

Thousand Friends Enthusiastically Endorses Dylan Radke for Martinez City Council, District 2, and Donates \$4900 to his campaign

One reason you should Attend “Friends Fest” Sept 15, 2-5 pm

We could not be happier that Dylan Radke is running for City Council, District 2. We’ve hoped he would since we organized in 2015. He and his wife Deidre are founding members of Thousand Friends of Martinez and share our values of representing the public. We encouraged him to run. He comes from a family which has long served Martinez (as in *Ted and Kathy Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline*).



In his 21 years of service on commissions and leading campaigns he has helped improve the library, Rankin Aquatic Center and ALL of the parks in Martinez, as well as pass the measures to renovate all of its elementary schools. No one works alone but Dylan was key in the \$30 million Measure H campaign to renovate the library and improve all of our parks and in implementing Measure H since it was approved.

DYLAN RADKE for Martinez City Council, District 2

More info about Dylan Radke’s campaign: www.dylanradkeforcouncil.com

Dylan is a life-long resident of Martinez. As a child, he grew up near Rankin Park, where many hours were spent in the park, at the pool or on the ball field. Dylan has a true love for the City of Martinez, where he and his wife Deidre are proud to raise their two children and call home.

Dylan was born in 1971 to Ted and Kathy Radke. He has an older sister Catrina Nesper and older brother, HT Radke. Both of his parents served on the Martinez City Council and his father represented Martinez on the East Bay Regional Park District Board for over 30 years.

Dylan has spent the last 21 years serving Martinez residents on many local community boards and commissions. He served on the Martinez Parks and Recreation Commission (2003 – 2009); Martinez Marina Commission, Commissioner and Chair (2006 – 2009); Shell Citizen Advisory Panel (2006 –2009); Martinez Education Foundation (2009 – present).



Dylan Radke at "Ted and Kathy Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline," saved by his parents and others, near the Martinez Marina Park which Dylan helped renovate with his leadership on Measure H)

In 2008, Dylan co-chaired the Measure H campaign for a \$30 million bond measure ***to remodel and improve the Martinez Library, all City parks and rebuild the Rankin Aquatic Center.*** Measure H was approved by the voters by 69%.

Dylan was the Chair of Martinez Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission (PRMCC), Chair (2009 – present) while Measure H was being implemented to remodel the library and improve all city parks including the Rankin Aquatic Center.

Since the passing of Measure H, the PRMCC was responsible for designing and overseeing all of the reconstruction projects. The renovation of the Martinez Library and Rankin Park Aquatic Center and all city parks were completed in 2023.

In 2016, Dylan chaired the Measure R campaign for a \$120 million bond measure ***to replace or substantially remodel all four Martinez Unified School District elementary schools.***

Since passing Measure R, Martinez Unified School District has completely replaced three elementary schools and is in the process of substantially remodeling the fourth.

Dylan has been practicing law for over 24 years and represents Contra Costa County as a Deputy County Counsel. Dylan met his wife, Deidre Siguenza while in law school. She is a practicing attorney and mother to their two children Payton (17 years old) and Lincoln (13 years old). Payton is a senior at Alhambra High School and Lincoln is in seventh grade at Martinez Junior High School.

Dylan grew up in downtown Martinez and has practiced law there for 23 years. He understands the potential our city offers and challenges Martinez faces in building a vibrant local business community.

A product of our local schools, Dylan graduated from Alhambra High School in 1989, followed by Diablo Valley Community College and obtained a Bachelors of Arts in Government from California State University, Sacramento in 1995. During the time Dylan attended CSU Sacramento, he had the opportunity to work for Assemblymember Delaine Eastin, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee and interned for Congressman George Miller, Jr. in Washington, D.C. Dylan attended Golden Gate University, School of Law in San Francisco, California and obtained a law degree there.

Dylan still enjoys spending time in his childhood haunts, especially with his children. He values and supports local business and can often be found at one of the many local events that Martinez has to offer.

