

Written by Administrator
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From deciding whether to give initial approval to a Las Vegas-style casino near the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to choosing a new mayor in Oakland, Bay Area voters tackled a range of far-reaching issues.

CASINO: In early returns, Richmond residents were saying no to building a casino at Point Molate. The vote is an advisory one only. Contra Costa County officials have been promised \$12 million and hundreds of jobs for residents if the casino is built.

OAKLAND MAYOR: Former state Sen. Don Perata held a comfortable lead over such contenders as Oakland Councilwomen Rebecca Kaplan and Jean Quan, and political analyst Joe Tuman in a 10-way race for the mayor's seat being vacated by Ron Dellums.

MENLO

PARK: Measure L held a wide margin. It would limit defined benefit pensions for new employees, including setting 60 as the minimum (full) retirement age. It also would establish maximum pension benefits for an employee at no more than 2 percent of the employee's annual average base wage.

FREMONT CITY COUNCIL: Nine candidates vying for two City Council seats all agreed that Fremont needs to reduce pension benefits for future employees. But the race heated up last week when the Fremont Police Association released a negative campaign mailer targeting Councilman Bill Harrison. Top union officials urged residents to vote for incumbent Anu Natarajan. Both were leading.

SAN MATEO AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES: Measure M in San Mateo County and

Measure F in Alameda County -- which would add \$10 to vehicle registration fees to fund road repairs -- were leaning toward passage.

-- Linda Goldston, Mercury News

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