

POLICY WATCH – May 2018

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So much to share with you this month! NBLC is excited to welcome the Chandi Group as a new member. Sonu Chandi has a great success story and reminds us of how much immigrants add to our economic vitality and our community. Please read the article about the Chandi Group in this issue.

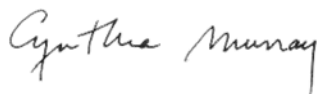
NBLC needs your help with two things: we are seeking well-spoken teens who are passionate about a cause to enter our Youth Power Speech Contest. The winner will be our keynote speaker at our Leaders of the North Bay Awards Luncheon and will also receive a scholarship, as will the runner ups. We also need your help in nominating this year's Leaders of the North Bay. We can't find the right teen or the best leaders without you! Please see below for more information.

There are only a few tickets left for the State of the North Bay Conference. If you want to hear more about the "missing middle" in housing and the economy and learn about the big three disruptions you can expect in the North Bay economic ecosystem, get your tickets today.

We are sharing Mike Bloomberg's powerful graduation speech in full because it is the most compelling of all the speeches we heard delivered this spring. He says, "The greatest threat to American democracy isn't communism, jihadism, or any other external force or foreign power. It's our own willingness to tolerate dishonesty in service of party, and in pursuit of power.

We urge you to vote in the June primary and hope that you will consider NBLC's endorsements.

Best,



Cynthia

The Chandi Group Joins North Bay Leadership Council

North Bay Leadership Council (NBLC) welcomes The Chandi Group, a growing hospitality and development group in the North Bay, as its newest member. The Chandi Group has been in business for over ten years and owns eleven restaurants, from pizza places to high-end dining. The Chandi Group is also the Northern California Mountain Mike's Development Agent. The company has over 200 employees and is headquartered in Santa Rosa.



CHANDI
HOSPITALITY GROUP

Craig Nelson, board chair of NBLC and Nelson Family of Companies, said, "The Chandi Group stands for what is great about the North Bay – a dynamic company that is growing with the region, offering high quality experiences to its clientele and giving back to the community. We are excited that they are branching out into housing and going the extra mile to meet the needs of the people in the North Bay."

Sonu Chandi, Founder and President, will be the member representative to NBLC. Chandi said, "We joined NBLC because it is another way to show our commitment to the North Bay and to share in making it a better place to live and work. Being a member of NBLC gives us a shared purpose to create more workforce housing and improve the skills of the workforce we need now and tomorrow."

The Chandi Group has been guided by their deep-rooted commitment to their community, work, integrity, and philosophy of continuous improvement. They've challenged themselves to learn, grow, and strive to be better. "To be community-centric is a big part of my business model," says Chandi.

Chandi Hospitality Group was directly affected by last year's wildfires as Mountain Mike's on Cleveland Avenue burned down. They were one of the first businesses to complete debris clean up, showing that the fires would not stop their growth. Furthering their commitment to being community-centric, the Chandis launched their new venture, Chandi Development Group, which is focused on rebuilding Sonoma County. Chandi Hospitality Group is proud to be Sonoma Strong, and honored as the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber's 2018 Small Business of the Year.

Chandi Group is dedicated to doing everything to improve the community. That means going beyond simply building better businesses that provide great guest experiences. In honor of his grandmother, Chandi founded Bibi's Education Foundation at Community Foundation Sonoma County which encourages and inspires young men and women to reach their education goals, often through scholarships at 10,000 Degrees Sonoma County, where he is also a board member. Chandi is also a board member of Rebuild North Bay. Chandi Group works with a wide variety of local charities, including: Active 20-30 Club, Chops Teen Club, SOS Community Counseling, Human Race, Center for Well-Being, and Social Advocates for Youth.

Chandi says his family got their work ethic from their father and grandfather. Their father pushed them to continue their education because he didn't have an opportunity to go to college. A shared commitment to education is one of the values that attracted Chandi to join NBLC.

Chandi is a 2015 winner of the Business Journal's Forty Under 40 award honoring outstanding young professionals. Congressman Thompson presented him with the American Dream Award in 2017. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants. Chandi's success is remarkable for someone who came to this country as a teen, with little English, and put himself through college and is now running a fast-growing successful business.

