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IRVINE WEEKLY

OCTOBER 23, 2020 • VOL. 2, NO. 25



ELECTION 2020

IRVINE MAYORAL AND COUNCIL CANDIDATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

A BREAKDOWN OF STATE PROPS

THE RACE FOR IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

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OPINION

CHRISTINA SHEA FOR MAYOR OF IRVINE

SHEA'S LONG HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP WITHIN IRVINE WILL BRING STABILITY AND CONTINUITY TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

BY: IRVINE WEEKLY EDITORIAL BOARD

Irvine is fortunate to have a capable and caring City Council at a time when our state and national political climate is unfortunately and unnecessarily chaotic. For our well-run



city to continue on a path of good-governance in such uncertain times, we need stability and continuity on the City Council.

That is why Irvine Weekly is endorsing Christina Shea for mayor of Irvine.

Shea has a long history of leadership in the city with numerous accomplishments under her guidance. Perhaps the most significant of which was delivering on the city's promise to build the Great Park. But there are many other virtues of the city to tout: Irvine is the safest city in the nation; Irvine has incredible public education; Irvine has a robust business community; and Irvine has tremendous open space with a deep commitment to environmental stewardship.

As both mayor and a former City Council member, Shea has long been involved in the city's governance and deserves credit for many of these accomplishments in Irvine.

In the coming months and years, there will be a plethora of challenges that the

mayor will need to address. And having a leader with so many years of experience will serve our community well. From helping to rebuild the city's small business landscape after business shutdowns caused by Covid-19, to keeping Irvine the safest city in America, to building a veterans cemetery, the mayor will need to pull from an arsenal of relationships and resources developed over decades of service.

In dealing with these issues, Shea's plan includes creating a Mayor's Business Council to help businesses in the city bounce back; she is adamant that a veterans cemetery should be built with state funding as to not overwhelm the city's coffers; and she boasts a strong relationship with Irvine police, and in fact was endorsed by the police association.

Shea's current involvement in the city is admirable, and considering the hard road ahead in the aftermath of Covid-19, there is no need to replace Irvine's current mayoral leadership.

While we believe Shea deserves to continue on as mayor, one of her opponents for the post, current City Council member Farrah Khan, is also capable of tackling the enormous job and we believe she would someday make a good mayor in the future, perhaps even in 2022 or 2024.

In fact, Khan has already served the council well by providing an independent viewpoint on most issues the city is facing. Also, she serves as chair of the Great Park Board which holds tremendous responsibility. Regardless as to whether or not she wins the mayoral race this year, Khan will stay on the City Council. And, frankly, we believe that it will be a better governing body if both Shea and Khan are still on the City Council after the dust settles from the November election.

We respectfully endorse Christina Shea for mayor of Irvine.

MIKE CARROLL FOR CITY COUNCIL

CARROLL'S EXPERIENCE WILL PROVIDE LEADERSHIP THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL IRVINE RESIDENTS.

BY: IRVINE WEEKLY EDITORIAL BOARD

There will be two elected seats, and potentially a third, open for the Irvine City Council in November.

With more than a dozen candidates running, voters in Irvine will have tough decisions to make. What's needed most after all the votes are counted is steady leadership.



That is why Irvine Weekly is endorsing Mike Carroll for Irvine City Council.

As the current Vice Mayor of Irvine, Carroll's experience has well-prepared him for the challenges the city will face over the next few years. These challenges include COVID-19 recovery, helping the local business community, and maintaining Irvine's status as the safest city in America.

Carroll has demonstrated a community-first attitude, which is evident through his active community engagement and the programs he has championed. For example, he helped to establish Irvine's Small Business Relief Program, in which more than 500 local businesses received financial support to assist in reopening safely.

Vice Mayor Carroll also worked to keep Irvine residents safe by spearheading the county's first free COVID-19 testing facility at the Great Park in Irvine, a tremendous accomplishment that demonstrated the importance of local leadership in helping combat the virus.

We also like that Carroll has worked closely with all of the members on the council and had bipartisan support for his own ap-

pointment to the council. Both Mayor Christina Shea and City Council member Farrah Khan, who are both running for mayor, voted to appoint Carroll to his current seat.

We were impressed with Carroll's real-world solutions for traffic, including his Three-Step Traffic Plan, that includes "Smart Traffic Control Systems" and reversible lanes.

Additionally, Carroll's experience as vice chair of the Irvine Planning Commission, and chair of the Community Services Commission, played in the endorsement selection. We feel that Carroll's experience will provide leadership that will benefit Irvine residents for years to come.

We respectfully endorse Mike Carroll for Irvine City Council.

ABOUT IRVINE WEEKLY'S ENDORSEMENT PROCESS:

Irvine Weekly undergoes a thorough study of the positions and backgrounds of each of the candidates running for City Council and mayor. As part of that process, we send questionnaires to all of the candidates to better understand their beliefs, values, vision for the city and the policies they would prescribe if elected. Irvine Weekly believes that Irvine is one of the most desirable places to live in Orange County because of its safety, quality education, strong business climate, commitment to open space and the environment and its diversity. Those guiding principles influence who we endorse for elected office here. We also realize that not everyone in our community shares the same beliefs or political positions, which is why we also provide information about all the candidates running so that each member of our community can make up their own mind about the candidates and support the candidate that best shares their values. We also welcome feedback and letters to the editor which may be submitted at IrvineWeekly.com.

HONORABLE MENTIONS FOR IRVINE CITY COUNCIL

BY THE IRVINE WEEKLY EDITORIAL BOARD

With more than a dozen candidates running for a pair of seats on the Irvine City Council, there are plenty of things to take into consideration when choosing from such a deep pool of Irvine candidates.

In the event that Farrah Khan is elected mayor of Irvine, a third council seat will open. The vacant City Council seat will be decided by the candidate who receives the most votes – after the two seats are filled.

While we have formally endorsed Christina Shea for mayor and Mike Carroll for City Council, there are a couple of other candidates for City Council that caught our attention and deserve an honorable mention: John Park and Diana Jiang.



John Park is a 21-year resident of Irvine, with experience as a vice president at two Fortune 1000 companies. One of his main priorities is to maintain a strong relationship with the Irvine Police Department. As a business owner, and a member of the Irvine Finance Commission, Park understands where Irvine is financially and has experience well-suited to guide Irvine into a stable economic future. Additionally, Park believes that the veterans cemetery in Irvine should be built but with funding from the state government.



Irvine City Council candidate Diana Jiang shares Park's stance on the veterans cemetery, as building without state funding would be a burden to city taxpayers, she says. Jiang is a 26-year resident of Irvine, running to be an independent voice on the council. A mother of two, she is highly involved within the community, volunteering for the Irvine Children Youth, Family Advisory Committee and the UCI Social Science Foundation. Professionally, Jiang is a software engineer who believes Irvine is poised to become the economic hub of Orange County or "Silicon Orange." Jiang said she will use her professional expertise to bring innovation and develop technology into city government, by way of app-based software, to better prepare Irvine for the future and create a more open and transparent government.



ELECTION PRIMER: IUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BOARD TRUSTEE RACE FOR IRVINE UNIFIED.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

The upcoming November elections will give voters in Irvine the opportunity to select candidates for newly zoned Trustee Areas within the Irvine Unified Board of Education.

Voters should note that this will be the first election in Trustee Area 3 and Trustee Area 5 since IUSD transitioned to a "by-trustee area" election process from an at-large voting system.

The transition occurred in June 2018, when the Orange County Committee on School District Organization approved the by-trustee area election process, after the IUSD board's extensive three month review process, which involved six versions of new colored-coded trustee area maps.

The board decided to adopt the Purple IV map, which can be found here.

Voters will need to fill two seats on the Irvine Unified Board of Education – one in Trustee Area 3 and one in Trustee

Area 5. Trustee Area 1 incumbent and IUSD Board of Education President Lauren Brooks will automatically serve her second term due to a lack of competition.

For the first time, voters will need to select a candidate to represent Trustee Area 3, and will make the choice between four candidates. The race in Trustee Area 5 will be something for Irvine voters to keep an eye on as Irvine pediatrician Demetra Arvanitidis will look to defeat current Trustee Area 5 incumbent Paul Bokota.

Here's a look at the Trustee Area 3 and Trustee Area 5 candidate's statements for those who have filed them with the Orange County Registrar Of Voters.

TRUSTEE AREA 3

Douglas Euper

I am first and foremost a father of two boys who have attended school in the IUSD for over 10 years. I am a

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teacher with over 20 years experience in the classroom teaching Economics, U.S. History, Civics, and World History. I have also been a youth baseball coach in Irvine for over 10 years. Events of this past year have motivated me to stand up and try to help my community by bringing my experience and perspective to the School Board. I feel the decision by the IUSD to take the grades of the students away this past spring and force them to accept a credit/no credit model was a disaster that was not well thought out and did great harm to our kids. This decision also undercut our teachers who should be trusted to make the decision of how to assess their students, especially during these difficult times. I am running to advocate for our kids and for our teachers, on this and the many other issues that come before our school board and Superintendent. Our students and teachers deserve better.

