

# PANIL Notes

Volume 35 Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League - PO Box 20375, Oakland 94620 Sept/Oct 2010

## Ranked Choice Voting Revealed

By William Manley

With the November election, ranked choice voting comes to Alameda County. Unsure who you want for mayor? No problem: you get to vote for three people!

At the August 11 PANIL meeting, Dave Macdonald, Registrar of Voters for Alameda County was on hand to explain it all. With the aid of a slick PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Macdonald walked through choosing a candidate for mayor. Instead of selecting THE person you want, you can select first, second and third choices. Alameda County has opted for this maximum of three. Of course, if only a single candidate appeals to you, you don't have to mark 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices. As you can imagine, this has increased the size of the ballot.

Ranked choice voting, or RCV, is also referred to as "Instant Runoff Voting" in that it eliminates the need for a runoff election. If no candidate gets a majority of first choice votes, the candidate who received the fewest votes for the office is eliminated, and the second choice of those ballots of the eliminated candidate are then added to the totals of the remaining candidates.

To illustrate, using the candidates shown in this sample:

NONPARTISAN	NONPARTISAN	NONPARTISAN
CITY	CITY	CITY
FOR MAYOR	FOR MAYOR	FOR MAYOR
<b>1</b> FIRST CHOICE <i>Vote for One</i>	<b>2</b> SECOND CHOICE <i>(This must be different from your first choice.)</i> <i>Vote for One</i>	<b>3</b> THIRD CHOICE <i>(This must be different from your first and second choices.)</i> <i>Vote for One</i>
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON	BOOKER T. WASHINGTON	BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
DIEGO RIVERA	DIEGO RIVERA	DIEGO RIVERA
ARTHUR MILLER	ARTHUR MILLER	ARTHUR MILLER

•If Rivera gets 4 first choice votes, Washington gets 3 and Miller gets 2, Miller is eliminated because he received the fewest first choice votes.

•The tabulators then look at the second choices on 2 ballots that had Miller as their first choice. If one of those ballots had Rivera as the second choice and the other had Washington, both remaining candidates would get one more vote.

Rivera would then have 5 and win the election since he would then have the majority of the 9 votes cast.

Of course with a larger field of candidates (like with 10 candidates in the Oakland Mayor's race) this process could take a few iterations. Fortunately we have computers.

Continued on page 2

**PANIL Monthly Meetings: Second Wednesday 7:30 p.m.**

**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council — 7:30 pm**

**Sandra Sanders-West, Neighborhood Service Coordinator**

**General Meeting — 8:00 pm**

**September 8 Safeway's Revised Design for Rockridge Center**

**Safeway Representatives; Stuart Flashman, Environmental Attorney**

**October 13 General Meeting: Propositions on the November Ballot**

**Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street — 11th Floor Sky Room**

**PANIL Notes is the monthly publication of (PANIL)**

Writing, editing and layout are all done by volunteers. Articles may be reprinted only with the permission of the editors.

Circulation: 2,000 copies

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**Ranked Choice Voting Revealed** continued from pg 1

As complex and as time-consuming as this may sound, the big plus of RCV is that it saves the very costly expense of run-off elections. It should also save candidates a great deal of money. As we all know, Meg Whitman spent \$80 million just to get on the Fall gubernatorial ballot. For less well-endowed candidates, the costs of running two campaigns can be prohibitive.

Another strong argument in favor of RCV is that it gives voters an opportunity to vote for whom they really want – even when pundits say the candidate has no chance to win – and not feel that theirs is a throw-away vote. If their candidate is eliminated, they know that their second choice will get the vote.

Berkeley and San Leandro will join Oakland as other Alameda County cities using RCV for the first time.

Oakland elects its Mayor, City Council members, City Attorney, City Auditor, and School Directors using Ranked-Choice Voting. San Francisco, and many other cities throughout the US and countries around the world use variations of this. Statewide and national elections in the US have not yet adopted it.

