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Posted on Sun, Mar. 03, 2002

## Candidates use weekend for final pitches

By Chuck Carroll  
Mercury News

In the final weekend before Tuesday's primary, people on both sides of various big-ticket measures hit the streets making their last-minute pitches to voters.

Although the campaign season has been relatively quiet, some local races kept up their intensity. Here are some highlights:

**Assembly District 22:** In the Democratic primary for the district, which includes Mountain View, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, most of

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**Mercury News Run**

Come run through 25 years of history while lending support to a great cause. On Sunday, March 17, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

which includes Mountain View, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, most of Santa Clara and a small part of San Jose, voters found a four-page mailer from Rod Diridon Jr. that mostly emphasizes his endorsements and records.

But the fourth page is an excerpt from a Mercury News article from December, in which Mountain View City Council Mayor Sally Lieber is hammered by the chief executive of the Santa Clara Valley YWCA for campaigning at a Y fundraiser, an activity that could threaten the non-profit's tax-exempt status.

The brochure edits out of the original article the fact that the CEO is a close friend of the Diridon family and most of Lieber's response to the allegation.

It wasn't a new charge -- there have been plenty of attacks on Lieber both from Diridon and from independent groups.

Lieber has questioned Diridon's ties to special interests, but largely has stuck to her record during the campaign.

The third candidate, Mountain View City Council member Rosemary Stasek, has stuck strictly to the issues. Although she can't match the money of her opponents, her candidacy has won her endorsements from most of the major newspapers that cover the district.

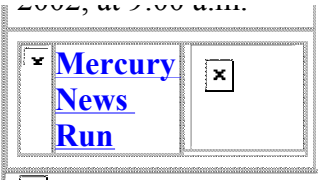
**East Palo Alto Measure C:** "Retail politics" was the order of the day in East Palo Alto on Saturday as folks on both sides of a proposed Ikea furniture store were pressing their cause, which has been bitterly contested from the beginning.

No on Measure C volunteers finished delivery of about 4,000 grocery bags filled with a videotape and other informational material in opposition to the huge new store proposed for an existing shopping center near Highway 101. Many East Palo Alto residents have been lobbying for the city to try to recruit the struggling city's first major grocery store.

They fear the Ikea store would create gridlock out of an already nasty traffic problem by drawing customers from throughout the region.

Like Ikea opponents, proponents were also getting ready to fire up phone banks. They distributed door hangers and leaflets throughout the city, and a van decorated with balloons trawled the streets with a loudspeaker blaring. People were urged not to turn down the hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue that Ikea could bring over the years to a city that has always lived hand-to-mouth.

**Stocks**



Sue Travers, a coordinator for East Palo Alto's Committee for No on Measure C, dismissed Ikea political consultant Ed McGovern's assertion that her side might disrupt the election Tuesday.

"He's just making stuff up," Travers said. "This guy is not from around here . . . and he's trying to scare people and keep them home."

McGovern denied that he's resorted to scare tactics Saturday. And he backed off earlier plans to hire off-duty police officers to work out of uniform near the polling places. He said he now believes the local police will be able to control any problems.

Neither side was predicting victory Saturday.

"We think it's going to be a close election, but we think we've identified enough votes to where if we get our people out, we'll win," McGovern said.

**Mountain View Measure N:** Campaigners in Mountain View were also hard at work on a ballot measure that will determine the fate of major "big box" retail stores.

Supporters of a Home Depot at the old Emporium site on El Camino Real near Highway 85 in Mountain View were handing out a flier that warned that the city would have a hard time paying for "essential services" such as child care, after-school programs and a new senior center if voters don't approve the location for a home-improvement center.

Home Depot began airing a radio spot that accuses the leader of the opponents, developer Burt Avery, of opposing the Home Depot because he wants to develop the site himself -- a charge he has repeatedly denied. About 70 people were passing out leaflets in the city on behalf of Home Depot this weekend, said campaign consultant Vic Aljouny. And 14,000 videos have been mailed to city residents, he said.

About 20 people were door-knocking on behalf of the No on N opposition, said one of the group's leaders, Lawrence Vallandigham. He condemned Home Depot for impugning Avery and not focusing on the issues of traffic and noise that are of concern to the opponents.

"This is the wrong location," he said. "This sets a bad precedent for land development not only in Mountain View but in all cities."

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