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February 4, 2020

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors (c/o Chair Candace Andersen)  
651 Pine Street, 1st Floor, Room 106  
Martinez, CA 94553  
VIA E-MAIL: [clerkoftheboard@cob.cccounty.us](mailto:clerkoftheboard@cob.cccounty.us); [john\\_gioia@bos.cccounty.us](mailto:john_gioia@bos.cccounty.us);  
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Re: February 4, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting, Item D.3 – Clerk-Recorder Appointment

Dear Chair Andersen and Supervisors:

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors should not appoint Debi Cooper as Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters on February 4<sup>th</sup> until she explains her failure to follow state election law associated with the Measure J sales tax increase on the March 2020 ballot.

The *East Bay Times* in December 2019 observed “[t]he rotting of Contra Costa’s political moral fabric: After the cases of the district attorney, elections chief, assessor and two judges, it’s time to raise the bar.” Yet the *Times* (Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, p. B1) quotes Ms. Cooper as saying that she intends to pursue “business as usual” and “[t]o retain the public trust while remaining impartial and neutral is crucial.” This job requires a vigilant watchdog, not a lapdog who permits “business as usual.”

Your Board voted last fall to place an argumentative and prejudicial question onto the ballot in violation of Elections Code sec. 13119. Ms. Cooper had to duty to object under secs. 9190 and/ or 13314, but she deferred to your Board’s improper action. She assigned the letter “J” through an extra-legal process that was inconsistent with Elections Code sec. 13116. County Counsel weakened the “impartial analysis” at the last minute to conceal that this is an “additional” tax, despite your Board’s and the sponsor’s own resolutions asserting that this is an “additional” tax.

Ms. Cooper ignored letters that I submitted on behalf of concerned citizens on December 16<sup>th</sup> and December 24<sup>th</sup> protesting these violations, forcing a lawsuit against her. Then she rushed incorrect ballots to the printer and, aided by your County Counsel, misled the judge on law and facts in order to dismiss the lawsuit. *East Bay Times*, January 13<sup>th</sup>, p. B1. Her actions are akin to a police officer witnessing a bank robbery, allowing the robber through a checkpoint because the officer wishes to "remain impartial and neutral," and then escorting the robber to safety.

Your Board is planning its own sales tax increase for the November 2020 ballot and apparently wants an acquiescent elections official who would not object to further misleading of voters. Ms. Cooper needs to explain her complicity in electoral misconduct concerning the March 2020 Measure J tax increase before Supervisors appoint her to this important, \$210,686/year job.

Sincerely,

JASON A. BEZIS