State of the North Bay Almost Sold Out – Get Your Ticket While You Still Can



Tickets for the State of North Bay Conference are selling quickly. We expect to be sold out in the next few days. If you don't want to miss hearing about how housing, workforce, transportation and the economy all come together in the North Bay, get your ticket today? Our keynote speaker, Dr. Micah Weinberg, a crowd favorite, will be honing in on the "Missing Middle" in housing, jobs and economic wellbeing. The panel looking at "Disruptions to the North Bay Economy" will add to that picture with how we can expect to see cannabis grow as a vital contributor to the

North Bay economy, how autonomous vehicles will change land use, commuting and how we live, and how new types of construction like modular houses are disrupting the construction industry.

The conference is on June 14th from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. at the Sheraton Hotel, Petaluma. Go to [Link](#) to purchase tickets or for more information.

NBLC Endorsements -- Vote on June 5th!

The June Primary is on June 5th. Please remember to vote in this important election.

NBLC urges you to VOTE YES on:

Regional Measure 3 (RM3):

If you want to see the Narrows finally widened, after decades of trying, please vote "Yes" on Regional Measure 3. Your "Yes" vote will also fund these local projects, including providing \$100 million to work on fixing Highway 37 which is congested and at risk of being underwater due to rising sea levels. RM3 funds:



1. Sonoma-Marin Area Rapid Transit District (SMART): Extend SMART rail system north to Windsor and Healdsburg
2. Marin-Sonoma Narrows: Widen U.S. 101 to three lanes in each direction
3. State Route 37 Improvements: Improve Highway 37 from U.S. 101 to Interstate 80 to address congestion and flooding
4. San Rafael Transit Center: Extend SMART and construct a replacement for the aging, outdated Bettini Transit Center
5. Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access (Marin Approach): Add a direct freeway connection from U.S. 101 to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge
6. North Bay Transit Access Improvements: Buy additional commuter buses and improve bus stops, transit facilities and roads



Prop 69:

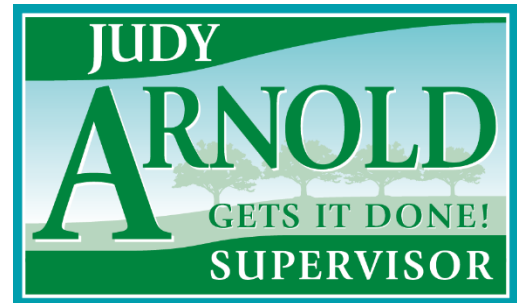
California Proposition 69, the Transportation Taxes and Fees Lockbox and Appropriations Limit Exemption Amendment, is on the ballot in California as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on June 5, 2018.^[1]

A "yes" vote supports this amendment to:

- require that revenue from the diesel sales tax and Transportation Improvement Fee, as enacted by Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), be used for transportation-related purposes; and
- exempt revenue generated by SB 1's tax increases and fee schedules from the state appropriations limit.

VOTE FOR Judy Arnold for 5th District Supervisor, Marin County:

Judy Arnold is the Marin County Board of Supervisors' most senior member, having first won the job in 2006 after serving two years on the Novato City Council. Arnold represents Marin County on the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit and Golden Gate Bridge district boards, two regional agencies important to Novato commuters. Arnold stresses that traffic on Highway 101 remains a top priority. She is proud of the success of SMART train service and her work on completing the widening of the Novato Narrows and improving Highway 37, which has seen a steady increase in traffic in recent years. At the Civic Center, she has been the board's strongest vote in support of business and jobs. She has been the board's champion of the Marin Economic Forum, a countywide public-private partnership focused on supporting the local economy.



Looking for Teen Leaders to Enter our Youth Power Speech Contest

Do you know a teen leader in your community? NBLC seeks teens who dream about inspiring other young people to action. If you know a teen with a cause and the ability to speak well, please let them know about our Youth Power Speech Contest. The winning applicant will be chosen to be the keynote speaker at our annual Leaders of the North Bay Awards Luncheon and receive a college scholarship.

