

# Meet the Candidates for CA Senate Night

by Vicki Skinner

On Wednesday, January 22, 2020 in the La Honda Clubhouse at 7 pm, 5 of the 7 candidates for the California Senate Seat vacated by Jerry Hill came to share with La Honda residents, and others, their dreams of what they, individually, offered for the future of CA and our country in general.

They were an impressive bunch of contenders: two men and three women: Josh Becker, Annie Oliva, Shelly Masur, Sally Lieber, and Michael Brownrigg. Set up by the League of Women Voters of San Mateo County and La Honda Indivisible, sixty or more souls gathered to fill the La Honda Club House. The candidates themselves were all democrats as the republican contender did not acknowledge the invitation to appear. I had not heard of any of them before, so I was an impartial judge.

The representative, Margie Gater, from LWV laid down the rules and ran the question and answer session beautifully made easier by the contenders willingness to stick to their timing. Each candidate got to introduce themselves for two minutes and then fielded questions which the audience had turned in to the mediator. Here is a list of the candidates in alphabetical order. I did have my favorites, and all but one seemed eminently qualified. However, I will try to be impartial!

JOSH BECKER is a public policy innovator, has an MBA and law degree from Stanford, and lives in Menlo Park. His top 3 priorities are climate change, education, and transportation/housing. As a young man, he spent much time in Central & South America which is why he abhors the current administrations treatment of families and kids at our borders. When not raising teenagers, he has been creating FCF, Full Circle Fund, and has worked on Clean Tech with Barack Obama. He is a proponent of the Big Lift and wants to make mass transit free in the Bay Area. He is supported by Gavin Newson.

MIKE BROWNRIGG is Burlingame Mayor, former councilman and former US diplomat with 30 years experience; his top priorities are ACE which stands for Affordability, Climate and Education. These goals would manifest themselves expanding low income housing as he is done in Burlingame, improving transit and quality health care. To address climate change, he plans to get all carbon emission out of the air by 2030, deal with plastics in the Bay, and make PG & E accountable. To address education, one idea he has is to expand some of our great junior colleges to a 4 year school where students can earn a BA and address starting education of kids BEFORE kindergarten (0-5).

SALLY LIEBER was a city council member, Mayor of Mountain View, and a State Assembly woman. Her priorities are Climate Change, Economic Equality, and no special interest funding. In the State Assembly, she authors or co-authored bills that

increased minimum wage, stricter gun-control laws, expand Cal Grants, and fund low income housing. She is a proponent of Medicare for all and worked towards SF Bay Restoration.

SHELLY MASUR lives in Redwood City and has been a council member, school board member, and Vice Mayor. She is the CEO of Californian's Dedicated to Education. Her top priorities are education, protecting women's reproductive rights as well as creating affordable communities and building a sustainable future by protecting our environment. She is endorsed by 160 groups and individuals from the California Federation of Teachers to Northern Cal Carpenters and San Mateo Firefighters.

ANNIE OLIVA is a Millbrae Councilwoman, former Mayor and realtor. Her main priority is homelessness, affordable housing and traffic/transit. She is a housing advocate who has helped seniors stay in their homes and helped create affordable housing near transit. She is also the only democratic candidate that does not agree with reversing Prop. 13 tax break on industrial and commercial owners of buildings. She says close the loop holes that allow less tax money for schools.

They all impressed me with their passions and dedication for a myriad range of causes. You may look them up on [votersedge.org](http://votersedge.org), The League of Women Voters non-partisan website.