

VOTER GUIDE

November 4, 2008

APEN... uniting Asian and Pacific Islander communities for environmental and social justice.

November 4th is a national General Election to help elect candidates, like the next US President and city council members. The other part of your ballot includes 12 state propositions and several local measures (county and city). It's a very full ballot and we acknowledge how it can be difficult—almost discouraging—for the democratic process.

APEN is a community-based environmental justice organization, with a primary mission of organizing for the rights of Asian immigrants and refugees to have healthy environments. We have membership bases in Oakland (Power in Asians Organizing) and Richmond (Laotian Organizing Project).

APEN values democratic participation, where community members can fully engage in decisions that affect their lives and hold governments accountable to community interests. We believe in community rights and services, a green economy that meets community needs, government and corporate responsibility, and having healthy and safe environments where residents can thrive. It is with this lens that APEN compiled recommendations for the ballot initiatives. APEN's staff, members and board review ballot initiatives and make recommendations on those we feel strongly, as seen in this voter guide.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

As an environmental justice (EJ) organization, we look at solutions to the ecological crisis with how it will particularly improve the most impacted communities—low income communities of color over-burdened by toxics, poverty and unequal protection from hazards. We agree with immediately switching to cleaner energy sources, but Prop 7 and 10 raise EJ concerns about allowing deceptive polluting projects (trash burners, natural gas) to be called clean, with the probability of putting them in low income communities of color. Measure WW will help the East Bay Regional Parks District acquire land for parks to prevent urban sprawl. The East Bay will be served well by Measure V V which will increase mass transit funds for youth, seniors and disabled bus riders. Richmond's initiative to tax manufacturing industries like the massive Chevron refinery will boost funds to ailing City services like healthcare and education.

Vote **No on Prop 7, No on Prop 10, Yes on VV** (Alameda-Contra Costa County), **Yes on WW** (Alameda County), **Yes on Measure T** (Richmond).

PRISON AND PUNISHMENT INITIATIVES

We understand that crime is a big problem in our community but we should not solve it by targeting low-income families, immigrants and communities of color. Prop 6 will try 14 year olds as adults and redirect billions more dollars from the state general fund to build more prisons. For those in prison, Prop 9 will worsen inhumane conditions by creating additional hurdles for release, while Prop 5 will help address underlying problems of addiction and invest in rehabilitation and treatment.

Vote **Yes on Prop 5, No on Prop 6, No on Prop 9.**

WEDGE ISSUES

Some well-funded initiatives appear on the ballot to divide our communities by preventing us from focusing on the real problems we need to solve. They include two propositions that attack the civil rights of women, lesbian and gay communities. Prop 4 tries again, for the third time, to limit women's right to make choices regarding reproductive health, by attacking young women who are pregnant. We cannot accept discrimination against anyone, including Prop 8 which denies basic rights to gay (LGBT) people.

**Bring this information with you to the polls to help you decide!
Remember to vote! Tuesday November 4, 2008**

STATE

YES on Prop 2	Humane Treatment of Farm Animals
NO on Prop 3	Children’s Hospital Bond
YES on Prop 5	Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act
NO on Prop 6	Runner Initiative Expansion of Prisons & Prison Sentences
NO on Prop 7	Costly Energy Scheme
NO on Prop 9	Increase Prison Terms
NO on Prop 10	\$10 Billion Lemon (Energy Bond)
NO on Prop 11	Sham Redistricting Reform

COUNTY

YES on Measure VV	Keep AC Transit Affordable for All
YES on Measure WW	EBRPD Open Space Bond

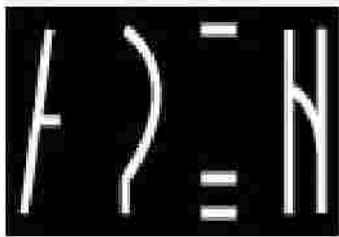
OAKLAND

NO on Measure N	Jack’s Tax – Schools Parcel Tax
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RICHMOND

YES on Measure T	A Fair Share For Richmond
YES on Measure D	Support Schools Without Increasing Taxes

For Oakland info, contact Amber Chan: 510.834.8920 ext 308 or amber@apen4ej.org
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The Asian Pacific Environmental Network is a community-based environmental justice organization. We believe that all people have a right to a clean and healthy environment in which their communities can live, work, learn, play and thrive. Towards this vision, APEN brings together a collective voice to develop an alternative agenda for environmental, social and economic justice

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