Bethany Huang

As a graduate from Canyon View Elementary, Sierra Vista, and Northwood High, I have experienced first-hand how the IUSD curriculum and board policy have impacted students and their families. It is time for me to give back to and improve the school district that has prepared me for my future career!

As an intern for a State Senator for 2 years, I've worked with district representatives and other state legislators on various issues. I have specifically worked on promoting transparency and parent involvement in Irvine sex education. I value parental rights as much as faculty opinion and am passionate about representing both families and their teachers.

For far too long, Irvine students and parents have not been represented when deciding school curriculum, safety and even funding. If elected I will ensure and promote policy that:

- Allows honest and transparent communication between the board and parents about curriculum.
- Responds to parental concerns about child health and safety.
- Allocates funds to support teachers and promote student growth
- Fosters student and teacher creativity in the visual and performing arts.

Irvine education needs change, and to serve as your board member would be

an honor. We need young, innovative leaders. I appreciate your vote.

Sidney Wu

I attended Orange County public schools, graduating from UC Irvine. My wife, Annie, and I bought our first home in Irvine, running our family business, raising our two children here, and sending them to Irvine Unified School District schools.

An active volunteer, I'm dedicated to strengthening Irvine and our public schools. I've served our community as:

- Member, Irvine Unified School District Finance Committee
- President, Vista Verde K-8 Foundation
- President, South Irvine Dolphins, Irvine Swim League
- Irvine City Commissioner

My grandfather was a principal, my mother was a teacher, and my parents were immigrants. A strong believer in education at all levels, I earned my MBA, and I currently administer a UC Irvine scholarship.

I'm not a politician, and I've never run for elected office. I'm a concerned citizen and parent who wants to give back to our Irvine public schools.

As your Irvine Unified School District Trustee, I will work to:

- Preserve our high academic standards
- Maintain and enhance our world-class schools
- Protect the health and safety of our students
- Retain and attract top teachers
- Ensure our taxpayer dollars go directly to the classroom, not administration

My service and experience have earned me endorsements from:

- Irvine Unified School District President Betty Carroll
- Orange County Supervisor/Former Irvine Mayor Don Wagner
- Irvine Vice Mayor Mike Carroll
- Irvine Councilmember Anthony Kuo

Cyril Yu

I am your neighbor, an involved dad, long-time Irvine resident, and deputy district attorney in Orange County. I was born in California and attended public schools. I graduated from UC Berkeley, then earned my JD from UC Hastings College of Law.

My daughters attend Irvine public schools. I have served on the Irvine Unified School District's Finance Committee

and the Irvine Green Ribbon Environmental Committee.

I understand the benefits of our excellent public-school system and recognize more hard work is needed to ensure continuing improvement.

These challenging times have depleted the school district's funds with the added challenge of reopening schools safely.

I want to:

- Partner with local health authorities, teachers, classified staff, and district leaders to ensure all children and staff are safe;
- Bring more funding to Irvine schools;
- Preserve academic excellence;
- Enhance STEM programs, special education, athletics, integrated ethnic studies, and arts and music; and
- Encourage parents, teachers, and classified employees to add their voices to the decision-making process.

My parents and teachers made it possible for me to reach my potential. I want to ensure all Irvine children have the means to reach their potential.

I am proud to be endorsed by:

- Irvine Unified School District Trustee, Paul Bokota
- Irvine Unified School District Trustee, Lauren Brooks
- Irvine Unified School District Trustee, Sharon Wallin
- Irvine Unified School District Trustee, Ira Glasky
- Irvine Mayor, Beth Krom (Ret.)

TRUSTEE AREA 5

Paul Bakota (Incumbent)

As a trustee on the Irvine School Board I've always put students, teachers and parents first. My top priority is to continue improving the educational quality of our world-class schools, while keeping everyone safe. These goals require experienced board members.

During my terms on the school board, IUSD has:

- Continued as one of the top-performing academic school districts in the state/nation with numerous academic and performing arts awards.
- Invested approximately \$14 million in safety/security, including investments in hundreds of radios, cameras, access points and emergency preparedness.
- Allocated over \$15 million towards mental health, including increased mental wellness professionals at all levels.

• Built four new world-class schools and modernized many, including Northwood High, Irvine High, Brywood, College Park and Greentree.

• Helped ensure responsible spending and accountability of taxpayer dollars.

I hold a B.A. from Harvard, magna cum laude, and a J.D., magna cum laude. My wife, Wendy, and I have lived in Irvine for 22 years. Our three children have all attended IUSD schools.

I've served IUSD for over 15 years as a:

- IUSD Finance Committee member
- PTA President
- School Site Council member
- Irvine Public Schools Foundation Legacy Partner

I am honored to be endorsed by the Irvine Teachers Association, numerous current/former IUSD Board Members, parents and business leaders.

Demetra Arvanitidis

I am a wife, mom of three children, and pediatrician with training in public health.

We live in unprecedented times ... circumstances that have changed the way we learn, live, work, and socialize not just locally but globally in just a few months. It's this unpredictability which leads to two main stressors, panic and fear, which in turn cause ill effects on our health and the safety of our community.

My priority is to have a physical plan in place that ensures the health and safety of our staff and children along with an educational plan that ensures that kids continue to receive a high standard education in every circumstance.

I believe that with my pediatric medical and public health background, I will add value to discussions and policy-making to put the health and safety of our staff and students first. The remedy for panic, fear and stress is a good dose of planning and preparedness.

My proactive, preventative health and educational plan:

- Reducing regular class size
- Regular compliance training of teachers/staff/students in preparedness protocols
- High standard, user-friendly online curriculum with adequate teacher/parent support
- Onsite school security/nurse checks
- Local control and parental choice



A GUIDE TO THE 2020 CALIFORNIA BALLOT MEASURES

In addition to selecting a candidate for president of the United States, state Assembly and state Senate, along with local elected offices, California voters will also decide the fate of a dozen ballot measures in this upcoming election. By now, Californians have seen the political ads pop up, asking for the public's "Yes" or "No" vote to support a specific proposition.

Still, without balanced information on both sides, it may be difficult to gain a clear picture of what a vote in either direction will impact.

With ballot measure topics ranging from reinstating the voting rights of convicted felons to repealing affirmative action laws from 1996, there is plenty for voters to understand prior to casting their votes.

Now, with less than two weeks until Election Day, this Proposition Guide offers an explanation on each of California's 2020 ballot measures, in order to help voters better understand what

those "Yes" or "No" votes will actually mean in the real world.

Proposition 14: Stem Cell Research Institute Bond Initiative (2020)

Prop. 14 would distribute \$5.5 billion to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), California's primary stem cell research agency. Of the \$5.5 billion CIRM would borrow from taxpayers, \$1.5 billion would be allocated for research for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's Disease and stroke, along with other degenerative diseases.

The CIRM was established in 2004, when California voters passed Prop. 71, in response to a federal funding ban on research using embryonic cells – a critical component of stem cell research. In doing so, the state allocated \$3 billion, along with the constitutional right to conduct stem cell research in California.

However, the CIRM is now running low

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER AND ISAI ROCHA

on funding – with approximately \$132 million at hand – and has paused all projects and research, as of July 2019.

If passed, the funds will be paid through California's General Obligation Bonds – non-collateral bonds issued by a creditor to municipalities based on creditworthiness – with the belief that funds can be regenerated through taxation. The initiative's fiscal impact is estimated to cost California taxpayers \$260 million per-year for 30 years.

Supporters of Prop. 14 say CIRM research has led to medical breakthroughs, along with thousands of jobs in the biotech industry.

Those who oppose the proposition say that while research is useful, it has yet to produce ground-breaking cures for degenerative diseases. And now that federal funding for embryonic research is no longer banned, California should look into federal funding options.

Yes: Allocates \$5.5 billion through general obligation bonds for the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

No: Opposes allocating \$5.5 billion through general obligation bonds for the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

Proposition 15: Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative

Prop. 15 looks to raise property taxes on commercial properties in order to create more funding for schools and local government. Currently, commercial and industrial properties in California pay property taxes based on the purchase price. Each year after that, the property's taxable value is adjusted for inflation by up to 2 percent. However, Prop. 15 would amend the California Constitution and require commercial and industrial properties to be taxed on their current market value.

This is an attempt to institute a "Split Roll Tax," defined by the process in which the state assesses taxes on commercial and industrial properties at market value, while the taxes on residential property taxes are assessed by purchase price.