For more information on how to enter, rules and an application, please go to [link](#). Deadline to apply is July 1st. If you have questions, please email to info@northbayleadership.org.

Is there a Leader in Your Life who Deserves an Award? Nominate that Person, Organization or Team!

Every year, NBLC discovers unsung heroes in our midst who are nominated for their leadership. We are proud to showcase these leaders and bring their good work to the attention of the North Bay community. We can only give these deserving people recognition, if you nominate them, so please take a few minutes to fill out the nomination form and submit it to us. We count on you to help us honor the best people, organizations, partnerships and teams in the North Bay!

The categories are:

United We Stand (Community Building)
Paint the Community Green (Environmental Stewardship)
The Light Bulb Went On (Innovative/Entrepreneurial Spirit)
Empowering the Latino Community:
From Red Tape to Red Carpet

You can download the nomination form here [link](#). The deadline for nominations is June 22nd so please get your nomination in to us soon. Thank you for your help!

This Year's Most Memorable Graduation Speech

My award for most memorable graduation speech this year goes to Michael Bloomberg's "Graduates: Here's an Honor Code for Life," which stressed "Amid a national epidemic of dishonesty, acting with integrity is more important than ever. ([link](#))

The following is an adaptation of Bloomberg's address to Rice University's class of 2018.

When I was deciding what I wanted to say today, I kept thinking about a Rice tradition that's an incredibly important part of student life here: I'm talking about the honor code.

When you first arrived on campus, you attended a presentation on the honor code. And your very first quiz tested your knowledge of the code. And so today, I thought it would be fitting for you as graduates to end your time here the same way you began it: by hearing a few words about the meaning of honor.

Don't worry: There won't be a quiz. But there will be a test when you leave this campus — one that will last for the rest of your life. And that's what I want to explain today — and it actually starts with the opposite of honor.

As a New Yorker, I was surprised to learn that an act of dishonor in my hometown almost blocked Rice from coming into existence. William Marsh Rice was murdered at his home in Manhattan by two schemers who tried to re-write his will.

They were caught. His money went where he wanted it to go. The university was built. And fittingly, an honor code was created that has been central to student life here from the beginning. Ever since you arrived here on campus, on nearly every test and paper you submitted, you signed a statement that began, "On my honor."

But have you ever stopped to think about what that phrase really means?

The concept of honor has taken on different meanings through the ages: chivalry, chastity, courage, strength. And when divorced from morality, or attached to prejudice, honor has been used to justify murder, and repression, and deceit.

But the essence of honor has always been found in the word itself.

As those of you who majored in linguistics probably know, the words "honor" and "honest" are two sides of the same coin. In fact, the Latin word "honestus" can mean both "honest" and "honorable." To be honorable, you must be honest. And that means speaking honestly, and acting honestly even when it requires you to admit wrongdoing, and suffer the consequences.

That commitment to honesty is, I believe, a patriotic responsibility. As young children, one of the first things we learn about American history is the story of George Washington and the fallen cherry tree.

"I cannot tell a lie," young George tells his father. "I cut it down."

That story is a legend, of course. But legends are passed down from generation to generation because they carry some larger truth. The cherry tree legend has endured because it's not really about Washington. It's about us, as a nation. It's about what we want from our children — and what we value in our leaders: honesty.

We have always lionized our two greatest presidents — Washington and Lincoln — not only for their accomplishments, but also for their honesty. We see their integrity and morals as a reflection of our honor as a nation.

However, today when we look at the city that bears Washington's name, it's hard not to wonder: What the hell happened?

In 2016, the Oxford English Dictionary's word of the year was "post-truth." And last year brought us the phrase "alternative facts." In essence, they both mean: Up can be down. Black can be white. True can be false. Feelings can be facts.

A New York senator known for working across the aisle, my old friend Pat Moynihan, once said: "People are entitled to their own opinions, but not their own facts." That wasn't always a controversial statement.

Today, those in politics routinely dismiss inconvenient information, no matter how factual, as fake — and they routinely say things that are demonstrably false. When authoritarian regimes around the world did this, we scoffed at them. We thought: The American people would never stand for that.

