

**Berkeley Citizens Action – Berkeley Progressive Alliance -
Berkeley Tenants Union**

Mayor and City Council Candidate Endorsement Meeting

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Voting and Ballots

A **mayoral ballot** will be given to you at the time of registration if you are a member of one or more of the three organizations, BCA, BPA and BTU. You will receive only one ballot even if you are a member of more than one of these organizations.

Ranked Choice Voting: We will be using ranked choice voting which allows you to rank a first, second and third choice candidate for each office. This is the same system that will be used for Berkeley mayor and city council in the fall election.

How can I avoid invalidating my ballot? Vote for one First Choice candidate; if you vote for more than one, your first choice vote will be invalidated and not counted. Similarly, you should vote for only one second choice and one third choice candidate. Also be sure to vote EITHER “No Endorsement” or for candidates. If you vote BOTH “No Endorsement” and vote for candidates, your ballot will be invalidated and not counted. Blank ballots are also invalid ballots.

When can I vote? Mayoral ballots will be collected at the end of the question period for mayoral candidates. We ask that members hear what candidates have to say before casting their ballot, but if you have to leave, you may leave your ballot in the designated container at the registration table, beginning at 2:30 p.m. It will not be possible to turn in ballots before 2:30 because the people staffing those tables will not be set up to receive them until 2:30. There will be a separate container for each office: Mayor; Council District 2; Council District 3; Council District 5 and Council District 6.

When will I receive the ballots for Council districts? When you turn in your mayoral ballot, you will receive four ballots, stapled together, one for each of the Council districts. We ask that you hear what the candidates have to say before turning them in. Ballots will be collected after the question period for District 2 and 3 candidates and again after the question period for District 5 and 6 candidates. If you have to leave, you may put Council district ballots in the designated containers at the registration table at any time after receiving them. The four ballots, each one a different color will be stapled together. Please separate them and put each ballot in the appropriate container. (see other side)

What is the threshold for endorsement? A candidate must receive 60% of the valid votes cast to achieve endorsement. As we are using ranked choice voting, it is not necessary to get 60% of first choice votes.

What does “No Endorsement” mean? If more than 40% of the valid ballots for a given office are for no endorsement, then no candidate for that office will be endorsed. You may decide to vote for no endorsement because you don’t like any of the candidates seeking endorsement. You may decide to vote for no endorsement because you like two or more candidates equally and don’t want to endorse just one of them even though only one of them can be elected in November. Ranked choice voting will result in a single candidate being endorsed for each office if that candidate meets the 60% threshold for endorsement. The purpose of this endorsement meeting is to try and unite progressives in Berkeley behind a single candidate for each office so that that candidate can achieve the critical mass of volunteers and money necessary to compete successfully with those candidates who will have extensive special interest support while they oppose a progressive agenda for Berkeley.

Will we be able to endorse a second choice candidate today? With ranked choice voting, voters will be able to vote for more than one choice in the November election. Why not endorse a second choice now along with a first choice? Unfortunately it is not practical to do that at today’s event as it would require an additional vote after the endorsement of each first choice candidate. **We will publish the % of members who voted for each candidate on our website after counting is completed.** We cannot assume that a candidate who comes in second in today’s voting would also be able to meet a 60% threshold. BCA, BPA and BTU, either individually or collectively, may decide to make a second choice endorsement at a subsequent meeting between now and Election Day, just as they could decide to consider additional candidates or to do a dual or triple endorsement at a subsequent meeting in the event that No Endorsement votes total over 40%.

[Add sample ballot here?](#)