

Progressive Democrats of Benicia

Endorsement Committee

April 26, 2018

Research – TIM GRAYSON for Assembly District 14, June 5, 2018 Primary

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ENDORSE TIM GRAYSON

- A. Candidate name: **Tim Grayson**, incumbent Assemblymember (Benicia, Vallejo and part of Contra Costa, including Concord and Martinez). No opposition in the 2018 Primary.
- B. Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.
- As a member of the Assembly, serves on committees and represents constituents' interests.
 - Following election to his first term in 2016, stated that he would bring common sense and out-of-the-box thinking to Sacramento; that the State Capitol is a mess; and, that too many leaders view raising taxes as a first solution, not a last resort. (Campaign web site).
 - Current committee assignments: Banking and Finance, Business and Professions, Insurance, and Local Government. Select Committees include Rail and STEM.
 - Campaign contributions include sources that are impacted by actions from Grayson's committees. The Insurance Committee oversees workers compensation and unemployment compensation issues, which are important to labor organization; and, the Banking and Business committees, respectively, deal with issues concerning finance, insurance, and real estate businesses.
- C. Description of candidate's past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues.
- Supports Proposition 68, the 2018 bond issue proposing \$4.1 billion for parks, environmental protection and restoration, water infrastructure and flood protection projects.
 - Opposed a proposed gas tax in 2016, which became SB 1 in 2018 which he supported.
 - Supported AB 291, prohibiting landlords from disclosing immigration status.
 - Supported SB 54, the California "sanctuary bill."
 - Supported SB 179, recognizing Nonbinary as an official Legal Gender.
 - Supports charter schools where requested, which must comply with same public school standards.
 - Opposes Gov. Brown's proposed Delta water tunnels project.
- D. Description of the candidate's sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers' network.
- **Financial support:** In 2016 he raised \$767,000. Cash-on-hand through March 31, 2018 –
 - **Major sources of contributions:** Labor (construction trades, electricians, and carpenters), Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Health, Business, and Energy.
 - **Endorsements:**

- State Sen. Steve Glazer, SD 7 (most of Contra Costa County, including the Highway 4 and I-680 corridors), former Congressman George Miller, and Mayor Osby Davis (Vallejo).
- Other elected officials include: Sheriff David Livingston and D. A. Mark Peterson (Contra Costa County); and, Solano Co. Board Supervisor Jim Spering.
- Police Associations in Concord, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, and Martinez
- Iron Workers Local 378, Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, Electricians IBEW Local 302, Carpenters Local 152, Contra Costa Building & Constructions Trades Council, and Napa/Solano Building & Constructions Trades Council.

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

- Public education and housing. Following Gov. Brown’s 2018 State of State address, Grayson highlighted Gov. Brown’s leadership over the last 7 years, going from record deficits to record surpluses. Which has laid a foundation to continue addressing the serious challenges facing California, such as the housing crisis, reducing unfunded liabilities, and ensuring public universities are affordable and accessible.
- Social justice and inclusion. AB 3002, sponsored by Grayson and pending in the current legislative session, requires local government agencies that issue building permits to include information about the ADA and related laws and regulations that guarantee equal access for people with disabilities. This information would be attached directly to the application for a building permit.

F. Recommendation and brief statement.

Voting record and sponsorship of bills shows support for progressive issues like the environment, inclusion, and immigrants’ rights, including support of California’s sanctuary bill. This support belies the general negative impression of Grayson held by many progressives, whose negative views of Grayson may result largely from his strong ties financially to labor and police organizations, as well as his support for charter schools. I recommend endorsement based on his voting record in the Assembly, support at the March of Our Lives, and to send him a signal that we’re watching.

Ralph Dennis

April 26, 2018

Signed: _____ Date: _____