The state would make exemptions for farm land and for small businesses with less than \$3 million in holdings in California. If passed, Prop. 15 would also define small business by independently owned companies on state property, with 50 employees or less.

Supporters include current Vice Presidential Candidate Joe Biden, California Governor Gavin Newsom, and the California Teachers Association. A "Yes" vote would increase property taxes on commercial businesses, a move that could potentially generate between \$6.5 billion to \$11 billion in new tax revenue annually.

The Prop. 15 opposition, which includes the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Association of Retailers, feel the economy must strengthen prior to adding massive taxes on commercial properties amid the financial hardships and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yes: Supports a Constitutional amendment to require commercial and industrial properties – with an exception for properties that are commercially-zoned for agriculture – to be taxed based on market value, rather than purchase price.

No: Opposes the constitutional amendment. Commercial and industrial prop-

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erties would continue to be taxed based on purchase price.

Proposition 16: Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment

Affirmative Action was known as a set of social policies and resources aimed at helping advance the employment and opportunities of minority groups.

In 1996 California voters passed Prop. 209, which stated that California “shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting,” which essentially eradicated Affirmative Action practices.

Considering the heightened climate due to social injustice across the nation, Prop. 16 has received more than \$16 million in support from organizations like the California Teachers Association, and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, as supporters want to see Affirmative Action policies reintegrated into the workforce and public education.

The Prop. 16 opposition looks to keep the policies the same, and claims that the meaning of true equality is based on the non-preferential treatment of all individuals.

Yes: Repeals Prop. 209 (1996), which states that, “the government and public institutions cannot discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to persons on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting.” Repealing Prop. 209 would allow government and public entities to use affirmative action to grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, and ethnicity when it comes to public education, employment and public contracting.

No: Keeps Prop. 209, prohibiting the state from granting any individuals preferential treatment based on race, sex or ethnicity.

Proposition 17: Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole Amendment

By state law, those who are convicted of a felony in the state of California need to complete prison and parole sentences, prior to regaining the right to vote. Prop. 17 would change the rules by allowing people on parole to vote –

and run for office, as long as the crime committed did not result in a perjury or bribery conviction.

Supporters say Prop. 17 will lead to more civic engagement from convicted felons, which could have a positive result on rehabilitation.

However, the opposition for Prop. 17 emphasises that voting is a right that’s earned and the right will still be available to individuals once rehabilitated.

Prop. 17 has received nearly \$1 million in funding from supporters. There are no major donors in opposition of Prop. 17.

Yes: Supports a constitutional amendment to allow individuals convicted of a felony or who are on parole the right to vote.

No: People on state parole would continue to be unable to vote in California.

Proposition 18: Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds

A “Yes” vote on Prop. 18 would allow 17-year-olds, who will turn 18 by the following general election to vote in primaries and special elections.

Currently, more than a dozen states and Washington D.C. allow 17-year-olds to vote in the primary election, as long as they will be 18 by the next general election.

California voters will now have the opportunity to lower the voting age in their state. However, there are mixed emotions behind lowering the voting age. Supporters argue that individuals are already paying taxes prior to the age of 18, so giving them a right to vote should be an incentive for those in the workforce and already contributing to society.

Those that oppose say that 17 years old is too young to be tasked with civic responsibility. Additionally, many teens are impressionable and lack the resources needed to make informed decisions about the real world – without parental supervision.

Yes: Allows 17-year-olds, who will turn 18 by the following general election, to vote in primaries and special elections.

No: No one younger than 18 years of age may vote in any election.

Proposition 19: Property Tax Transfers, Exemptions, and Revenue for Wildfire Agencies and Counties Amendment

For homeowners over the age of 55, homeowners suffering from severe disabilities, and victims of natural disasters, a “Yes” vote on Prop. 19 would make

them eligible for a tax assessment transfer, in the event they buy a new home.

Considering the unforgiving nature of California Wildfires and the potential for other natural disasters like landslides and earthquakes, this proposition would allow homeowners to seek new property anywhere in the state, even to a more expensive home.

Prop. 19 would also limit the tax benefits for certain transfers of property between family members, including inherited property.

There is major support for Prop. 19 from the real estate industry, including the California Association of Realtors, the California Association of Realtors Issues Mobilization PAC and the National Association of Realtors.

In terms of funding, Prop. 19 have received more than \$37 million from supporters. On the opposition side, donors are scarce, as less than \$25,000 has been raised for a “No” vote on Prop. 19.

Yes: Allows all homeowners 55 and older, along with the severely disabled or those affected by natural disaster, to buy a newer home anywhere in California with an incentive for lower property taxes, even on a more expensive home. Only inherited properties used as primary homes or farms would be eligible for property tax savings.

No: Some homeowners who are over 55 (or who meet other qualifications) would continue to be eligible for property tax savings when they move. All inherited properties would continue to be eligible for property tax savings.

Proposition 20: Restricts Parole for Non-Violent Offenders. Authorizes Felony Sentences for Certain Offenses Currently Treated Only as Misdemeanors.

Over the last decade, there have been two props (47 and 57) and one bill (AB 109) that passed with the intention to reduce California’s inmate population. The initiatives took several non-violent, non-serious and non-sexual crimes, and made them misdemeanors.

Prop. 20 seeks to repeal the classifications in those initiatives, and return the option to charge some of those crimes, such as car theft and shoplifting, as felonies. It would also restrict early parole for those inmates. Additionally, the proposition would lead to DNA collecting for certain misdemeanor property crimes.

The increase in jail population would have an estimated fiscal impact in the tens of millions of dollars a year, both at

the state and local levels. There would also be an increase in court-related costs in the millions, annually, as well as millions in costs for collecting DNA samples.

The measure is supported by Assemblyman Jim Cooper and several law enforcement agencies in California and is openly opposed by former Gov. Jerry Brown, as well as organizations such as the ACLU and Black Lives Matter Los Angeles.

Yes: Categorizes additional crimes as felonies and restricts early parole, similar to pre-2011.

No: Keeps the current system as is.

Proposition 21: Expands Local Governments’ Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property.

Prop. 21 seeks to decrease the landlord’s power over rent and allow local governments to enact rent control. The initiative would replace the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995, which exempted certain residential units from rent control ordinances, giving landlords the power to set the rental rates.

A similar rent control proposition (Prop. 10) was rejected in 2018, that would have given full rent control to local governments. Prop. 20 would only enact rent control on properties over 15 years old and exempts people who own more than two homes.

Passing the proposition could lead to a reduction in state and local revenue by tens of millions of dollars per year over time.

The campaign is sponsored by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and supported by the Democratic Party, although Gov. Gavin Newsom is opposed to the proposition, as is the Republican Party.

Yes: Allows local government to enact rent control for properties over 15 years old.

No: Landlords keep their current abilities to name rental rates.

Proposition 22: Exempts App-Based Transportation and Delivery Companies from Providing Employee Benefits to Certain Drivers.

Prop. 22 seeks to keep application-based drivers classified as “independent contractors” instead of “employees.”

In 2019, California passed Assembly Bill 5, which created three factors in deciding whether third party drivers should be classified as independent contractors

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or not. The bill led companies such as Uber and Lyft to a legal battle where they were deemed to be misclassifying employees. The 2019 bill would require the app companies to treat its drivers as employees, measuring their hours, providing health benefits and providing occupational insurance.

The proposition is being funded by Lyft, Uber and DoorDash, each putting \$30 million into the initiative. The Democratic Party opposes it, including Senator Kamala Harris and presidential candidate Joe Biden.

Yes: Would keep the status quo for app delivery drivers, where they get paid as independent contractors and manage their own work rate.

No: Would make the app companies comply with AB 5 and classify their drivers as employees.

Proposition 23: Establishes State Requirements for Kidney Dialysis Clinics. Requires On-Site Medical Professional.

Prop. 23 would require at least one licensed physician on-site during treatment at outpatient kidney dialysis clinics. It would also require clinics to report dialysis-related infection data to state and federal governments, prohibit clinics from closing or reducing services without state approval and would prohibit clinics from refusing to treat patients based on the source of payment for care.

The measure is supported by the Democratic Party and opposed by the Republican Party, as well as the two leading dialysis companies, DaVita Inc. and Fresenius Medical Care. The dialysis companies argue that the proposition would lead to the closure of centers and services, although in the language of the initiative, it is written that a center cannot close without state approval.

The fiscal impact on state and local governments is estimated to be tens of millions of dollars annually.

Yes: Requires dialysis centers to have a licensed physician on site, report infection data and prohibits reduced services, or closure of clinics without state approval.

No: Opposes the above requirements on dialysis centers.

Proposition 24: Amends Consumer Privacy Laws.