The audience threw many questions at the registrar, such as

- *Why is there not just first and second choice, or for that matter, more than three?*
- *Shouldn't 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices be discounted in value?*
- *What if I choose the same candidate for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices?*

Mr. Macdonald said that Alameda County modeled its system on that of San Francisco, which appears to be simple and successful. While one can make an argument for discounting, no one has a generally-accepted idea of what that discount would be. The counting algorithm does not allow for a single ballot to be worth any more than a single vote, so repeating your candidate twice still only gives him/her one vote.

With the crowded mayoral field this November, the system will get a good test. If this explanation wasn't clear enough for you, or you'd just like to learn more about the process, go to the RCV page of the Registrar, <http://www.acgov.org/rov/rcv/>, where you can get information explained, download brochures, and get news of other public meetings. The Registrar is also doing TV spots on the new process, so come this next election, the candidates may confound you, but the ballot should not.

**PANIL Notes Invites Advertisers**

Advertisers can reach over 2,000 neighborhood households! For details, see PANIL's website [http://panil.org/misc/PANIL\\_Rates.pdf](http://panil.org/misc/PANIL_Rates.pdf) or contact **Margitta Gardner**, 652-6609 or [contact@PANIL.org](mailto:contact@PANIL.org)

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**PREVIEW AT THE SEPT. 8 PANIL MEETING**

**Safeway's Revised Design for Rockridge Shopping Center**

A little over a year ago, Safeway unveiled its second proposal for a redesign of the Rockridge Shopping Center. At a July 2009 public hearing, Oakland's Planning Commissioners sided with North Oakland neighbors, calling the design suburban in attitude: overly auto-oriented, not pedestrian-, transit-, or bike-friendly and not well integrated with the urban street grid. A coalition of neighborhood groups, some of which have previously raised concerns about overly dense development on corridors bordering smaller houses, agreed that the development of the shopping center site was an appropriate opportunity to create more dense housing in a mixed-use project. Commissioners directed Safeway back to the drawing board.

**Not pedestrian friendly**

At the September 8 PANIL meeting, Safeway will present its latest plans, which they say are intended to respond to the critiques of the Planning Commission and the community.

An Environmental Impact Study on the project is underway, and a Draft Environ-

mental Impact Report is expected to be released in the fall. Then neighbors will have 45 days to submit comments on the adequacy of the study.

Safeway is the master lease holder for the shopping center, but not the property owner. Safeway had earlier claimed that the Chase Bank building at Broadway and Pleasant Valley and the former Emil Villa's site next to the quarry pond (now a AAA office) were "under different ownership" and not part of the plans. It has since come to light that Safeway is also the master lease-holder for the Emil Villa's site and has been involved in the new AAA office lease and construction. Safeway is also now negotiating with Chase to build a new bank, allowing the current bank site to be integrated into the shopping center plans.

For further background on the Rockridge Shopping Center project, go to <http://www.panil.org/newsletter> and click on the September 2007 and July 2009 issues.

SEPTEMBER 19 FROM 2 TO 5.  
**Piedmont Avenue Elementary School All-Student Reunion**  
 Did you go to Piedmont Avenue Elementary School, or are you interested in the history of the school and the part it has played in the development of the Piedmont Avenue neighborhood? If so, come to a special history/all-student reunion event at the school on September 19, 2 p.m.  
 There will be photos of the school and students from as early as the 1890s, and Ray Rainieri and Annalee Allen, local historians, will speak.

**BE A READING PARTNER AT PIEDMONT AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
 VOLUNTEER  
 ONE HALF-HOUR A WEEK WITH A STUDENT  
 NOT TUTORING, BUT READING TOGETHER  
 CALL 482-0862 FOR INFORMATION

**Calendar**

**PANIL Meeting**

2nd Wednesday of the month  
 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
 Piedmont Gardens  
 110 41st Street  
 11th Floor Sky Room

**PANIL Steering Committee meets monthly**

For the time, date and place email [contact@panil.org](mailto:contact@panil.org)

