

Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Oakland residents organize Social Media Mayoral Candidate Forums

Oakland, CA – Oakland residents who participate in the Twitter hashtag “Oakmtg” announced today that they have organized a social media forum for Mayoral candidates. The **#Oakmtg Live Forum will be held at Oakland’s City Hall in Council Chambers on August 21, 7-9 pm.**

The forums are designed to increase resident participation in the Oakland Mayoral Election season. The Live Forum at city hall in downtown Oakland will be broadcast on KTOP, Comcast Ch.10/ATT Uverse Ch. 99 and live streamed on the KTOP website.

This is the first time social media has been an integral part of a forum or debate for a mayoral election. Residents submitted and voted on questions on line via Facebook, Twitter and Google Moderator: <http://www.google.com/moderator/#16/e=212175>. Top ranked questions will be asked at the live forum. Residents are invited to further engage by submitting more questions and comments via social media during the event.

Candidates Registered to Participate:

Jason Anderson
Ken Houston
Rebecca Kaplan
Saied Karamooz
Patrick McCullough
Bryan Parker
Courtney Ruby
Libby Schaaf

Nancy Sidebotham
Dan Siegel
Joe Tuman
Jean Quan
Charles Williams

And Eric Wilson pending response to invitation.

The Live Forum will be moderated by Richard Raya. Richard Raya is the former Executive Director of Youth Radio, as well as Budget Director for the Alameda County Public Health Department. He is currently a strategic planning and evaluation consultant and sits on the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth Oversight Committee. He lives in North Oakland with his wife Marisa and their sons.

About #Oakmtg

#Oakmtg is the Twitter hashtag used for discussing topics relating to the Oakland City Council, Oakland boards and committees or local government meetings and events. **#Oakmtg** is a popular hashtag which occasionally trends nationally, meaning it was one of the most common hashtags across the US. **#Oakmtg** trended nationally when the city council was making the decision about hiring William Bratton as a police consultant. Recently a group of **#oakmtg** participants advocated for community privacy protections when Oakland City Council discussed implementation of the Domain Awareness Center.

#Oakmtg Mayoral Candidate forums are not sponsored or supported by any Oakland political groups or organizations. **#Oakmtg** participants will not be endorsing a campaign or candidate. The forum is organized in the spirit behind the formation of the **#oakmtg** hashtag, merely to share information with the public.

Summertime Twitter Chats with Candidates

The online phase of the forums happened during the summer. Candidates responded to questions on twitter. Residents followed the questions and responses via the **#OakMayor** hashtag and had an opportunity to submit follow-up questions. Archived twitter discussions can be found on the OaklandWiki.org website: [#Oakmtg 2014 Mayoral Candidate Forum](#)

For more information

Oakland residents can learn more about the candidate forums and participate by

Following on twitter: <https://twitter.com/oakmtg>

Liking on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/OakmtgTwitter>

Join the Facebook Event Page:

https://www.facebook.com/events/list#!/events/1480432262169212/?ref_dashboard_filter=upcoming

Go to OaklandWiki Page for updates: [#Oakmtg 2014 Mayoral Candidate Forum](#)

Contact: Tonya D. Love tdlove5@gmail.com

Attached: Oakmtg Mayoral Candidate Forum Event Flyer

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