Prop. 24 seeks to expand and/or amend the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 and not allow businesses

to correct violations before being fined. As with 2018's CCPA, businesses would not be allowed to share a consumer's personal information and must provide consumers with an opt-out option for having their sensitive personal information used or disclosed for advertising or marketing.

The proposition is supported by former presidential candidate Andrew Yang, the California NAACP and the Consumer Watchdog organization. It is opposed by the Green, Libertarian and Republican parties, as well as notable organizations such as ACLU of California, the California Small Business Association, Black Lives Matter and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, believing that the proposition would still allow social media platforms and big tech companies to misuse personal information.

An estimated increase in state costs of at least \$10 million annually are expected for the state to oversee and enforce consumer privacy laws.

Yes: Keeps businesses from sharing personal consumer data and allows businesses to be penalized for the violating privacy laws.

No: Allows businesses to amend privacy violations before being penalized and continue to share consumer demographic data.

Proposition 25: Referendum on Law that Replaced Money Bail with System Based on Public Safety and Flight Risk

Prop. 25 seeks to uphold Gov. Brown's 2018 Senate Bill 10, which was meant to eliminate cash bail in California before trial, with "risk assessment." The risk assessment for SB 10 would require superior courts to determine if a suspect is a "low risk, medium risk or high risk" to fail to appear in court, or be a risk to the public.

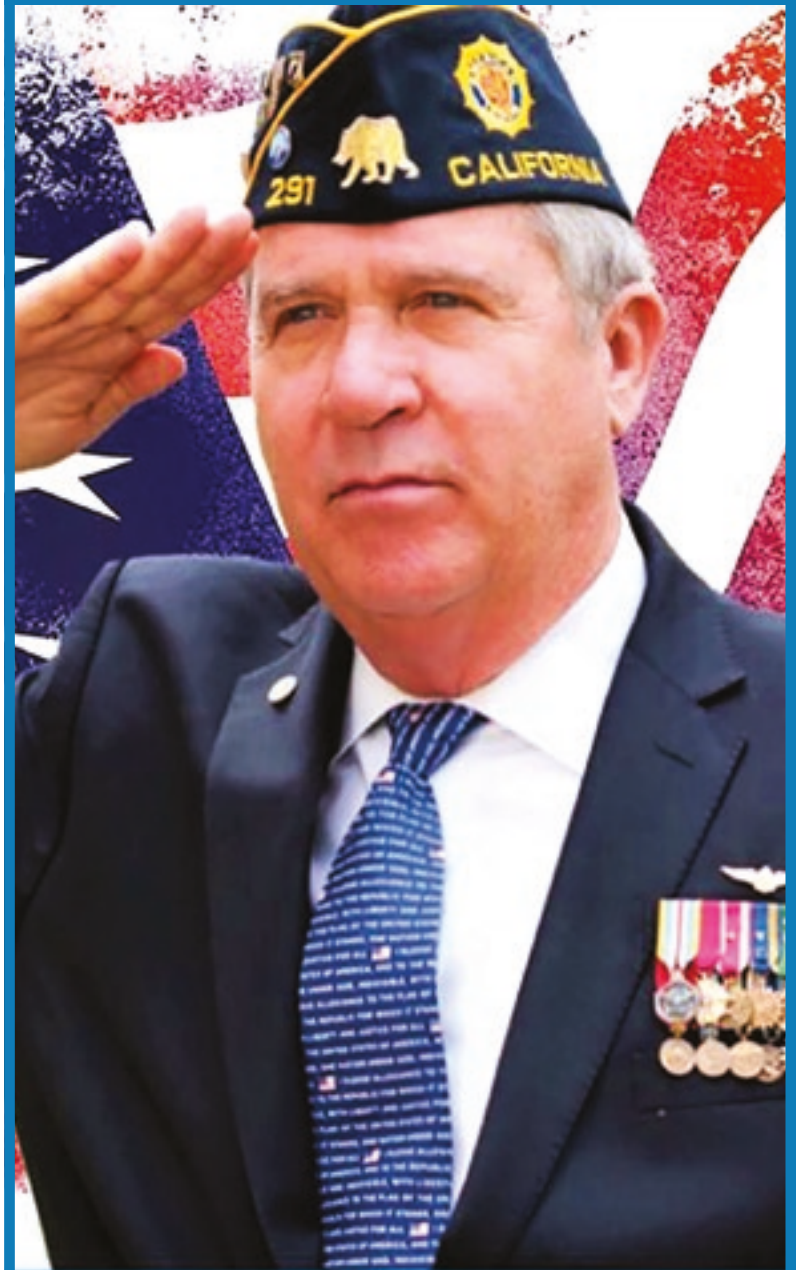
The proposition is supported by the California Democratic Party, and is opposed by both the Republican Party of California and the Orange County Board of Supervisors. It is also opposed by BLM-LA, saying, "If passed, it will end cash bail and subject defendants to racial profiling by replacing it with racist/classist 'risk assessments' algorithms to imprison defendant before trial."

Passing the proposition would have an annual state and local fiscal impact of hundreds of millions to release people before trial.

Yes: Approves AB 10's bail elimination and creates a risk assessment process.

No: Rejects AB 10.

CALIFORNIA 45TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



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GREG RATHS
UNITED STATES CONGRESS 2020
CALIFORNIA 45TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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ELECTION



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

WE ASKED THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR IRVINE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ABOUT THEIR VISION OF IRVINE AND HOW THEY WOULD ENSURE THE CITY'S BUSINESS CLIMATE CONTINUES TO GROW AND THRIVE. THESE WERE THEIR RESPONSES:

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Christina Shea

Vision of Irvine: A city of peace and harmony, with an strong emphasis on fiscal strength, excellence in education, innovation, and continued focus on environmentally sound, sustainable programs, to ensure the health and well being of all our community members.

Business Climate: I will be creating a Mayor's Business Council in January if I am elected. We can't sustain the unemployment rates and business closures as our business sector is the hub and lifeline of our fiscal success as a city. We will need to be innovative, creative and as flexible as possible to kick-start new businesses and restart old businesses.

I am committed to making this my top priority.

Farrah Khan

Vision of Irvine: I envision Irvine as a world-class city that is a model for innovation, sustainability and civic engagement. A hub of start-ups, small businesses and large corporations providing space for creativity and employment for our residents. A city where a few blocks away are parks, trails and open spaces for people to walk, hike, bike or run.

Business Climate: There is so much opportunity to expand our business footprint

and I look forward to working with the Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce and many of our diverse Chambers of Commerce to attract businesses to our city. I have already worked closely on the Chamber's World Trade Week, networking with our many consulates in L.A. and O.C. on business opportunities. However, before we continue to expand our horizon, we need to take care of our businesses that have been struggling during this pandemic. Just like I urged our county Board of Supervisors to provide funding for our Small Business Grant program, I will continue to push our state and federal representatives to get us the much needed funding from the CARES Act and HEROES Act to save our businesses from closing their doors. I brought together the business, health, education and development communities at the start of this pandemic, I will bring them together again, to map out a plan to safely open up according to state guidelines and provide the necessary support to keep our city moving forward.

Katherine Daigle

Vision of Irvine: Our vision is to continue to be the safest city in the United States and be one of the best-run cities in America. Irvine is one of the best places in which to live, work and play.

I am a businesswoman with over 20 years of contract negotiations with the

top healthcare industries in America and in this city. I will create new jobs for our economic security for our families in the O.C. – to get our kids back in school and create a safer city by working with a public/private partnership with our amazing healthcare and pharmaceutical businesses located in our great city, because there is no place like home.

Business Climate: I am a business person and I understand finance and the economic challenges from COVID-19. As an executive VP I was challenged with September 11, when businesses collapsed in the United States over the fear of terrorism.

Fundamental to my thinking is the continuation of Irvine's association with top universities like UCI and the many life science industries that provide economic strength and jobs when our city will need to ramp up to fill jobs in early 2021. I will work to develop more, value-added professional employment opportunities, ensuring a dependable healthy revenue stream to meet the city's budget

Businesses want to invest in cities such as Irvine with a young workforce and city officials – pragmatic leaders such as myself – that will recognize that our community may not thrive without the missing demographic such as a vibrant workforce. Irvine has a youthful demographic, but a limited amount of affordable housing for young entrepreneurs.

We as leaders should utilize the business acumen used by companies that have survived this pandemic together as a benchmark against other U.S. cities with young working-age populations. In other words, what do they have that young people want to experience that we do not YET have. A walk-able city, downtown and arts and entertainment districts, a promenade. Generally young people are not ready for a house. They want central areas where they can meet, relax and have fun with friends.

The city can redesign itself to identify what would keep young professionals in the area and what could improve the city's chances of attracting and retaining more of them. We do have sports attractions, Wild Rivers, Duck Ice, even a convention center. The proximity to John Wayne Airport positions Irvine as a hub and our universities are modern and international.

