

## Daily Post (Palo Alto, CA)

August 4, 2016

### Challengers have largest war chests

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Mountain View City Council hopeful Thida Cornes is leading in campaign contributions, after raising \$22,135.63, surpassing the two incumbents in the race, according to finance reports for the first half of this year. Cornes, a member of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission, did get an earlier start when she started campaigning last year before many had decided to run. By the end of last year, Cornes had already raised \$13,565.63.

#### **Ramirez** raked in \$20,127

Candidate Lucas **Ramirez** trails Cornes by a small margin, raising \$20,127.53 as of June 30, but he only started campaigning in March, according to campaign finance reports.

As of Monday, **Ramirez** said he had raised more than \$24,000.

During the first half of this year, the majority of Cornes' donations were between \$100 and \$250, but Prometheus Real Estate Group did give \$1,500 to her campaign. Cornes has been a commissioner for seven years and has lived in Mountain View for 17 years.

**Ramirez**, who has served on the city's Human Relations Commission for the past three years, has received donations from Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian with \$250; state Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, with \$200; Palo Alto Councilman Cory Wolbach with \$100; and Mountain View Councilman Lenny Siegel with \$100.

#### Other candidates

Other candidates in the race include Councilman Chris Clark, who has raised \$17,395, but \$10,000 of it is money he lent his campaign; former councilwoman and Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga, who has raised \$7,544; Councilman John McAlister, who has raised \$7,247; and Lisa Matichak, who loaned her campaign \$5,000.

Serge Bonte has pulled papers to run, but has not turned in any campaign finance reports.

Four seats are up for grabs this November. They are now held by Clark, McAlister, Mike Kasperzak and John Inks. Kasperzak and Inks are termed out so they can't run for re-election.

Meanwhile, in Palo Alto, which has four seats up for grabs in November, no one has filed any campaign finance forms, meaning no one started raising money before June 30.

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