

Santa Monica Daily Press

**POLITICAL
ENDORSEMENTS**

2018 SANTA MONICA ELECTION

2018 CANDIDATE VOTER GUIDE

Sometimes election choices are clear and the most qualified candidates are easy to identify. We find that to be the case in both the SMC and SMMUSD Board races.

SMC BOARD

This year, the pool of candidates for the Santa Monica College Board are as a whole, the best crop among all races. It's a group of intelligent, passionate and caring individuals who all want to do what's best for the school. That said, we think Sion Roy is the best choice to add to the current incumbents Louise Jaffe, Barry Snell and Nancy Greenstein. Patrick Acosta II is a genuinely nice guy whose heart is in the right place. In another situation, he might be the right choice for the position but Roy has shown his passion for the position through multiple campaigns and an ongoing dedication to the college.

SMMUSD BOARD

Similarly, we're endorsing all the incumbents for the SMMUSD race. You can certain-

ly find fault with any candidate and no-one is perfect but now isn't the time to eliminate someone from this particular group. The District has substantial challenges in the near future and the combined experience of the incumbents will be needed to guide the district. However, the races for Rent Control Board and City Council are less clear.

We feel some local races are increasingly a matter of personal politics. This year, several candidate combinations are ethically viable choices based on the core belief of the voter.

One of the great failings of our current political environment is a lack of understanding that reasonable people can have different perspectives on life that can lead them to rational, albeit different, decisions from our own.

RENT CONTROL BOARD

This is most starkly apparent in this year's Rent Control Board election. In addition to the incumbents, if you support Prop 10, you think tenants are harassed regularly, you

think rent control is fundamentally a fair way to administer housing then Naomi Sultan is your choice for the Board.

If you oppose Prop 10, you think landlords should be represented in rent control decisions, you think current rules impinge on basic personal rights, then Lori Brown is your choice.

Either woman has the intelligence, ability and skill to function on the Board. Who you prefer depends on a set of core personal beliefs.

This is magnified in the more competitive race for City Council where there are many more permutations.

For example, voting for term limits should narrow the field for you. It's logically inconsistent to back candidates that have served more than 12 years if you're also voting for a measure that limits time on the council to 12 years.

Below we've outlined what we think are several common categories of local voter and the candidate slate that is logically consistent with that position.

COUNCIL VOTES BASED ON HOW YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF

IF YOU THINK: **YES ON MEASURE TL**

VOTING CHOICES: **Morena, Himmelrich, Neri or Bellomo or Powell**

IF YOU THINK: **YOU'RE HAPPY IN SANTA MONICA TODAY**

VOTING CHOICES: **McKeown, Himmelrich, O'Connor**

IF YOU THINK: **SANTA MONICA IS MOSTLY GREAT BUT HAS ROOM TO IMPROVE**

VOTING CHOICES: **McKeown, Himmelrich, Morena**

IF YOU THINK: **ALL INCUMBENTS ARE TERRIBLE**

VOTING CHOICES: **Morena, Neri/Bellomo, Powell**

IF YOU THINK: **YOU'RE THE YOUTH VOTE**

VOTING CHOICES: **Morena, Powell, Neri**

IF YOU THINK: **ENFORCEMENT SHOULD BE A HAMMER NOT A STICK**

VOTING CHOICES: **Bellomo, Neri**

IF YOU THINK: **COMPASSION IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE CURRENT HOMELESS CRISIS**

VOTING CHOICES: **Morena, Powell, Himmelrich**

IF YOU THINK: **THE CITY SHOULD DO MORE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

VOTING CHOICES: **Morena, Neri, Bellomo**