Luis Huang

Vision of Irvine: An Irvine that is not controlled by the Irvine Company and FivePoint, and is responsive to the needs of the good people working and living here.

Business Climate: I have endorsed Prop. 15. With the funding from Prop. 15, I am calling for a sales tax holiday here in Irvine to spur local economy and small businesses.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Carrie O'Malley

Vision of Irvine: The Master Plan is the essence of Irvine. Many people have moved to Irvine to enjoy the many benefits of living in our world-renowned master-planned community. The open spaces, parks, trails and recreational amenities are key. I will fight to preserve and protect the Master Plan of Irvine, open spaces, parks, villages and neighborhoods. My vision also is to keep Irvine as the Safest City of its size nationwide. We have retained this Safest City designation for 15 consecutive years. I also envision Irvine staying at the cutting edge in educational opportunities, innovation in learning, promoting a thriving business community, and being a city that leads, thrives and succeeds in all aspects. I envision Irvine with an Ethics Commission that I plan to initiate when I am on the City Council. The Ethics Commission will be key in vetting issues that arise and will ensure transparency and accountability in government. When I am on the City Council,

I will ensure that we retain the amazing quality of life that Irvine is known for. I will represent ALL Irvine residents with inclusivity, kindness and respect.

Business Climate: I look forward to working with our local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce when I am on the City Council.

In order to ensure that the business climate continues to grow and thrive, especially as they recover from the Covid-induced economic hardship, I would initiate the following plans when I am on the City Council:

I will initiate a Small Business Advisory Committee to communicate directly with businesses to share ideas as to how to get our businesses back on track and thriving.

SBA loans and grants and other local relief measures – assist with making business aware of these and helping them with the application process.

Making sure there are no extra fees or taxes levied on small businesses. Making sure our council is business friendly and working to help bolster our businesses. We can also defer financial burdens placed on small businesses.

Actively communicating with business leaders and continuing to make services and information available to our businesses. I have an open door policy, and I am highly reachable and active in assisting with issues.

Incentivizing and encouraging our consumers to utilize and patronize our local businesses. This can be done through getting the word out and encouraging residents to patronize our local businesses and by making sure our businesses get exposure throughout our city.

John Park

Vision of Irvine: My vision is for us to reopen and thrive again and that entails rebuilding our economy after Covid, a dedication and commitment towards the Master Plan, and making sure our public safety is fully supported. I want the city to be an ideal place to live, work and play for students, young professionals, families and seniors.

Business Climate: I am a pro business candidate and I have been a business owner for 17 years. I will continue to work with our business community to make Irvine grow and prosper in this area. Post Covid, we also need to actively support our small businesses. This is especially true for our retail businesses who bring in

revenue via sales tax. I will launch a big "Buy Irvine" program and convince my council colleagues to invest in promoting a more aggressive buy within the city program. This program should also include vendors who do business with the city. We will truly need our business community at our side working together to reopen and thrive as a city.

Hai Liang

Vision of Irvine: Irvine is one of the most desirable places in the U.S. I want to be part of keeping it that way. To continue to remain one of the best-run cities in the United States. We will accomplish this feat by having a fiscally responsible budget, low unemployment, low crime, and increased investments in education for our youth and sustainability for the environment. I will be introducing this beautiful city to even more people, perhaps in increasing Irvine's recognition as a tourist destination.

Business Climate: Think global shop local. I would put together campaigns to encourage people to eat at local restaurants, hire local services and buy locally made products where possible. I would also look for ways to increase Irvine's appeal as a tourist destination center where people would be likely to stay for two or three days, not just a dry trip from L.A. The city can also help local businesses by assisting with COVID relief programs and not raising taxes.

Diana Jiang

Vision of Irvine: First, we must recover! Re-opening our economy safely will be a complicated and difficult process. But it is the only way we can begin to rebuild our city finances and restore our city services. It will be our most immediate challenge.

We should also view this process as an opportunity, an opportunity to take a fresh look at the way we perform city services and see if there are ways to be more efficient and cost effective as we rebuild. Maybe we should consolidate functions; contract for routine services and procure technology to simplify operations and better control personnel costs.

Next, we should assess what we have learned and how we can apply it to our future. Many things have changed for good. More people will work from home. That changes transportation needs. It reduces the demand for commercial space. Is there another, better use, for that space? What will happen to brick and mortar retail and the space it used to occupy? Will people travel less and use city

amenities more? Will we have enough space for that? We will have to adapt to the behavior changes that this pandemic has produced.

We need to adapt to these changes in a smart way that preserves the qualities that brought us all here to Irvine in the first place. We have beautiful neighborhoods, amazing families, great recreational and cultural facilities, very desirable employment centers and high-quality commercial areas. We are the envy of many cities. Our overarching goal should be to keep Irvine as one of America's safest cities and a "first choice" location to live, work and raise a family.

Finally, we need to communicate better with our residents. We are a large city with only a few people setting policy and making decisions. As a technology expert I believe there are many things we could be doing to make it easier for our residents to monitor and participate in the operations of our city. Simple apps could allow our residents to access the data and status of projects in our city. I would like to bring my skills to City Hall to use technology to develop a more open and transparent government.

Business Climate: Irvine is home to an estimated 15,000 businesses. Businesses create jobs and generate revenue for the city. Irvine is a technology and advanced education hub fed by upwardly mobile, trained graduates from University of California Irvine, Concordia University and Irvine Valley College. I believe the city should team with innovation and research centers in our universities and existing technology companies to advocate for "Silicon Orange" in Irvine. It will create more good-paying job opportunities, bring in more revenue to the city, and provide more community service programs for our residents. A positive cycle!

We need to focus on helping our businesses who are struggling due to the pandemic. Government assistance can be difficult to navigate by those applying for the first time. The city should help guide businesses to the available federal and state relief programs, and also help them to apply. Some business sectors will no longer be in demand. During and after recovery, the city can sponsor workshops highlighting emerging job sectors and best practices for adapting to new realities and act as a resource for job training opportunities.

Tammy Kim

Vision of Irvine: Both the city and I will turn 50 next year. It helps me appreciate

the lifecycle of our planning horizon. Vision helped us become a global city recognized for our master planning, our natural assets, our educational resources, our business and economic success and our extraordinary cultural diversity, but we must stop resting on our laurels. My vision for Irvine is a city where planning is based on the most innovative and sustainable models for community design and where we produce housing for all income levels. We must strengthen our civic core. Better communication and community engagement in every aspect of civic life will build a positive culture of respect for the people, businesses, organizations and institutions that make up our city. I'm proud of our reputation as America's Safest City, but that is not enough. We must address the complex health and safety needs of our residents with the kind of services and resources a city of 300,000 people requires. Relying on the county should not be our default position for public health, mental health, homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse and other social service needs. Vision must come from our leaders and grow with our population.

Business Climate: I am the only candidate for Irvine City Council who serves on the Finance Commission, has worked in the private sector leading large scale enterprises as a vice president of a Fortune 500 company, and who built a successful local nonprofit to serve and support immigrants, many of whom are part of our workforce. I understand the importance of a robust business environment from every angle. I am the only candidate who has worked directly with our Irvine Chamber of Commerce on programs to attract multi-national companies into Irvine.

Irvine is the business hub of Orange County. Our business community has been significantly impacted during this pandemic. We rely on sales tax for a significant part of our budget. As we confront our own municipal impacts, we must continue focusing on those elements of our community that are attractive to businesses for operations and attracting/retaining employees.

Public safety, well planned and well maintained roads, parks and neighborhoods and quality education will always be key factors in building back even stronger.

My vision for Irvine is to be a leader in the Fourth Industrial Revolution by taking advantage of the resources that already exist with UCI, coupled with our highly

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ELECTION

educated workforce. I am committed to ensuring that Irvine is the hub of the Green Technology industry, biotechnology, robotics and artificial intelligence.

Abigail Pole

Vision of Irvine: I want an Irvine that is at the forefront of green technology, where everyone is able to flourish. I want our schools to be the best in the world, the city internationally recognized for the happiness of our citizens and quality of life.

Business Climate: I don't see supporting the businesses of Irvine recovering from COVID-induced hardship, supporting the citizens who are also recovering, and promoting, investing, and creating a green space and environment as isolated issues. I think we all tend to see issues in the lens of a vacuum as opposed to interconnected issues. For example, alleviating the congestion that plagues our city via green public transit will save not only citizens the cost of transport but it will save businesses the cost of time that is wasted in traffic. This investment in a green public transit system will put money back in the pockets of the citizens who can then spend it at local businesses. These local businesses that serve our communities should have had assistance from the city in filing for PPP grants from the federal government. The city leaders failed to provide any apparatus to help small business owners navigate the complicated federal forms and government. When elected, I would want to create an initiative that recruits lawyers in training from UCI Law School to provide legal guidance and advice to the local businesses pro-bono. In addition, I would like to see if we can offer some kind of tax relief and temporary grant for businesses struggling to stay afloat due to COVID-related expenses.

