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## PRO vs CON Measure C public forum

### Measure C Supporters Hold a Positive Vision for Lafayette

By Budd MacKenzie, Teresa Gerringer and Anne Grodin

Two years ago, with the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center completed and the road repair program funded, the Lafayette City Council conducted a series of community conversations throughout the city to hear from families about their 20-year vision for Lafayette.

More than 700 residents participated, and they said that the city's top priorities should be to preserve open space, enhance public safety, improve parking and traffic, and revitalize the Park Theater. And so the council placed Measure C, a one-cent-sales tax increment, on the November ballot.

Since that time, hundreds of people have come forth to support the measure and work on the campaign. Measure C's endorsers are community leaders who hold a positive vision for Lafayette. They're people who won't be dissuaded by the critics and their fabricated "facts" and conspiracy theories. They're residents who know that Lafayette is well managed, recalling that the city:

- Has no pensions or pension obligations;
- Has a large emergency reserve;
- Has a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's (the highest possible rating);
- Efficiently contracts for most of its services;
- Was recently ranked by Transparent California as among the top 10 percent of California's most efficient cities.

Residents know about the city's aggressive crime prevention efforts, and how Police Chief Eric Christensen has used technology and community policing techniques in innovative ways to solve the crimes that do occur. Last year, Lafayette's police solved 60 percent of the residential burglaries – a figure unheard of in other cities.

And they've seen how the city even gets the little things right – like the new reflective street name signs that give paramedics and fire fighters clear direction to our homes in the event of a true emergency.

This is a city council that has delivered, time and again, on its promises.

And so residents can take City Council members at their word when they pledged, unanimously and unambiguously, to use Measure C proceeds for these and only these purposes:

- Open Space
- More and better parking
- Improved traffic
- Enhanced policing
- Downtown parks, and
- A revitalized Park Theater.

To quell any remaining doubt, remember, too that Measure C orders that an Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee will monitor expenditures to ensure that the city is in full compliance with the ballot measure.

Orinda did it, Moraga did it, and now it's Lafayette's turn to capture the sales tax cap before a regional agency does. If you don't think BART, MTC, and Contra Costa County aren't eyeing future tax measures, think again.

Stay positive! Vote YES on Measure C!

It's the best way to keep our money local, get the projects we want, and make Lafayette the very best it can be.

*Budd MacKenzie is Founder, Trust in Education and 2004 Citizen of the Year; Teresa Gerringer is a member of the Lafayette School Board; Anne Grodin, is a former mayor and council member, 1999 Citizen of the Year and Founder of the Lafayette Community Foundation.*

### Vote No on C — No Restrictions on Expenditures

By Mike Griffiths

The Lafayette City Council proposes a 1 percent sales tax to raise \$3 million a year for 29 years, at least \$87,000,000. As a general tax it can be spent on any governmental purpose.

The ballot statement promises "priorities" will be open space, reducing congestion, police, parking, parks, the Park Theatre, and that all sales tax "will stay in Lafayette." The city's ballot statement does not disclose plans to fund a sales tax revenue bond up to \$58 million and build a new civic building.

On Feb. 8 and July 11 the council considered a "Scenario 2 — Completely bonded; 30-year bond against 100 percent of the annual revenue stream" to borrow \$58 million in principal, and using "bond proceeds from sales tax measure \$13 million" to acquire a site for a "Civic Building." On July 25 the council confirmed a "Sales Tax Revenue Bond" would be used. Another July 11 memo, citing polling results, states that although mentioning a civic building "as a means of increasing transparency is understandable...there is a risk that including such language could cause some voters to vote no on the measure." That same day the words "including a civic building" were removed from the ballot statement.

Emails on July 13-14 between the building site owner and the city negotiating an agreement end with "better for us to wait to see if the sales tax measure passes on the November 2016 ballot." Clearly, this civic building site remains under consideration. That July 11 civic building memo shows \$17.25 million for site acquisition and \$9 million for construction costs. The memo states the cost of the building itself would not be covered by sales tax proceeds, but this is accomplished by shifting \$4.25 million of other city funds to site acquisition, and another \$6 million to construction.

Measure C would be used to replenish that \$10.25 million — essentially a shell game. And the ballot statement promising "all" of the sales tax will stay in Lafayette will not be true if used to repay a Sales Tax Revenue Bond up to \$58 Million. Tens of millions of dollars in interest and fees will leave the city. The \$26.25 million for the civic building, with 28 years interest at 3.4 percent, amortizes to close to \$40 million over 40 percent of the \$87million Measure C revenue over 29 years.