For my generation, the plain truth about America — the freedom, opportunity and prosperity we enjoyed — was our most powerful advantage in the Cold War. The more communists had access to real news, the more they would demand freedom. We believed that, and we were right.

Today, though, many of those at the highest levels of power see the plain truth as a threat. They fear it, deny it, attack it — just as the communists once did. And so here we are, in the midst of an epidemic of dishonesty, and an endless barrage of lies.

The trend toward elected officials propagating alternate realities — or winking at those who do — is one of the most serious dangers facing democracies. Free societies depend on citizens who recognize that deceit in government isn't something to shrug your shoulders at.

When elected officials speak as though they are above the truth, they will act as though they are above the law. And when we tolerate dishonesty, we will get criminality. Sometimes, it's in the form of corruption. Sometimes, it's abuse of power. And sometimes, it's both. If left unchecked, these abuses can

erode the institutions that preserve and protect our rights and freedoms and open the door to tyranny and fascism.

Now, you might say: There have always been dishonest politicians — in both parties. And that's true. But there is now more tolerance for dishonesty in politics than I have seen in my lifetime. And I've been alive for one-third of the time the United States has existed. And as my generation can tell you: The only thing more dangerous than dishonest politicians with no respect for the law, is a chorus of enablers who defend their every lie.

Remember: The honor code here didn't just require you to be honest. It required you to say something if you saw others acting dishonestly. That might be the most difficult part of an honor code, but it may also be the most important, because violations affect the whole community.

The same is true in our country. If we want elected officials to be honest, we have to hold them accountable when they are not or else suffer the consequences. Don't get me wrong. Honest people can disagree. But productive debate requires an acceptance of basic reality.

For example: If 99 percent of scientists whose research has been peer-reviewed reach the same general conclusion about a theory, then we ought to accept it as the best available information — even if it's not a 100 percent certainty.

Of course, it's always good to be skeptical and ask questions. But we must be willing to place a certain amount of trust in the integrity of scientists.

If you aren't willing to do that, don't get on an airplane, don't use a cell phone or microwave, don't get treated in a hospital, and don't even think about binge-watching Netflix.

The dishonesty in Washington isn't just about science. We aren't tackling so many of the biggest problems that affect your future — from the lack of good jobs in many communities, to the prevalence of gun violence, to the threats to the environment — because too many political leaders are being dishonest about facts and data, and too many people are letting them get away with it.

So how did we get here? How did we go from a president who could not tell a lie to politicians who cannot tell the truth? From a George Washington who embodied honesty to a Washington, D.C., defined by deceit?

It's popular to blame social media for spreading false information. I, for one, am totally convinced that Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber are still dating.

But the problem isn't just unreliable stories. It's also the public's willingness to believe anything that paints the other side in a bad light. That's extreme partisanship, and it's what's fueling and excusing all this dishonesty.

Extreme partisanship is like an infectious disease. But instead of crippling the body, it cripples the mind. It blocks us from understanding the other side. It blinds us from seeing the strengths in their ideas and the weaknesses in our own.

And it leads us to defend or excuse lies and unethical actions when our own side commits them.

For example: In the 1990s, leading Democrats spent the decade defending the occupant of the Oval Office against charges of lying and personal immorality, and attempting to silence and discredit the women who spoke out. At the same time, leading Republicans spent that decade attacking the lack of ethics and honesty in the White House.

Today, the roles are exactly reversed — not because the parties have changed their beliefs — but because the party occupying the Oval Office has changed.

When someone's judgment about an action depends on the party affiliation of the person who committed it, they're being dishonest with themselves and with the public. And yet, those kinds of judgments have become so second nature that many people in both parties don't even realize they are making them.

When people see the world as a battle between left and right, they become more loyal to their tribe than to our country. When power — not progress — becomes the object of the battle, truth and honesty become the first casualties.

You learned here at Rice that honesty leads to trust and trust leads to freedom (like the freedom to take tests outside the classroom). In democracy, it's no different. If we aren't honest with one another, we don't trust one another. And if we don't trust one another, we place limits on what we ourselves can do, and what we can do together as a country. It's a formula for gridlock and national decline — but here's the thing: It doesn't have to be that way.

