

The Mercury News

The Newspaper of Silicon Valley
MercuryNews.com

Sept. 29 Readers Letters: Measure B provides low-cost traffic solution to traffic woes

By MERCURY NEWS READERS

PUBLISHED: September 28, 2016 at 1:15 pm | UPDATED: September 28, 2016 at 1:16 pm

The Mercury News' recommendation of Measure B is spot on. Measure B is a low-cost way to address a high-cost problem: the growing difficulty of moving around in Santa Clara County. With just a half-cent sales tax increase, we can fix our region's congested corridors, inadequate transit systems, and crumbling, pothole-ridden roads that support all modes of transportation.

Measure B's price tag is nominal when compared to the \$2,500 facing the average Santa Clara County driver each year as a result of traffic congestion and bad roads. On top of that, those same drivers lose 67 hours a year in local traffic. Compare that with the 42-hour national average. The longer we wait, the more expensive it will be to fix and rebuild our transportation networks – especially considering the region's booming population and projected growth. Let's be responsible in preparing for this growth. Vote "yes" on Measure B.

John Litzinger
Principal, HNTB Corporation
San Jose

Kalra works on issues critical to San Jose

Ash Kalra works tirelessly on issues critical to San Jose such as human rights, affordable housing, transportation and banning oil trains. Kalra's endorsements come from our best, including Zoe Lofgren, Dolores Huerta, Cindy Chavez, Norman Mineta and the Sierra Club.

Madison Nguyen may be a former teacher, but it is Kalra who is endorsed by the California Federation of Teachers, state Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson and many school district board members.

Nguyen does however have the support of the Charter School Association and its large coffers. They helped subsidize her negative ads against Kalra during the primaries. And they will again be putting \$80,000 per week into her TV ads. Follow the money.

Roseanna Lavia
San Jose

Debate displays differences between candidates

During the first debate with Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump seemed like the drunk guy in a sports bar who gets upset when a woman knows more about sports than him.

Janice Hough
Palo Alto

Tseng brings positive change to Saratoga, Los Gatos

I am so thrilled to hear that Katherine Tseng is again running for a seat on the Los Gatos-Saratoga School District board. As a member of the Saratoga and Los Gatos community for the past 15 years, I have witnessed, and sat by in awe, as she single-handedly forged positive change for our children and community. With her vast experience in the trenches as a volunteer, she has earned the trust and respect of our community and her peers. Her boundless energy, giant heart, business acumen, open-minded approach, wisdom and fearless desire to do the best for our students is truly one-of-a-kind.

Yet, her talent to grasp the big picture has never obscured her desire to reach out and help individual community members. Starting back in kindergarten and all the way up to SHS, countless times have I seen her stop to take a moment to quell the fears of a concerned parent, encourage a student or support a teacher. I support Katherine Tseng 100 percent.

Grace Peng
Los Gatos

Getting to the bottom of Trump's deficiencies

It's a sure sign that Donald Trump is failing when he and his supporters are blaming the moderator, the microphone and his opponent for all his inadequacies. Poor Donald. I feel so sorry for you. Hah!

John Schmitz
Morgan Hill

Open debates to all viable candidates

The recent article on Colin Kaepernick's response to the presidential debate addressed major issues voters have with Monday night's 90-minute "debate." That said, most people will never know that there was something missing with the picture. Out of 320 million U.S. citizens, are we really represented by just two parties and two ideologies of government?

As a quick history lesson, the League of Women Voters used to run the presidential debates, picking the venues, moderators and inviting the candidates. They were eventually pushed out by the Commission on Presidential Debates, an organization run by the Democrat and Republican parties without accountability.

We need to demand opening the debate to include all viable presidential candidates. Currently, a candidate must hold 15 percent in the polls, which is an outright contradiction to democracy, one person, one vote. There isn't a clearer message to the American people that we do not live in a free democracy.

Jake Tonkel
San Jose