This information should not be withheld from Lafayette voters. The Editors of the East Bay Times called the 1 percent increase "too much" and the 29 year term "a ridiculously long time for a tax that could be used for any governmental purpose." The Contra Costa Taxpayers Association declined to support Measure C.

*Mike Griffiths is President of Save Lafayette, a city government watchdog group he founded in 2015, and has been a resident of Lafayette since 1989.*

## ROB STURM – THE RESPONSIBLE CHOICE

*The Only Lafayette School Board Candidate Endorsed by Every Current and Incoming Lafayette City Council Member*



"I will vote for Rob Sturm and encourage you to do the same." **Don Tatzin, Lafayette City Council**

"I cannot think of a better Lafayette School Board candidate than Rob Sturm." **Jean Follmer, Current Lafayette School Board President**

"Our District opens with almost \$1 million in deficit spending and forecasts 'financial insolvency' by 2018 on our current fiscal trajectory. That's alarming." **Rob Sturm, attorney, teacher and volunteer on behalf of children**

- Family: Wife, Kristina; Alden (kindergarten); Grant (age 3); and Hallie (3 months)
- 25-year accomplished labor/employment attorney & corporate leader
- Extensive non-profit volunteer board experience
- Nearly a decade of unblemished 8-figure budgetary management – NO DEFICITS, surpluses every year
- Longstanding success implementing cost-saving best practices and ridding wasteful spending to productively redeploy millions in saved dollars
- Has identified material opportunities to end wasteful District spending to eliminate deficits, enhance academic excellence, further support special education and invest in teacher pay increases. Additional parcel taxes should be an option of last resort
- Widespread current and former local School Board support, including non-returning Lafayette School Board Members Jean Follmer and Nancy Wallace; Ann Appert; Craig Cheslog; Roger Falcone; Art Kapoor; Tom Mulvaney; Shayne Silva, Scott Sommer; Stephenie Teichman
- Endorsed by numerous other civic leaders and engaged community members



**For more information please visit [www.robsturm.com](http://www.robsturm.com) or contact Rob at [c\\_robert\\_sturm@hotmail.com](mailto:c_robert_sturm@hotmail.com). 415.913.8995**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Rob Sturm for Lafayette School Board (2016)



### Mark Kindhouse

#### Lafayette School Board

*A Candidate You Can Trust*



"This district has been built upon a strong foundation of past board member experience and will be here for years to come. Elect me on November 8th so that I can to use my engineering and consulting expertise to support their legacy and serve this fine community."

#### Mark's Top Priorities

1. Nurture trust by helping the district spend the infrastructure bond money effectively
2. Provide deep experience in cost management to quickly true-up our budget
3. Recognize teachers and staff and continue to focus on finding the best talent in a tight market
4. Collaborate with parents of children with special needs to foster the best possible relationship
5. Advocate for continued enrichment of STEM curriculum while enhancing our art and music programs

## Building Great Schools Together

#### Endorsements:

- **Mike Anderson**, Lafayette Council Member
- **Tom Mulvaney**, Former Acalanes School Board Member
- **Roger Falcone**, Former Lafayette board member
- **Craig Cheslog**, Incoming Acalanes School Board Member
- **Kathy Merchant**, Former Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation Executive Director
- **Jennifer Russell**, Lafayette Parks, Trails, and Rec Director (Ret.)
- **Marechal Duncan**, 2015 Lafayette Citizen of The Year
- **Karen Mulvaney**, 2011 Lafayette Citizen of The year
- **Steve Hirsch**, Former Moraga School Board Member
- **Mark Jewett**, San Ramon Valley School Board Member
- **Quinlan Tom**, Former LPIE Board Member & PTA President
- **Ann Farrell Diemer**, Capital Projects Assessment Committee Member
- **Lee Thompson**, Capital Projects Assessment Committee Member
- **Bob McClain**, Capital Projects Assessment Committee Member
- **Dan Reynolds**, Mount Diablo USD Teacher Of The Year
- **Kathleen Crenshaw**, San Lorenzo USD Teacher (Ret.)
- **Sara Savacool**, Contra Costa Labor Education Committee Chair
- **Kenny Tuckerman**, Parent and Advocate

If you would like to know more about me or if you want to have a chat, please visit [www.markkindhouse.com](http://www.markkindhouse.com) or email me at [kindhouse2016@gmail.com](mailto:kindhouse2016@gmail.com). **I would love to speak with you!**