Mike Carroll

Vision of Irvine: My vision of Irvine is a vibrant, diverse, innovative community where people love where they live, work, go to school and play. It's a place that people are proud to call home. A place where people feel safe in their homes, in their parks, and on their streets. It's a place where people come together for the common good and respect each other with human dignity. It's a place with award-winning schools and top-notch public safety. It's a place that, with over 287,000 people, is literally the economic backbone of the sixth-largest county in the United States.

Business Climate: As vice mayor, I've been working hard to protect Irvine small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. We established the City of Irvine Small Business Relief Program, where we aided 506 local small businesses with monetary grants to help them safely re-open. I would work closely with our Chamber of Commerce to form a "business roundtable" to hear what our businesses need from us to thrive in this challenging environment.

Larry Agran

Vision of Irvine: My vision of Irvine has not substantially changed since I was first elected to the Irvine City Council in 1978. I want Irvine to be a pioneer and leader in providing Irvine residents the highest quality of life by taking advantage of the incredible talent at our local world-class university and businesses.

For example, plans and policies adopted during my prior years of service as mayor and city councilmember were instrumental in making Irvine the greenest city in America. In the early 1980s, I led Irvine in adopting its curbside recycling program. A few years later, after consulting with Nobel Prize-winning UCI scientists Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina, I led Irvine in becoming the first American city to ban chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), industrial chemicals that destroy the Earth's ozone layer. Irvine's ban on CFCs jump-started municipal, state, national and international efforts to craft legislation banning CFCs.

As a result of Irvine's leadership on that issue, local government officials representing 200 cities from 43 nations gathered at the UN the following year to create the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Today, ICLEI is a 2,000-member organization and the largest environmental city network on the planet.

If I am returned to the council, I will be working to restore Irvine's proud history as a leader in innovation and public policies.

Business Climate: More than six months into this pandemic, the city has done little to protect and support our local businesses. The only assistance provided to the Irvine business community has come from the federal program, which the city simply administers.

I have prepared a plan – written in the form of an official Irvine City Council Resolution – to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 in Irvine. (The full text of the plan is available on

my website, LarryAgran.com, under the "Priorities" heading.) Under my plan, Irvine would use \$10 million of the City's \$53 million Rainy Day Contingency Fund to establish three new offices, including the Office of Small Business Assistance.

The Office of Small Business Assistance would provide financial assistance, protective equipment and instruction in achieving the highest standards of health and safety in the workplace and in all areas open to the public.

Mark Newgent

Vision of Irvine: People in Irvine do NOT want drastic change. We need to simply maintain our best practices and make small adjustments based on the feedback from residents for quality of life issues. I have heard countless residents tell me when I get elected, don't change anything! With the exception of working on the traffic problem.

Business Climate: In many ways, Irvine is the economic hub of Orange County. How would you ensure the business climate continues to grow and thrive? How do you see the city supporting local businesses especially as they recover from the Covid-induced economic hardship?

The economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic has left every city with budget troubles and cities are looking at how to bring in more revenue.

Raising taxes is NOT the answer!

We need to reopen business safely. That is the priority to raise revenue, attract new businesses and maintain/improve current business. We need to cut red tape for small and big businesses so they can open safely, properly function and generate more income/revenue.

Lauren Norris-Johnson

Vision of Irvine: Irvine is a special city, defined by both its brilliant master planning and its diversity of cultures. As we move into the future, we can model a serious and effective COVID-19 response, a strong economic climate that supports education and innovation, and the protection of open spaces and our environment. We can lead the region and the country as a city of the future that embraces diversity and inclusion as well as transparency and efficient government.

Business Climate: The city must take a strong leadership role in this time of crisis and make sure every small business has the equipment and supplies to reopen safely. There are few more important things elected officials could be doing

right now. I stand with our small businesses and our workforce in protecting their physical and economic health. I will advocate for a greater share of CARES Act and, potentially, HEROES Act funds to bring them back to Irvine and provide this money as grants to our small businesses and struggling workforce. The city can do more to assist and advise small businesses as the pandemic and economic crisis continues.

Laura Bratton

Vision of Irvine: My vision for Irvine is providing for the residents of Irvine; that local government is keeping their needs in mind when voting on issues. Also, as a City Council member we need to make sure we're providing our residents with transparent communication on any question asked. I want Irvine to have clean air again where our children can walk to school or to the store with no hesitation.

Business Climate: The city of Irvine can support local businesses by providing them with resources and nonprofit organizations that will help in these trying times. We should help educate and implement programs that will help businesses stay open.

Dylan Green

Vision of Irvine: For my vision for the future of Irvine, I believe Irvine can become a major leader in terms of transparency, honesty, climate change, quality of life, and many many more categories. We have the absolute potential to do all of these things, we just need to commit. For example, our leaders need to commit to transparency, honesty and accountability, and need to be willing to take penalties when found in violation of law and regulation. Irvine needs to be a leader for renewable energy, especially when we have some of the brightest minds of our and future generations right here at UCI, a school that is consistently awarded and recognized for its sustainability. I'm also a strong advocate for working closer with UCI, not just for this but also for things like traffic, where we have some of the brightest minds in the world in social sciences who I have no doubt would be greatly willing to work with us. I've met dozens of people here in my time as a student of UCI that want to help and improve this city.

In terms of where I see Irvine right now, I see it doing very well in these fields, with huge room for improvement. I hope that we can move forward to meet these goals, but we have a huge trans-

ELECTION

parency problem, a traffic problem, a COVID response problem, a development problem, and so much more. And these are the kind of things that I think are holding this city back from being its best self, so to speak. I have proposals to sort out all of these problems, because Irvine is near and dear to my heart and I love it. But we have to admit we have a problem before we can fix it.

Business Climate: The business climate needs a lot of things to continue to grow right now. First and foremost, we need a workforce in Irvine that can work at these businesses. This means we need to focus on building affordable housing units for people who want to move to Irvine. In order to help businesses grow and thrive in the current climate we need to be doing everything in our power to help them reopen under the current COVID restrictions and hardships. This means that we should be providing PPE to essential businesses that are reopening first, and from there expand this PPE program to provide for all businesses as they reopen. This will help businesses feel confident to reopen, and will help keep the community safe. Some, if not all, small businesses do not have the finances or access to be able to open with the full PPE requirements we must work under, which is why I think that this is the perfect place for the city to step in and help out. The city has the resources and access to PPE supply chains that small businesses might not, and Irvine is built on the back of small business so it's time we gave back.

Anshul Garg

Vision of Irvine: Irvine is one of the safest cities and known for its education standards – these are going to be my first priority to maintain, in the current pandemic we are going through. This effort will include how to keep up the safe environment for everyone, enough and reasonably priced supply of masks and other preventive gear we need for our front-line warriors, seniors and the rest of the people.

In addition, Irvine is attracting a lot of people and we need to make sure that everyone is safe. This is an opportunity for us to grow the economy of the city, and have a safe and secure environment for everyone, by supporting and expanding our IPD staff.

Next comes the support to the small businesses, which have closed down their doors because of financial hard-

ship in this pandemic. As I indicated, small businesses are the backbone of every city and this is the time they need help. I will be working tirelessly to let the small businesses back on their feet.

Last but not least – I will be working with the residents to use renewable energy, stop using plastic and find new ways to recycle waste – which is really going to help us keep our environment safe and clean for us all and the generations to come!

Business Climate: Business grows when customers feel safe, secure and in a reasonable environment. The current pandemic has affected it all – people cannot go freely to anywhere they want. We have to work on making sure and enforcing laws to modify the strategies towards the “New Normal.” This will need the support from federal, state and city because this needs funding for the modifications needed to be done for the business. There are many businesses which are not affected much but are making profits because of the pandemic, where a big number of people can “work from home” and save on everyday business expenses. We will identify and reach out to other small businesses which cannot operate “from home” and will help them the way we can.

This is going to be a continuous and parallel process, while we are working to make the Irvine city greater.

As Indicated, we need to identify the issues and requirements of every small business that has been affected because of COVID-19. While not all the problems are the same, the resolutions for each need to be derived very carefully. There are many agencies already working with the affected one like the SBA and EDD and we will do our part to get the help reached in a timely manner. Currently, we are seeing delays in responses because these agencies are getting a lot of cases, but this cannot be a reason for a business to close down because of delay in the financial aid.

We must continue to protect each other and cannot cut the corners in this pandemic. As we are adopting the “new normal,” I will make sure that people know where they need to go when they need help.

One of my main agenda items is to support small businesses in every way we can. I am a firm believer that “small businesses are the economic backbone of every city.”