More info about Dylan Radke's campaign: www.dylanradkeforcouncil.com



Deidre Siguenza, Payton, Lincoln, and Dylan Radke



THOUSAND FRIENDS OF MARTINEZ

Thousand Friends of Martinez Elections: The Most Important Thing We do

This is Thousand Friends' 5th election cycle endorsing candidates and ballot measures, the #1 most important thing we do.

In 2015 we had a bad city council, which frequently did controversial things often development related, including suing its own citizens over development issues and ballot measures, couldn't keep a city manager, and dug the city into a financial hole we're just now climbing out of.

Thousand Friends' founders were especially interested in conservation and parks, good transparent government, and quality of life—which relates to development/land use planning, schools, etc. To address those goals we needed better candidates for elected office. So we started interviewing, endorsing, encouraging, providing campaign contributions and encouraging the candidates to answer questions about these issues in questionnaires, interviews and public candidate forums. We're focused on improving the city. That immediately raised the bar on politics in Martinez.

We're a small, all volunteer watchdog group organized as a Political Action Committee (PAC) but each of the founders agreed to donate \$1000 per year for the first 3 years, so we could support better candidates and ballot measures with campaign contributions. We raise \$10-15,000 a year from supporters and spend almost all of it on campaign contributions and communication. All volunteer. No one gets paid.

We started communicating with Martinez voters regularly—not just during elections—about all these issues. That's the other most important thing we do, ongoing communication and voter education with thousands of Martinez residents.

One supporter claims we're "Ten Friends of Martinez" – which is about the size of the Steering Committee that does most of the work, but many, many Martinez residents tell us they support us. Our events regularly draw nice crowds. We communicate with

thousands. In five election cycles so far, with one exception, *Martinez voters have elected or approved all of our recommended candidates and ballot measures.*

Either it's been an amazing series of coincidences, or we've built some trust with residents doing the work over years. (The one exception, a candidate who got started late, ran almost no campaign, and never cashed our campaign contribution.)

District elections made running for office cheaper because city council candidates only had to communicate with 25% of the city, but the old city council put in place the most confusing gerrymandered districts in the state (because most of them lived downtown near each other).

With others, we pushed for an Independent Redistricting Committee and after the 2020 census got sane, more compact districts. The mayor still runs citywide.

We helped elect Brianne Zorn to the city council in 2020—what a breath of fresh air—and encouraged her to run for mayor in 2022. That's when things really started getting better. With a strong, common sense, public oriented mayor leading the council, collaborating with the city manager and appointing good people with diverse talents and backgrounds to commissions, the city is a whole new, much better run place. And with each election and appointment the city council has gotten better.

But it could still change in one election. Imagine if Mayor Zorn was running for County Supervisor. Losing her leadership would be a giant hole in city government and our goals for a better, more open Martinez.

Which is why we're continuing to work to elect good candidates for City Council—like Dylan Radke. He's a good common-sense guy who loves Martinez, has worked for decades to make it better, and has the track record to prove it. He's got great values, skills and talents. First and foremost, he will represent Martinez residents not special interests.



Martinez Mayor Brianne Zorn and Dylan Radke, Chair of the Martinez Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission at the groundbreaking for Pine Meadow Park

Friends Fest is our annual fundraiser. We use the proceeds for campaign contributions to elect better candidates like Dylan Radke and for communicating with Martinez residents. We hope you'll attend and hear about the 4 or 5 campaigns we're supporting this November. Come meet Dylan Radke and other candidates we've endorsed.

Friends Fest, Sunday, September 15, 2024, Veterans Memorial Building, 2-5 pm

Kay Cox will be honored as Citizen of the Year by Thousand Friends of Martinez at our second annual *Friends Fest* event, for 54 years of leadership supporting Martinez conservation and community efforts.

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-fest-at-the-veterans-memorial-building-tickets-913254959167>