

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE X1

Vote **YES on Measure X1**. Our democracy is not for sale.

Big money dominates politics — even in Berkeley. **More than half of Berkeley campaign funds come from fewer than 350 households — less than 1% of Berkeley.** That's a system that's out of balance and out of touch with everyday people in Berkeley.

Measure X1, endorsed by the **Sierra Club** and **California Common Cause**, restores balance. **It gives the other 99% of us a stronger voice in local government.**

Right now, special interests contribute money to candidates and expect something in return. In fact, **one-third of the Mayor and Council's campaign funding comes from outside Berkeley.**

With Measure X1, candidates are rewarded for engaging with Berkeley residents. Candidates with broad support who refuse money from special-interest PACs and accept only small contributions — \$50 or less — receive a limited amount of matching funds. No special-interest funding means no special-interest favors to pay back once elected.

Measure X1 ensures that all candidates with good ideas who speak for their communities can run for office, not just those with access to wealth. Let's draw from the talent and energy of everyone to elect the best leaders, not just the best fundraisers.

Measure X1 does not raise taxes. Instead, funding comes from existing city revenues equal to 0.16% of the budget. That's a modest but critical investment for sound and inclusive democracy.

Voters can't hold their representatives accountable unless they have alternatives. Seven of the last eight City Council races went to the candidate who raised the most money, and not a single district City Council member has lost their seat since 1997. Let's give voters real choices. Berkeley has always been a leader on important issues. Let's join the growing number of cities making democracy work for everyone.

www.YesOnX1.org

s/Igor Tregub
Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Vice Chair

s/Roy Ulrich
Berkeley Spokesperson, California Common Cause

s/Emily Rusch
Executive Director, CALPIRG

s/Stefan Elgstrand
Secretary, Berkeley Tenants Union

s/Will Morrow
President of the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC)