

Candidate Report Card: Measure T & Corporate Personhood

The Humboldt Coalition for Community Rights surveyed those currently running for office in Humboldt County about their stance regarding Measure T and corporate personhood. Measure T bans non-local corporate campaign contributions in local elections.

We asked them to sign on to the following:

The people of Humboldt County have concluded that non-local corporate contributions are a significant undermining force in the democratic process, causing citizens to lose confidence in the integrity of county elections. As there are few public interests more vital to a functioning democracy than a citizen's confidence in the electoral system, I _____ pledge not to accept any contributions, financial or otherwise, from non-local corporations as outlined by Measure T. I will respect the voters' decision so that the people of Humboldt County may have confidence in the integrity of their political processes.

Furthermore, as Corporate Personhood erodes the democratic process and disenfranchises actual citizens. I, _____, pledge to publicly oppose the doctrine of Corporate Personhood and to uphold the rights of citizens over that of corporations during my time in office.

Key to Responses

“Yes” – Candidate agreed to this portion of the pledge

“No” – Candidate refused to sign this portion of the pledge

“Declined” – Candidate did not take a position

“No response” – Candidate did not return pledge or return follow-up call

Candidate Name	Office Sought	Supports Measure T?	Will Challenge Corporate Personhood?
Clif Clendenen	Humboldt County Supervisor – District 2	Yes	No
Estelle Fennell	Humboldt County Supervisor – District 2	Yes	Yes
Johanna Rodoni	Humboldt County Supervisor – District 2	No answer	No answer
Stephen Davies	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 1	Declined	Declined
Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 1	Yes	Yes
Adrienne Floreen	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 2	Yes	Yes
Jake Pickering	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 2	Yes	Yes
Tera Prucha	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 2	Yes	Yes
Ben Shepherd	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 2	No	No
Edward “Buzz” Webb	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 2	Yes	No
Barbara Hecathorn	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 3	No response	No response
Robert A. Schultz	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District – Division 3	Yes	Yes
Chloe Bear	Southern Humboldt Community Hospital District	Yes	Yes
Judith Gonzales	Southern Humboldt Community Hospital District	Yes	Yes
David Kirby	Southern Humboldt Community Hospital District	Declined	Declined
Ed Smith	Southern Humboldt Community Hospital District	Yes	Yes
Nancy R. Wilson	Southern Humboldt Community Hospital District	Yes	Yes
Shane Brinton	Arcata City Council	Yes	Yes
Geronimo Garcia	Arcata City Council	No response	No response
Jason A. Grow	Arcata City Council	Yes	Yes
Michael Machi	Arcata City Council	Declined	Declined
Susan Ornelas	Arcata City Council	Yes	Yes
Michael Winkler	Arcata City Council	Yes	Yes

(continued)

Candidate Name	Office Sought	Supports Measure T?	Will Challenge Corporate Personhood?
Karen L. Barnes	Blue Lake City Council	No response	No response
Patricia Falor	Blue Lake City Council	No response	No response
Michelle McCall-Wallace	Blue Lake City Council	Yes	Yes
Alexander Ricca	Blue Lake City Council	Yes	Yes
Meghan Vogel	Blue Lake City Council	No response	No response
Linda Atkins	Eureka City Council – Ward 2	Yes	No
Polly Endert	Eureka City Council – Ward 2	No response	No response
George Clark	Eureka City Council – Ward 4	Yes	No
Frank Jäger	Eureka City Council – Ward 4	No	No
Jeff Farley	Ferndale Mayor	No response	No response
Shannon Leonardo	Ferndale City Council	No response	No response
Kenneth S. Mierzwa	Ferndale City Council	Yes	Yes
Stuart Titus	Ferndale City Council	No response	No response
David Walters	Ferndale City Council	No response	No response
Don Mayden	Fortuna City Council	Yes	No
Tom Mulholland	Fortuna City Council	No response	No response
Odell Shelton, Jr.	Fortuna City Council	No response	No response
Douglas Strehl	Fortuna City Council	No response	No response
Kenneth E. Zanzi	Fortuna City Council	No	No
Marc Barsanti	Rio Dell City Council	Yes	Yes
Richard Leo Leonard	Rio Dell City Council	No response	No response
Jack R. Thompson	Rio Dell City Council	No	No
Julie Fulkerson	Trinidad City Council	Yes	Yes
Michael Morgan	Trinidad City Council	No response	No response

About Measure T – The Humboldt County Ordinance for Fair Elections & Local Democracy

Measure T bans non-local corporate campaign contributions in local elections. Our community has felt the undue influence of corporate interference in our elections in years past. In 1999, Wal-Mart spent \$250,000 on a ballot initiative to change the local zoning laws in the city of Eureka, and in 2003, Maxxam Corporation spent \$300,000 in an effort to recall the County District Attorney. Both attempts were defeated, but defending our community from corporate agendas required incredible citizen and government resources.

Measure T was written and passed by the citizens of Humboldt County to protect our elections from future corruption. On June 6, 2006, Measure T passed with 55% of the vote and took effect immediately.

Defending Measure T, Defending Democracy!

On August 27, 2008, the right-wing Pacific Legal Foundation initiated a lawsuit against the people of Humboldt County in an effort to overturn Measure T. This lawsuit is merely another example of how corporate leaders try to claim the illegitimate doctrine of "corporate personhood" to overturn democratically enacted laws which attempt to control their abuse. For a corporation to claim that their civil "rights" have been violated is so preposterous that only a lawyer could argue that idea with a straight face.

We are already working with renowned constitutional law expert John Bonifaz to defend Measure T in court. John has offered to assist the county at no charge!

But this is not merely a legal dispute. This is another stage in the struggle to assert that "We the People" have a fundamental right to self-governance. Our community has the right to decide how to protect the integrity of our own local elections. If we do not have that right, how can we claim to live in a democracy?

**Help defend democracy in Humboldt County – get involved in defending Measure T!
For more information, contact Democracy Unlimited at 269-0984 or www.duhc.org**