

# Activist Info



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## RICHMOND PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE

### End Chevron's Utility Tax Perk Community Meeting to launch campaign

Wednesday, January 13,  
7PM

402 Harbor Way  
(across from Kaiser Hospital)

Jeff Ritterman and others will be at the meeting to answer your questions and hear your ideas about how to make this a successful campaign. We particularly want community groups who will consider an endorsement of this measure to send a representative.



New website with all the information on the utility tax and the campaign.

<http://www.endchevronsperks.org/>

### Next Steps on Measure T

Contra Costa Superior Court Judge, David Flinn has ruled in favor of Chevron that Measure T passed by Richmond voters can not be enforced. The ruling is complicated and technical but it also suggests ways that, in the Judge's opinion, the measure would pass his standards.

The city council is considering recommendations from its legal staff on a possible course of action including

legal appeal and placing a revised measure on the ballot. The people have clearly spoken in favor of a fair share for Richmond. It is the responsibility of the City Council to promote the citizens' interests.

What probably makes sense is a combination of approaches to clarify the legal questions and also make it clear that the community demands fairness in taxation.

As Mayor Gayle McLaughlin says, "We will not, we cannot, we will never throw in the towel. This is a matter of justice."

What do you think about the ruling? What do you think should be done? Let us know at [RPAactivist@gmail.com](mailto:RPAactivist@gmail.com).

You can read the ruling at <http://www.tombutt.com/pdf/chevron%20decision%2012-16-09.pdf>



### Also In This Issue

*Experts on Inequality in Bay Area*

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Tell friends about the RPA email newsletter. Send names and emails to

[RPAactivist@gmail.com](mailto:RPAactivist@gmail.com)

## The Information to Fix Richmond

The US is now the most unequal of all rich nations with the exception of Singapore. This inequality has significantly worsened over the last thirty years. We are no longer a nation boasting a large and prosperous middle class. Richmond's social ills are a part of this historical pattern.



Councilman  
Jeff Ritterman

Professors Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett are experts on the corrosive effects of income inequality on human health and the social environment. The more unequal the income distribution, the lower the life expectancy, and the worse off we are socially. More unequal countries have more homicides, more school drop outs, more prisoners, more teen births, lower math and science scores, more obesity, less trust and less recycling. When we are more unequal, we trust each other less, social cohesion breaks down and we all suffer.

Researchers Wilkinson and Pickett will be in the SF Bay Area January 6th and 7th. I urge you to take advantage of one of the opportunities to learn more from some real experts.

Let's figure out how to use the research data to reverse the trend. Let's make Richmond a more equal community with better health outcomes and fewer social ills.

We are the only ones who can do this. A Better Richmond is possible if we work together to make it happen.

In partnership,  
Jeff Ritterman  
Richmond City Council

events are listed on  
Info on Public Events

[RPA Calendar](#)

If you want your event listed send it to

[RPAactivist@gmail.com](mailto:RPAactivist@gmail.com)

Researchers Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett will be in the SF Bay Area January 6th and 7th promoting their newly released book,:

## THE SPIRIT LEVEL

### Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger

#### BAY AREA EVENTS

Jan 6 Bay Area KPFA Radio (94.1 FM),  
Against the Grain, 12:00-1:00pm

Jan 6 Oakland Prevention Institute, 221 Oak St.,  
3:00-4:30pm

Jan 6 Berkeley Books, Inc., 1760 Fourth St.,  
7:00pm

Jan 7 San Francisco UCSF—Laurel Heights  
Campus, Chancellor's Room,  
3333 California St.,  
9:00-10:30am

For more information, go to  
[www.preventioninstitute.org](http://www.preventioninstitute.org)

#### ***RPA Activist Info***

is for Richmond community members who want to be active in taking on the problems of the environment, racism, joblessness, housing, and crime to create a healthy Richmond. We believe that community involvement means more than voting every two years. It means regular communication with the candidates we elect, letting them know our issues and positions, supporting them as they try to take our issues forward. It means we attend meetings, use the email, phone our neighbors, or go on marches building an organized movement to create real change.

Comments and columns are welcome. Signed articles and columns are the views of the author and not necessarily those of the RPA. Send photos, articles, and comments to [RPAactivist@gmail.com](mailto:RPAactivist@gmail.com) or call the RPA at 510-595-4661