

**Progressive Democrats of Benicia
Endorsement Committee**
April 26, 2018

Research – ELENI KOUNALAKIS for Lt. Governor, June 5, 2018 Primary

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ENDORSE

A. Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.

Eleni Kounalakis Lt. Governor

B. Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.

LT. Governor serves as acting Governor in the absence of the Governor, and as President of the California State Senate. Duties include:

- sits on, or appoints representatives to, many of California's regulatory commissions and executive agencies.
- sits on the Board of Regents for University of California and California State University Board of Trustees, Ocean Protection Council, California Emergency Council, and state Lands commission
- The Lieutenant Governor of California chairs the Commission for Economic Development which is responsible for fostering economic growth in California by developing and implementing strategies for attracting new business to the state, increasing state exports, creating new jobs, and stimulating industries statewide.

Many of these commissions/agencies effect Benicia and Solano county

C. Description of candidate's past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.

Ambassador to Hungary during the Obama administration

Ambassador Kounalakis continued to work as a democratic activist, working on the campaigns of countless progressive candidates and initiatives. Passionate about early childhood development, she served on California's First 5 Commission and the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism. She was appointed by Mayor Ed Lee to the San Francisco Port Commission, and currently chairs the California Advisory Council for International Trade and Investment.

Eleni Kounalakis graduated from Dartmouth College in 1989 and earned her MBA from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business in 1992. In 1992, Eleni started her career as a staff member of the California Democratic Party in Sacramento and worked in the historic election, which elected two women to the U.S. Senate and turned California blue.

D. Description of the candidate's or ballot measure's sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers' network.

Stated on website: "I have proudly pledged to not accept contributions from oil companies, pharmaceutical companies or soda companies.

Kamala Harris "Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis has dedicated her life to the fight for California values. She is a powerful advocate for immigrants, economic innovation and job creation, and providing all with access to quality and affordable health care. Eleni has the

vision and conviction necessary to boldly and wisely lead California into the future. I am proud to support Eleni for Lt. Governor. “

The following organizations endorse her:

- EMILY's List
- California National Organization for Women (NOW)
- NARAL Pro-Choice California
- National Women's Political Caucus
- California Legislative Women's Caucus
- California Women's List
- San Francisco Women’s Political Committee
- San Francisco Democratic Women in Action
- Women Democrats of Sacramento County
- Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County
- Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee

42% of Democratic party convention vote

E. Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.

She supports the policy that no oil and gas product from new offshore drilling ever makes landfall in California and supports an oil extraction fee. Supports Medicare for All, if there is no federal level solution soon, California must be prepared to lead the way with its own plan for universal coverage, Free Community College. She wants California to lead the way in fighting climate change. She said she wants to preserve sensitive habitat corridors by connecting open space reserves, fighting more for environmental justice.

She is strong on women’s issues and getting women elected into leadership positions, protecting California’s immigrant communities, and building more affordable housing while preserving the environment.

F. Recommendation and brief statement.

RECOMMEND: SUPPORT She is strong on many Progressive Democrat principles, especially women’s issues, environment, single payer.

Pat Toth-Smith

4/26/2018

Signed: _____ Date: _____



**Progressive Democrats of Benicia
Endorsement Committee
April 26, 2018**

**Research – ED HERNANDEZ for Lt. Governor, June 5, 2018 Primary
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE**

A. Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.

Ed Hernandez Lt Governor

B. Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.

LT. Governor serves as acting Governor in the absence of the Governor, and as President of the California State Senate. Duties include:

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- sits on the Board of Regents for University of California and California State University Board of Trustees, Ocean Protection Council, California Emergency Council, and state Lands commission
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C. Description of candidate's past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs

Currently Democratic State Senate (CA) - District 22; Democratic Assembly Member, California District 57, 2007-2012; Optometrist, Indiana, University PHD, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, California State Senate Former Member, Business and Professions Committee, California State Assembly, Former Member, Committee on Health.

He is strong on planned parenthood, pro-choice, LGTB issues, gun safety, 75% Sierra club positions, 75-100% on environmental positions, 100% clean money, 75-100% regarding civil rights, healthcare endorses all aspects of affordable care act, voted for the majority of a) renewable energy measures, b) DACA, c) sanctuary cities.

From statement on website: "I've taken on fights against Big Oil, Big Tobacco and Big Pharma. In all of this, I've voted on legislation that I believe has been in the best interest of all Californians.... Sen. Hernandez is the only candidate for Lieutenant Governor with a proven record of fighting for progressive public policy in elected office. As Lieutenant Governor, he'll fight for our California's progressive values every day."

