

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 30, 2018
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SouthBayPA.org



South Bay Progressive Alliance starts 2018 with bold endorsements

On Saturday January 27th, the **South Bay Progressive Alliance (SBPA)** members voted to endorse two candidates for San Jose City Council: Shay Franco-Clausen (District 9) and Omar Vasquez (District 7). These progressive, corporate-free candidates join California Lt. Governor candidate Gayle McLaughlin in being endorsed by SBPA in a bold move towards the organization's vision of shifting from profit-focused to people-focused politics. Richard Hobbs, Chair of the Elections Action Team, noted that these candidates refuse donations from corporations, industry lobbyists, corporate representatives, political bundlers, and Political Action Committees (except for unions).

South Bay Progressive Alliance (SBPA) kicked off 2018 at their quarterly Members Meeting held on Saturday afternoon (1/27) at the Joyce Ellington Library (491 E. Empire, San Jose) with a room filled to capacity. Key to the event was election of the Steering Committee members. All candidates proposed by the SBPA Nominating Committee were elected to the 2018 Steering Committee:

- SBPA Co-Coordinators and Officers: Rob Means, Nassim Nouri, Peggy Elwell, Brian Haberly, Gerry Hunt
- Action Team Chairs: Richard Hobbs, Roxana Marachi, David Mihai, Christine Pepin, Susan Wolfe
- Allied Organizations: California Nurses Association, Laborers International Union Local #270, San Jose NAACP, PAWIS (Pilipino Organization of Workers and Immigrants), Affordable Housing Network, and 350 Silicon Valley
- At-Large members: Liz Gonzalez, Chris Lepe, Omar Vasquez.

Special Guest Speaker Gayle McLaughlin, former City of Richmond Mayor and current California Lt. Governor candidate, noted that this first election was a major milestone in SBPA's progress. "Even though this is our first election cycle, we expect to make a difference in elections and policies this year." said Nassim Nouri, founding member and Co-Coordinator. "We are especially honored by Gayle's appearance," Ms. Nouri noted "because as a founding member of the Richmond Progressive Alliance, Gayle has been instrumental in electing corporate-free local candidates, and her work has inspired us in forming SBPA."

SBPA's "mission to unite diverse individuals, communities, and organizations into an inclusive coalition" has generated - among others - these Coalition Partners: California Nurses Association, Green Party of Santa Clara County, and Santa Clara

County Move To Amend. To emphasize the point, Co-Coordinator Rob Means said “We are proud to have a growing number of Allied Organizations and Coalition Partners who work with us and share our vision of people-focused politics.”

A few of the 12 Coalition Partners spoke about their missions and plans for 2018, as did the 5 issue-focused SBPA “Action Teams”. Clearly the liveliest portion of the meeting was when members broke into groups to share input and proposals. Following the membership meeting, a fundraiser was held for Gayle McLaughlin.

As “an independent, politically unaffiliated organization” SBPA works to “elect local corporate-free candidates, enact progressive policies, and build institutions and a society based on democracy, equity, cooperation, compassion and sustainability.”

SBPA’s list of policy goals include:

- Quality, equitable healthcare for all
- Well-paying, sustainable jobs
- Criminal justice and immigrant rights
- High-quality education and public schools
- Keeping local government accountable
- Environmentally sound policies

The public is invited to learn more about SBPA and its mission at SouthBayPA.org.

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