When I was in city government, I didn't care which party proposed an idea. I never once asked someone his or her party affiliation during a job interview, or who they voted for. As a result, we had a dream team of Democrats, Republicans and independents.

That diversity made our debates sharper, our policies smarter, and our government better. Arguments were won and lost on facts and data — not parties and polls. That was why we had success. And it's been great to see other mayors around the country taking that same kind of approach.

But at the national level, in Washington today, partisanship is everything, and I think the dishonesty it produces is one of the greatest challenges that your generation will have to confront.

Of course, partisanship is not a new problem. George Washington warned against it in his Farewell Address.

He referred to the "dangers of parties," and called the passion that people have for them the, quote, "worst enemy" of democracy — a precursor to tyranny. Washington urged Americans to, quote, "discourage and restrain" partisanship. Sadly, in recent years, the opposite has happened. There is now unrestrained, rabid partisanship everywhere we look.

It's not just on social media and cable news. It's in the communities where we live, which are becoming more deeply red or more deeply blue. It's in the groups and associations and churches we join, which increasingly attract like-minded people. It's even in the people we marry.

Fifty years ago, most parents didn't care whether their children married a member of another political party but they didn't want them marrying outside their race or religion, or inside their gender.

Today, thankfully, polls show strong majority support for interracial, inter-religious, and same-sex marriage. That's progress. But unfortunately, the percentage of parents who don't want their children marrying outside of their political party has doubled.

The more people segregate themselves by party, the harder it becomes to understand the other side and the more extreme each party grows. Studies show that people become more extreme in their views when they are grouped together with like-minded people. That's now happening in both parties. And as a result, it's fair to say the country is more divided by party than it has been since the Civil War.

Bringing the country back together won't be easy. But I believe it can be done — and if we are to continue as a true democracy, it must be done and it will be up to your generation to help lead it.

Graduates: You're ready for this challenge. Because bringing the country back together starts with the first lesson you learned here: Honesty matters. And everyone must be held accountable for being honest.

So as you go out into the world, I urge you to do what honesty requires: Recognize that no one, nor either party, has a monopoly on good ideas. Judge events based on what happened, not who did it. Hold yourself and our leaders to the highest standards of ethics and morality. Respect the knowledge of scientists. Follow the data, wherever it leads.

Listen to people you disagree with — without trying to censor them or shout over them. And have the courage to say things that your own side does not want to hear.

I just came yesterday from visiting an old friend in Arizona, who has displayed that kind of courage throughout his life: Senator John McCain.

We often don't see eye to eye on issues. But I have always admired his willingness to reach across the aisle, when others wouldn't dare. He bucked party leaders, when his conscience demanded it. He defended the honor of his opponents, even if it cost him votes. And he owned up to his mistakes — just like that young kid with the cherry tree.

Imagine what our country would be like if more of our elected officials had the courage to serve with the honor that John has always shown.

Graduates: After today, you will no longer be bound by the Rice honor code. It will be up to you to decide how to live your life — and to follow your own honor code.

This university has given you a special opportunity to learn the true meaning of honor to base that code on, and now, I believe, you have a special obligation to carry it forward. The greatest threat to American democracy isn't communism, jihadism, or any other external force or foreign power. It's our own willingness to tolerate dishonesty in service of party, and in pursuit of power.

Let me leave you with one final thought: We can all recite the words of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident..."

But remember that the Founding Fathers were able to bring those truths to life only because of the Declaration's final words: "We mutually pledge to each other, our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

That pledge of honor — and that commitment to truth — is why we are here today. And in order to preserve those truths, and the rights they guarantee us, every generation must take that same pledge. Now it's your turn.

Members in the News

BioMarin Receives Standard Approval for Palynziq™ (pegvaliase-pqpz) Injection for Treatment of Adults with Phenylketonuria (PKU), a Rare Genetic Disease

BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. (Nasdaq:BMRN) today announced that BioMarin received standard approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Palynziq™ (pegvaliase-pqpz) Injection to reduce blood phenylalanine (Phe) concentrations in adult patients with phenylketonuria (PKU), who have uncontrolled blood Phe concentrations greater than 600 micromol/L on existing management.

