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NEWS

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Coalition Endorses Bike-Friendly Candidates, Measures Bicyclists Mobilize for Nov. 4th Election with Grassroots Energy

San Francisco — One of the city's largest and most active grassroots membership organizations, the 9,500-member San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC), announced its endorsements for November's heated elections. In the local Board of Supervisors' and BART Board of Directors' races, the SFBC supports the following candidates:

District 1: Eric Mar

District 3: David Chiu

District 5: Ross Mirkarimi

District 7: Sean Elsbernd

District 9: Mark Sanchez

District 11: John Avalos

BART Board of Directors, District 9: Tom Radulovich

The SFBC is making no endorsement in the Board of Supervisors race in District 4.

“These candidates have shown their support for the SFBC’s mission of significantly increasing and improving bicycling for transportation through their past work and their public commitment toward a healthier and more sustainable city,” says Leah Shahum, the SFBC’s Executive Director. “We look forward to putting our considerable grassroots energy toward helping to win these races and to strengthen the bike-friendly majority on the Board of Supervisors and keeping sustainable transportation voices on the BART Board of Directors.”

The SFBC has taken the following positions on local and state measures:

Yes on A, a bond measure to re-build General Hospital.

No on P, a misleading effort to end the independence of the S.F. County Transportation Authority and weaken oversight of transportation projects.

Yes on 1A, the state bond measure to fund high-speed rail between L.A. and S.F.

(contd.)

"By mobilizing our active base of nearly 10,000 members, we intend to help elect more bicycle-friendly members to the Board of Supervisors and the BART Board and to make sure local and state measures are advantageous for the growing number of people who choose bicycling for transportation," says Shahum. "This election is crucial to the advancement of the SFBC's work in making San Francisco a top-tier bicycling city, which means a healthier and more sustainable city for all."

Bicyclists are considered an important segment of the electorate, as they are particularly active and represent a growing base of voters. A November 2007 David Binder Research Poll showed that 16% of San Francisco adults use their bikes regularly for transportation (at least once per week). The same poll showed that 75% of San Franciscans believe that City government should do more to improve bicycling conditions and to promote bicycling to more residents and visitors as a healthy, green, affordable form of transportation.

As gas prices and awareness of global warming rise, a growing number of people are choosing bicycling for everyday transportation. Recent City counts show that biking in S.F. has increased by between 15%-30% in the past year alone.

Candidates' responses to the extensive SFBC survey, as well as background on the SFBC's endorsement process, can be viewed at www.sfbike.org/vote08.

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