**Glen Echo Creek Work Day**

2nd Saturday of the month  
 Monte Vista Avenue, 9:30 a.m.  
 654-1930

**Mt. View Cemetery Tour**

Docent led tour  
 2nd and 4th Saturdays  
 10 a.m., FREE

**Oakland Heritage Alliance**

The lecture series has started again at Chapel of the Chimes

4499 Piedmont Avenue  
 \$10 members/\$15 non-members  
 You may join at the door.

- Thursday, 9/9 -- Jane Powell: The Bad Girl of Bungalow Writing
- Thursday, 10/7 -- "We Can Do It" -- Ric Borjes: Rosie the Riveter Home Front Historic Park, Richmond

**OHA House Tour**  
 A Slice of Rockridge

Sunday, 9/26. For information: <http://www.oaklandheritage.org/>

**Piedmont Avenue Branch Library**

160 41st Street, 597-5011

**Storytimes Toddlers**

Wednesday, 10:15 a.m.  
 Pre school  
 Wednesday, 11 a.m.

**Saturday Knitting Club**  
 Every Saturday 3 to 4 p.m.

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PANIL needs 50 new or renewed supporters each month.



# National Night Out 2010

What a success!



1—Glen at 41st Street

2—Folks on **Cerrito** preparing for their party

3—Plymouth Church and the surrounding streets (*photo by Robert Matthews*)

4— Folks from **Monte Vista and Wilda**, early in the evening, before the crowds came out to join in the celebration.

5—Echo, Brandon, Glen, Gleneden

Not shown: the gathering on the 4200 block of **Montgomery** drew a big crowd, but PANIL's photographer couldn't get there before it ended at 9:00 pm.



6



7



9



8



10



11

6— Ramona, Pleasant Valley Courts North and South (photo by Ted Crum)

7— Kempton Way (photo by Phil Laing)

8— Montel, Robley Terrace

9— Monte Cresta

10—Entrada, Glen, Arroyuelo

11— Rio Vista

(Photos by Ronile Lahti unless otherwise noted.)

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League  
P.O. Box 20375  
Oakland, CA 94620  
www.panil.org



*Organization matters.  
Persistence matters.  
PANIL delivers these.*

PANIL Notes Sept/Oct 2010. PANIL Notes is printed on recycled paper by **PIEDMONT COPY** 4237 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 655-3030

School Board Director **Jody London**  
Invites you to a District 1  
**TOWN HALL MEETING**  
**Featuring**  
**Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.**  
**Tuesday, September 28, 2010**  
**7 – 8:30 p.m.**  
Piedmont Avenue Elementary School  
4314 Piedmont Avenue  
Oakland, California

- Learn about Oakland's strategic plan to become a full service community school district
- Provide your ideas
- Compare notes with other public school supporters

== Refreshments provided ==

For more information and to RSVP:

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## Results of PANIL Steering Committee Election

PANIL's Steering Committee, with input from neighbors, decides on the positions PANIL will take on issues before the Oakland Planning Commission and City Council. The Steering Committee organizes PANIL's monthly meetings. Steering Committee members advocate for PANIL policy through letters or appearances at public hearings. provides a voice for neighbors in civic and community affairs, including development and zoning, parks, and public safety concerns. PANIL helps neighbors advocate effectively with city government.

PANIL by-laws provide that new members are nominated by the Steering Committee for one year terms. Nominees were profiled in the July issue of PANIL Notes and ballots were mailed to all current PANIL members.

Those reelected were **Margitta Gardner, Bill Manley, Valerie Winemiller and Kelsey Krausen.** **Christine Abrams** was elected to a first term.

Thanks to them for their service.

**Community Meeting about  
Piedmont Avenue Branch Library  
Piedmont Gardens  
11th Floor Sky Room  
Wednesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m.**

The Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library and Oakland Public Library Administration have investigated several of the options mentioned in the recent survey of public opinion about the future of the branch and will present and discuss the options. To review the options, see the July 2010 issue of PANIL Notes on the PANIL website: [www.PANIL.org](http://www.PANIL.org).