Redwood Credit Union Wins NACHA Payment Award

Redwood Credit Union (RCU) has won an award for RCUpay from NACHA, the Electronic Payments Association®, which celebrates proven accomplishment and leadership in the payments industry and recognizes innovations defining the future.

Kaiser Permanente thinks working together can reduce mental health stigma

Kaiser Permanente recently awarded two local grants totaling \$180,000 to help reduce mental health stigma.

SRJC Awarded \$1.6M For Higher Education Innovation

Santa Rosa Junior College: Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) is the recipient of a \$1.6 million award from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Higher Education Innovation Awards Program.

North Bay Leadership Council Thinks New Technology Can Help California's Workforce Get Future-Ready

"We need to remember that all of us will be stranded if we don't keep upskilling," Cynthia Murray of the North Bay Leadership Group.

Redwood Credit Union Ranks 2nd in Nation

Redwood Credit Union (RCU) has recently been ranked the 2nd healthiest credit union in the United States (out of approximately 5,600 credit unions), according to Glatt Consulting's Credit Union HealthScore, which measures credit union strength and growth.

Sonoma Raceway Announces 'Sonoma Rising' Initiative Around NASCAR Weekend

In recognition of the devastating wild fires that ravaged the North Bay in October, Sonoma Raceway will utilize its largest event weekend to support the theme "Sonoma Rising," an initiative to honor those affected by the disaster, salute first responders and lend support to the North Bay's ongoing rebuilding efforts.

Sonoma Raceway Hosts North Bay Students in STEM Race Car Challenge During NASCAR

North Bay students from 40 classrooms and clubs will take part in the 5th annual STEM Race Car Challenge, presented by Friedman's Home Improvement.

Marin Builders Association awards \$16,500 in scholarships

Marin-area high school students have been awarded \$16,500 in college scholarships in the annual Marin Builders Association scholarship program for 2018.

Redwood Credit Union Finishes Strong in the Race to Support Local Nonprofits

Redwood Credit Union (RCU) employees contributed over \$45,000 to local nonprofits by sponsoring, fundraising, and participating in Human Race events in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties.

Sonoma County Office of Education Receives Medtronic Foundation Grant for Fire Relief

Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) received a \$100,000 check from the Medtronic Foundation to further SCOE's school fire relief efforts on Thursday, May 3.

Kaiser Permanente Hospitals In San Rafael and Santa Rosa Receive Top Grade "A" For Patient Safety

Kaiser Permanente hospitals in San Rafael and Santa Rosa received an "A" grade, the highest possible, for patient safety from The Leapfrog Group.

BioMarin Pharmaceuticals Named Large Business of the Year by the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce

The State of the City Dinner brings together over 400 business owners, CEOs, elected officials, regional community leaders, and Chamber Board members.

Midstate Construction Completes Santa Rosa Community Health – North Dutton Clinic

Midstate Construction Corporation recently completed tenant improvement of the Santa Rosa Community Centers – North Dutton Clinic, a community health clinic in Santa Rosa, CA.

Keysight Technologies Wildfire recovery well under way

After the October wildfires, contractors for Keysight Technologies removed more than 1 million pounds of debris from the company's Santa Rosa headquarters.

Press Democrat Awarded Pulitzer Prize for Wildfire Coverage

The Press Democrat today received the Pulitzer Prize, the highest award in American journalism, for its coverage of the October wildfires.

Read more online at www.northbayleadership.org/news



Who We Are

Over twenty five years ago, business leaders founded the North Bay Leadership Council on a simple premise: We can accomplish more by working together. Today, the Council includes 54 leading employers in the North Bay. Our members represent a wide variety of businesses, non-profits and educational institutions, with a workforce in excess of 25,000. As business and civic leaders, our goal is to promote sound public policy, innovation and sustainability to make our region a better place to live and work. For more information: Call 707.283.0028 / E-mail info@northbayleadership.org

www.northbayleadership.org