

The Mercury News

The newspaper of Silicon Valley

Thursday, October 13, 2016

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2016/10/12/editorial-vote-sinks-fung-for-cupertino-city-council/>

Editorial: Vote Sinks, Fung for Cupertino City Council

Two competing ballot measures to decide Vallco's future are the main topic gripping Cupertino voters this fall. But city council choices are just as important, regardless of how Measures C and D are decided.

Known as a great place to raise a family, Cupertino needs leaders who can work both locally and regionally on complex housing, transportation and development challenges it faces as the Apple spaceship is completed and the aftermath of the Vallco vote.

Of eight candidates vying for two seats, the best choices are incumbent Rod Sinks and longtime community leader David Fung.

Sinks has shown more leadership on regional issues than any other Cupertino council member in a decade. He chaired the VTA 85 Corridor Policy Advisory Board and is an effective advocate for Measure B, the critically important transportation measure on the November ballot. He also chaired the Silicon Valley Energy Authority, a visionary partnership of Cupertino, Sunnyvale and other cities to offer carbon-free electricity at lower rates than PG&E.

Unfortunately, Sinks takes no position on either Measure C, which would prevent any reasonable redevelopment of the dead Vallco mall, or Measure D, the imaginative Hills at Vallco plan that we recommend.

Reasonable people disagree on Measure D, but Measure C would be a flat-out disaster. While we'd rather Sinks spoke up, his neutrality could help him broker peace when the votes are in.

Fung has been a Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commissioner since 2011 and served on bond oversight committees for two Cupertino school districts. He's smart, a good listener and a voice of reason — which is particularly needed while the contentious Barry Chang is mayor. Fung opposes both Measures C and D, but he sees great elements in The Hills at Vallco proposal and hopes it will go through normal city planning processes.

Other candidates include former Mayor Kris Wang, whose previous service on the council was undistinguished; Cupertino Library Commissioner Jerry Liu, whose positions on growth don't measure up to those held by Fung or Sinks; Steven Scharf, a Measure C advocate, which disqualifies him in our view — and environmental enthusiast Val Vitols, who came to our interview dressed as Abraham Lincoln. It was a first for us.

Parth Bharwad, a 20-year-old youth activist, has a promising future but needs more experience, in life and politics, for a council seat. Robert McCoy does not seem to be campaigning.

No matter what happens with Measures C and D, the Cupertino council will find its plate piled high next year. Sinks and Fung are up to the task.

Vote for David Fung on November 8!

www.fung4cupertino.com

david@fung4cupertino.com