Christine Dillard did not submit responses to our candidate questionnaire.

IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT 4

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FOOD

DONUTS ARE LIFE

HOW OLIBOLI DONUTS IS PAYING HOMAGE TO THE WORLD'S ORIGINAL DONUT

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

For many of us, donuts are simply an irresistible breakfast treat that have more than once tempted our sweet tooth in an office setting. However, for the folks at Oliboli Donuts in Tustin – donuts are life.

While donuts are an integral part of life for the family of dutch donut makers behind the counter at Oliboli Donuts ... the donuts are also delicious. But, considering the dough to make these donuts requires a 40-hour fermentation process, perhaps that's all by design.

Entering the Tustin-based cafe, visitors will be greeted with the fresh scent of dough and oil, mixed with aromatic properties of airborne sugar, flour and spices. Donut orders are taken at the counter, and each yeast donut is fried to order.

In an interview with Irvine Weekly, Hailey Desprez, store manager for Oliboli Donuts, explained there's an apparent significance between the name of the Tustin-based donut maker, and their particular donut process, which pays homage to the original donut, the Oliebollen.

"We use a natural levain and a 40-hour fermentation process, which is a time honored traditional dough making technique," she said. "We also stone mill a portion of our flour in house using heritage grains. The heritage grains are the oldest and, in our opinion, most flavorful grains. We then add kefir and also the leftover whey from our homemade ricotta cheese to our cake donuts. All of this adds up to a very unique, wholesome and delicious donut."

Created by the Dutch, Desprez added that the oliebollen recipe carries somewhat of a tradition in Dutch households.



Inside Oliboli Donuts. Photo by Evan J. Lancaster



Oliboli Donuts presents, The Banoffee. Photo by Evan J. Lancaster



have been so kind and generous and bring in baskets of Meyer lemons from their backyard trees. We love our community so much," she said.

"Oliboli is a play on the Dutch donut, the oliebollen. It was the first donut ever made and the recipe is passed down in most Dutch families from generation to generation. It is a dough puff speckled with raisins, currents and lemon zest. Then dipped in powdered sugar," she explained. "Some of our Dutch customers have been brought to tears after eating these because it brings back so many memories."

Since 2018, Oliboli has been creating savory renditions like the Croque Madam to the enticing Banoffee, made with layered banana, a swirl of toffee sauce, topped with a salty banana whip and streusel crumble. Desprez added that some of the most popular orders include the Meyer Lemon, which are actually made with locally grown lemons.

"It's hard to pick the most popular but the Meyer Lemon is always a favorite. The neighbors in the Tustin community

As a family owned and operated business, Desprez added that it's a blessing being able to spend time with her family, being able to do what she loves, and is certain the care and compassion team Oliboli staff commits to each batch of donuts is evident.

"The donuts reflect this," she said. "We fry our yeast donuts to order and put a lot of thought and care into our process," she said. "It's great because we all work long hours and it's nice to be with those you love."

Oliboli fans should be on the lookout for the return of the "Leftover" Donut, a take on a Thanksgiving donut later this fall.



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Irvine's Stark Fitness has implemented a new contact tracing technology that was originally created as a project management and safety tool for large-scale construction projects.

During the pandemic, however, it has become a welcome safeguard in the fitness industry, helping reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the community.

The technology, known as Proximity Trace, was developed by Connecticut-based company Triax Technologies, and is defined as a zone-based technology system. Proximity Trace was launched in April, and quickly became a critical part of Stark's reopening process, allowing gym-goers to return to Stark's facilities – with the benefit of contact tracing technology in place.

Tyler Mounce, Vice President of Morale for Stark Fitness, explained that Stark takes a technological approach to fitness, with a focus on being pioneers of technology within the industry.

With that, Stark Fitness has now become one of the first gyms to incorporate a wearable technology – specifically designed to monitor potential exposure to COVID-19 – within its normal, everyday clients/trainer operations.

Considering the hardship fitness centers and other local businesses faced during the forced closures of lockdown, the technology developed by Triax Technologies has assisted Mounce and the Stark team in resuming appointments for clients back inside the gym.

"We are appointment-based, so, during the closures, we pivoted and we were either delivering socially distanced workouts in parks, or we were doing virtual training sessions," Mounce said in an interview with Irvine Weekly. "Since then, we've transitioned almost all of the outdoor sessions back into the gym and most of the virtual training sessions back – we're almost doing pre-COVID-19 volume – despite the fact that we're actually limiting our capacity."

On Sept. 8, Orange County was given approval to move into the state's Red Tier for COVID-19 monitoring, allowing fitness centers in Orange County to return to indoor operations with modifications.

Although hospitalizations continue to decline, county health experts continue to emphasize the importance of social distancing, hand washing and the use of face coverings in public.

Proximity Trace technology comes in the form of a badge, which is clipped on during a workout and designed to alert gym-goers once they come within the



SAFEGUARDING THE FITNESS INDUSTRY

STARK FITNESS IS USING CONTACT TRACING BADGE TECHNOLOGY IN IRVINE.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



Photos Courtesy of Stark Fitness

CDC's social distancing protocol – six feet of another individual, for more than 15 minutes.

"In the event that someone in our community tests positive [for COVID-19] whether that's a staff member or a client, we'll actually be able to see who they were in close proximity to based on their badge – during the period they were contagious," Mounce said.

Lori Peters, Vice President of Marketing for Triax Technologies, shared some insight on how this zone-based location system was created and how it works.

In an interview with Irvine Weekly, Peters explained that Triax created a technology called "Spot-r" in 2017, which was developed to give real-time visibility to massive job sites, from the number of personnel on site to equipment monitoring.

Peters explained that the success of "Spot-r" led to the creation of Triax's Proximity Trace during the pandemic. Peters added that Triax has discovered that the Proximity Trace technology is not limited by industry, which has made it an extremely innovative tool across the board.

"We've really found that this is a great application across all industries – including fitness centers – so it's been exciting for us to really service a lot of different types of clients," she said.

Proximity Trace works through a network of cloud servers, called Gateways, which are set up at a specific location.

For environments like Stark, the workforce wears a clip-on monitor during their workday, which tracks all interactions within the facility. In tandem, clients use a monitoring clip when entering, and take it off before they leave.

"For environments like Stark and non hardhat environments, we just use a clip that can be clipped to the shirt," she said.

While Peters cautioned that this is not a solution for public health, Mounce said this is a technological shift in the fitness industry, which was already underway.

"The fitness industry was experiencing a shift that was developing as a result of IOT [Internet of Things], so people using various data centers – for example FitBit and MyFitness Pal – all these different apps and devices – I think the fitness industry was already shifting from a technology standpoint," Mounce said.

"There is a lot that's going on and I think that people looking at health as a valuable asset is something that hopefully will be a more permanent shift."



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IRVINE WEEKLY MOVIE GUIDE

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HUBIE HALLOWEEN, HONEST THIEF, SHITHOUSE, THE GLORIAS, THE BOYS IN THE BAND, THE WAR WITH GRANDPA.

BY CHUCK WILSON, ASHER LUBERTO AND LINA LECARO

Irvine Weekly's Movie Guide is your look at the hottest films available on your TV sets, electronic devices and in select drive-ins throughout Southern California. And as always, our film critics let you know what's worth the watchtime and what's not – from indie art house gems to popcorn-perfect blockbusters to new movies garnering buzz – indicating where you can catch them whether it be digital Video on Demand (VOD) or streaming subscription services.

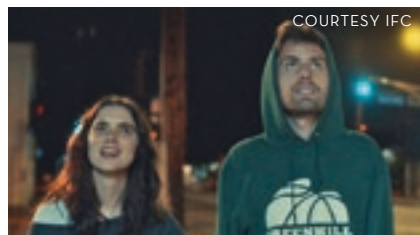


Hubie Halloween / Netflix

And so arrives this year's Adam Sandler comedy. This time out, he talks in an exceptionally strange voice that's so mumbly you might consider utilizing the subtitle option. Sandler is never actually funny (sorry) but the Salem, Massachusetts Halloween Harvest sets are splendid. I loved the corn maze. (It's the only part I'm likely to remember.)

The supporting cast is jammed with hard-working Sandler regulars, among them Julie Bowen, Tim Meadows, Ben Stiller, Shaquille O'Neal and Steve Buscemi, who's endearingly weird as the werewolf who's moved in next door to Sandler's Hubie, an oft-bullied dork who lives with overprotective mother (June Squibb) and is obsessed with keeping Halloween safe for all.

