

EDITORIAL

## Rooting for Rebecca

Rebecca Kaplan is raring to become Oakland's at-large representative and voters should give her the opportunity.

One of her campaign pledges is "to improve the availability of public information in Oakland, including improving the City website." It seems clear that Rebecca is interested in making sure people are aware of what's going on and have access to information: Her promotional flyer carries information in English, Spanish, Chinese — and even carries a saying in Hebrew, translated of course.

She is determined to hear from those she wants to represent: She asked her opponent, Henry Chang, to participate in a series of public debates with her, in various Oakland neighborhoods. He refused.

She is realistic about City Council's role in working on school issues. She mentions that she can't wield power over the school board, but would "urge" members on issues when necessary.

She'd like to set a citywide policy on open space issues, which Oaklanders faced quite often recently. Neighbors have come out in large numbers to protect Splash Pad Park, the Fire Alarm Building and Chabot Golf Course. Rather than making residents rally each time a similar issue comes up, Kaplan wants to set the policy in stone: open space should remain open space.

Kaplan's green. Oakland is after all named for its oak trees — the epitome of greenery. Vote for a candidate that will protect the foliage that represents our city.

Kaplan is prepared to work full-time as City Councilwoman. Not only does that show that she won't be sidetracked time-wise in her job, it also means there will be decreased temptation for sweetheart deals; allegations of the Bermuda Building sale being such a deal have plagued her opponent.

Kaplan's obviously trained as a sharp, analytical thinker, as an MIT graduate with a master's degree in urban and environmental policy from Tufts and a law degree from Stanford. She'll negotiate her way through difficult cityspeak with aplomb.

Finally, Kaplan wants to make it a priority that Oakland police officers live in Oakland. It makes sense that community policing works better when an officer is a part of that community; it harkens back to the old days of an officer living and working the same beat. She wants to increase local hiring and provide incentives (through federal grant money) for officers to buy homes.

This woman's full of good ideas — let's set her loose on the council.