

OakPAC is a Political Action Committee of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce

**District 1 – No Endorsement**

Councilmember Dan Kalb is a knowledgeable and hardworking official with a strong commitment to ethics, process, and transparency. While he has been and is open to taking the input of the business community, OakPAC believes he ultimately has not prioritized growing Oakland's economy during his first term in office. If reelected our hope is he places greater emphasis on coalition building and partnership with a larger part of the Oakland community. Although well-intentioned, his opponent Kevin Corbett does not have a solid grasp of the City's operations and financial situation.

**District 3 – Lynette Gibson McElhaney**

As a former affordable housing developer, Gibson McElhaney understands the dynamics of the housing market and knows the necessity of building both affordable and market rate housing. She understands the myriad challenges businesses face and has often been an advocate for small business and job growth during her first term in office. She supported the effort to complete the Broadway-Valdez, Lake Merritt and West Oakland specific plans, which have shown early success in spurring new development, retail and economic growth. McElhaney has also made headway in improving the often dysfunctional dynamics of the City Council. Her opponent, Noni Session, is likeable and an accomplished scholar but ultimately too inexperienced at this time.

**District 5 – Viola Gonzales**

Viola Gonzales is a Harvard MBA who has served the City of Oakland as a planning commissioner, school board member, economic development advisor to Mayor Harris, and as a nonprofit executive. She is a former small business owner who prioritizes creating more middle class jobs and growing the economic pie for all Oaklanders. Gonzales would take a proactive approach to putting forward legislation that would help small businesses and create jobs, a priority for OakPAC. Her opponent, incumbent Noel Gallo, has shown a laudable commitment to his district, but hasn't proactively pursued a significant business policy agenda to foster economic development citywide.

**District 7 – Larry Reid**

There are few public servants who know their district better than Councilmember Larry Reid. Throughout his 19 years in office, he has fought to direct much-needed resources toward economic development. Several key projects in his district are nearing resolution and his knowledge and experience will be crucial to the process. His opponent, Marcie Hodge, has strong positions on business issues but lacks the experience and context that will be needed in the next four years in District 7.

**At-Large – No endorsement**

Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan makes a strong argument that through her seat on the Board of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and chairing the Alameda County Transportation Commission, she brings much-needed resources and attention to Oakland, which has traditionally been somewhat overlooked regionally. However, throughout her years in office she has not prioritized or proactively pursued policies that make Oakland more business friendly. It's unclear whether either of her main opponents – Peggy Moore and Bruce Quan – would bring more of a focus to business development in Oakland. Although it's worth noting that Peggy Moore has a lengthy history of working in Oakland politics and government and could be well-positioned to hit the ground running if she were elected.

**Senate District 9 – Nancy Skinner**

Nancy Skinner has a long history of effective leadership at the state level and demonstrates an impressive knowledge of the issues facing Oakland and business owners. During her time in the State Assembly, she carried several bills important to Oakland's economy including legislation to help brick and mortar small businesses compete with online retail giants, legislation that helped reduce the grab-and-go cell phone robberies that were a major problem in Oakland, as well as bills to help grow the clean energy sector. Her opponent, Sandre Swanson, has a long history at the state level as well, but based on her legislative track record OakPAC believes Skinner is better positioned to effectively deliver for Oakland.

**Assembly District 15 – Tony Thurmond**

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond's effort and commitment to increasing state funding for affordable housing this past year are important to Oakland. As the new chair of the Labor and Employment Committee, he is also in a position to support policies that will create jobs in Oakland. He understands the importance of economic development to his district and can be a strong advocate going forward.

**Assembly District 18 – Rob Bonta**

Assemblymember Rob Bonta has had a productive legislative session for Oakland and continues to be a leader at the state level. He understands that local governments urgently need support from the state to build more affordable housing and has successfully pursued policies to support that. Bonta is a strong advocate for Oakland and knows the importance and benefits of fostering economic growth.