENDORSED BY:** Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay, all members of the Orinda Union School Board, Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, The Lamorinda Democratic Club, The Orinda Education Association, Evolve California, Orindans for Fair Road Funding and numerous community and civic leaders of both political parties



## VOTE NOV. 8

[StuartHouse4OrindaCityCouncil2022.org](http://StuartHouse4OrindaCityCouncil2022.org)