Don't be a bully is the life lesson here, along with the proper usage of the word "boner." Sandler devotees, all one billion of them, will relish call-outs to the actor's earlier (better) films, from the reappearance of *Happy Gilmore's* Hal the orderly to the return of the O'Doyle family of bullies from *Billy Madison*. And yes, Virginia, there is (of course) a bag of poop. High art? No. Fun? Sure, if you say so. (Chuck Wilson)



Shithouse / VOD

With his directorial debut, Cooper Raiff takes us on a dark emotional journey, but there's still a lot to love in this stirring romantic drama. Though it's not without comedy, *Shithouse* takes teens' emotions seriously and will stir romantics of any age.

When Alex (Raiff) meets Maggie (Dylan Guella) at their dorm, she is still wasted from a night of partying. Her flirting, provocative stare and the outfit she wears all scream "make a move," but Alex is too awkward to notice. After she asks if he'll come to her room, Alex is still lost. "You mean to kiss and have sex?" Yes, dude. The night drifts from sloppy sex into something more meaningful. The two walk around Los Angeles all night, sharing personal memories and agreeing that college parties are totally overrated in realistic, Richard Linklater-like monologues. It looks like the start of a relationship, but once the sun rises, Maggie kicks him out of bed.

What started as a teenage version of *Before Sunrise* evolves into a tender, touching and naked exploration of what it means to put yourself out there, to step outside of your comfort zone and try new things. Maggie, bewildered that Alex assumes they are dating now, ghosts him. Alex, in his first tryst, tries to understand why Maggie won't respond to his Instagram messages.

While the rest of the film feels slightly sophomoric, Raiff keeps *Shithouse* afloat, with his wide-eyed combination of pathos and banter that wavers between deadpan and goofy. You buy into the film because you buy into Alex, his failures and triumphs, and you can't help but cheer when he finally hits the whole romance thing out of the park. (Asher Luberto)



The Glorias / Amazon

In *The Glorias*, the unwieldy but transfixed dramatization of Gloria Steinem's autobiography, four actresses portray the feminist icon at key points – at age nine (Ryan Kiera Armstrong), as a teenager (Lulu Wilson), in her 20s (Alicia Vikander), and in mid-life (Julianne Moore). Often, two or more Glorias appear in the same scene, as when the older Gloria quietly takes the hand of her distressed younger self.

The Glorias appear throughout the film aboard a Greyhound bus that's seemingly meant to symbolize Steinem's roots-free life, first as a reporter, beginning with her culture-shaking Playboy Bunny story, and later, as reluctant feminist leader (and founder of Ms. magazine). A born truth-seeker, Steinem, who's 86 now, had a remarkable instinct for being present at turning points in American history, a byproduct, she would say, of constantly being on the road, just like her dream-chasing traveling salesman father (Timothy Hutton).

Writer-director Julie Taymor (*Frida*) and co-writer Sarah Ruhl seem determined to include every historic moment Steinem witnessed, and if the resulting film is overly episodic, it's also rich with vibrant brief encounters. At the 1963 March on Washington, Gloria (played by Moore) is way back in the crowd. Standing next to her is an older Black woman (Deeta West, wonderful) who's furious that the only Black woman on the podium is Marian Anderson. "Singing ain't speaking," she declares, and sets off to lodge a complaint, a bit of activism that alters Steinem's perception of what one person can do.

Taymor, who directed *The Lion King* on Broadway, uses special effects to

bring visual wit to a long movie, some of which fall flat, as when Gloria imagines a sexist TV host being swept up in the *Wizard of Oz* tornado. But the more delicate touches delight. As a teenage Gloria rides the bus onto Hollywood Boulevard on a 1950s night, the street is suffused in the warm neon of old Hollywood, a sight so magical Gloria doesn't appear surprised when a miniature Fred Astaire dances off the Vogue Theater marquee to come gliding by her window.

The Glorias may be seeped in issues of social import but it's the promise of another unexpected performance that propels the movie forward. Janelle Monáe, Lorraine Toussaint, Kimberly Guerrero, Monica Sanchez, and Bette Midler, among others, portray the real-life activists who worked alongside Steinem, and more importantly, helped her to evolve both as a woman and a leader by sharing with her their own truths. Women talk, Gloria listens, history shifts. (Chuck Wilson)



The War with Grandpa / Theaters and Drive-ins

With a stellar cast and a clever narrative pulled from a classic children's book, *The War with Grandpa*, has the goods for a fun, family-friendly popcorn flick. But that doesn't make it actually good. It's closer to o.k., with a watchability level akin to a *Meet The Parents* sequel. Robert De Niro is grandpa here, but definitely not the gramps we saw in *Dirty Grandpa*, which we enjoyed a lot more. Here, he's Ed, a widow whose been suffering from cognitive and behavioral issues, leading him to move in with his family. When he snags the beloved attic bedroom away from his grandson Pete (Oakes Fegley), it means war (grampy's brain struggles be damned). Pete decides to oust his elder with a mess of mean-spirited pranks, some that are pretty clever, some not so much, while Ed has a few tricks up his own sleeve in retaliation.

It's all pretty predictable but De Niro's a pro, so even when he's playing light, non-challenging roles such as this one, his commitment makes it somehow ring

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true. There's also Uma Thurman taking on Sally, the conflicted, multi-layered mother/daughter role with an appealing realness. Rob Riggle brings his animated silliness to the proceedings as Sally's husband and Pete's dad.

Seeing the supporting icons – Christopher Walken, Cheech Marin and Jane Seymour – together on screen with De Niro is almost worth the ticket price alone, but their screen time takes a backseat to the wacky family “war,” in pursuit of Home Alone-esque kid appeal. This film has been rated PG and its intentional lack of the “-13” suffix material really shows.

Director Tim Hill, best known for his work on *Spongebob* and *Muppet* movies, plays everything for laughs and there's some chuckle-worthy moments, but ultimately the subtext concerning grandpa's failing mind makes the war feel unwarranted. And about 10 minutes in you already know the moral it'll all end with: nobody wins. (Lina Lecaro)

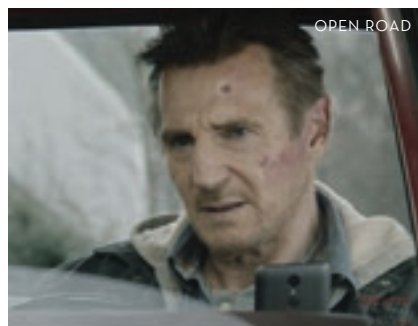


The Boys in the Band / Netflix

Ryan Murphy movies and TV shows are always embellished eye-candy; sweet, salty and sexy, but often lacking nuanced flavors. (The gore and colorful fashions are kind of all we remember from *Ratched*, and we watched that only a couple weeks ago).

His latest production, *The Boys in the Band*, is based on Mart Crowley's groundbreaking play (which returned to the New York stage a couple years ago to commemorate its 50th anniversary), and while it feels very Murphy-esque, the material definitely has more depth than his originals of late. Exploring relationships and inner-conflicts among a group of gay men in 1968, the off-Broadway play set at a birthday house party in the West Village, opened “the closet” to queer culture in a raw and emotive way that was not seen before. Though some called it out for its focus on self-hate and self-doubt, its unflinching (and fabulous) dialog was hard to ignore. This version is one of the most powerful Murphy-produced projects in recent years.

We never saw the 1970 cinematic adaptation by director William Friedkin, but after watching this one, we want to. Boys crackles with emotion, truth, and snazzy dialog, not to mention nifty retro fashion. And then there's the cast! The “band” is more like a supergroup, featuring some of Hollywood's brightest openly gay stars including Jim Parsons, Zachary Quinto and Matt Bomer, all of whom do their best work here. (Lina Lecaro)



Honest Thief / Theaters and Drive-ins

A movie even more dull than its title, *Honest Thief* finds Liam Neeson as Tom, a bank robber extraordinaire who's fallen in love (with Kate Walsh) and decided to come clean to the Feds. He'll give them all the robbery loot in exchange for a light sentence. Tom calls the FBI 800 number, two low-level agents (Jai Courtney and Anthony Ramos) appear, steal the money, and in the process, end up killing their FBI boss (Robert Patrick). They pin the murder on Neeson, who goes on the run only to later vow revenge after the two rough up his girlfriend. Don't mess with Liam's loved ones, right?

It takes writer-director Mark Williams (*A Family Man*) and co-writer Steve Allrich (*The Canyon*) half of forever to set all this up, after which there are poorly staged car chases and an exploding house, but zero forward motion, much less tension. The script, which must have been short, cannot have read well.

So maybe Neeson really is here for the cash, and all of it apparently because there was clearly no budget for extras, much less an army of FBI agents to give chase to the agent killer. There are six featured characters in *Honest Thief*, but no one else, not even passerbys in danger of being hit by speeding cars. In what might be a first, there are more credited executive producers than actors on screen. This movie would be a bust even as a direct-to-video rental. My dad, a Neeson man from way back, is going to be so bummed. (Chuck Wilson)

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