Stated Positions:

- * Expanding access to healthcare
- * Creating jobs
- * Preventing fraud and abuse in our pension systems
- * Providing quality public education for all children
- * Improving the quality of our water
- * Keeping our freeways moving and public transportation affordable

* Ensuring firefighters and police officers have the support they need to keep our communities safe

D. Description of the candidate’s or ballot measure’s sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers’ network.

Hernandez has repeatedly earned 100% legislative scorecards from the California Labor Federation and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, which is why he endorsed by over 70 organizations representing working people, including California’s Firefighters, SEIU, the California Teachers Association, the California Nurses Association, California School Employees Association, State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and Controller Betty Yee. They know and believe he will stand up for working families against corporate special interests.

Ed Hernandez - 42% of Democratic party convention vote

E. Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.

He is strong on planned parenthood, healthcare, LGTB issues, gun safety, 75% Sierra club positions, 75-100% on environmental positions, 100% clean money, 75-100% regarding civil rights, healthcare endorses all aspects of affordable care act, voted for all renewable energy measures, DACA, sanctuary cities

F. Recommendation and brief statement.

RECOMMEND OPPOSE: Hard choice because Hernandez and Eleni Koulanakis are both in the category of having policies and history that most align with our core principals, but Hernandez has not come out for single payer and is not as strong on women’s issues as Koulanakis.

Pat Toth-Smith

4/26/2018

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Progressive Democrats of Benicia

Endorsement Committee

April 26, 2018

Research – JEFFERY BLEICH for Lt. Governor, June 5, 2018 Primary

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

A. Candidate name/Office Sought or Ballot measure.

Jeffery Bleich Lt. Governor Candidate

B. Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.

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C. Description of candidate's past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.

He is a former chair of the CSU trustees and president of the California State Bar. He served as special counsel to President Barack Obama before being appointed U.S. ambassador to Australia. He took on and beat the NRA at the California Supreme Court to close the gun show loophole. After the Pulse Nightclub shootings, he and other attorneys gave millions of dollars in free legal services to go after the NRA.

Serving pro bono, he obtained posthumous admission to the California Bar for a Chinese national, Hong Yen Chang, in a petition addressing the unlawful exclusion of Chinese in the 1890s, leading the Court to "right this historic wrong."

Bleich believes California's current education system is not equipped to build the student skills-sets on pace with an ever-evolving job market. He plans to prioritize skill training and industry cooperation that prepares students and existing workers for the rapidly changing job market. Bleich also believes there needs to be more of an emphasis on training students in "emotional intelligence," to prepare them for jobs in home and nursing care for the inevitable "silver tsunami," along with mental health services and other jobs robots won't be able to "learn."

No searchable voting history, but discovered the following article from the Daily KOS news source:

"Jeff Bleich likes to portray himself as pro-student, but he consistently voted for rate hikes... three times! Then-Lt. Governor John Garamendi alongside a student representative

forcefully opposed these hikes, but Bleich overruled them as Chairman and raised California state tuitions to record levels.” The San Francisco Chronicle noted that after [voting for students to pay a 10 percent tuition increase](#), “trustee Jeffrey Bleich, who chairs the board, blamed the state Jeff Bleich & Big Energy he seeks to position himself as an environmental advocate, but his record tells another story. While U.S. Ambassador to Australia, he advocated for more drilling, more non-renewable resource exploitation, and more [big energy company profits](#): “There is nowhere that we are betting more heavily than here” (5). He doubled down on his commitment to natural gas, the energy source he worked to access for American and international oil companies while working in Australia: “Regardless of how people feel about natural gas, it costs less in the U.S., and gave us an economic advantage” – much of this natural gas is tapped from [dangerous fracking](#)(6).

D. Description of the candidate’s or ballot measure’s sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers’ network.

Sierra Club endorsement: “He gets why advancing equity and environmental justice are essential to protect public health and the planet. He has experience as a lawyer and a public servant that prepare him for the duties of Lieutenant Governor, including those important duties that influence how the state addresses state lands, coastal waters and natural resources. SF chronicle endorsement: He makes a persuasive case that he wants this job and only this job in elective office — rather than a stepping stone to higher office or a way station for a career politician.”

Received only 7% of Democratic party vote

E. Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.

He has a history of supporting corporate interests especially natural gas extraction, has little information about progressive issues on his website. His record as ambassador to Australia contain counter issues not supported by PD ideals, although he is strong advocate for gun control.

F. Recommendation and brief statement.

RECOMMEND OPPOSE: he isn’t strong on many Progressive Democrat principles.

Pat Toth-Smith
Signed: _____ Date: 4/26/2018