

GEAR'D UP!



Sacramento Mayoral Candidates on Transportation and the Environment

SABA is taking a look at the stances of the two Sacramento mayoral candidates – Dr. Flojaune Cofer and Assemblyman Kevin McCarty – related to environmental issues. While we understand that there are many important issues facing Sacramento, especially with regard to the unhoused population, our focus here is on issues related to transportation and the climate crisis.

The views presented here are taken from forums conducted by the League of Women Voters, the [Sacramento Bee](#), and [KCRA 3](#).



[Dr. Flojaune Cofer](#) is an epidemiologist, policy director, and advocate for change. She worked at the California Department of Public Health and then as a Senior Policy Director at Public Health Advocate.

Cofer served on Sacramento's Active Transportation Commission, Mayor's Commission on Climate Change, Sacramento County Sheriff's Outreach Community Advisory Board, and the Measure U Community Advisory Commission.

Since 2014, [Kevin McCarty](#) has served as Sacramento's Assembly member – representing the 6th Assembly District. McCarty serves as Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

From 2014 to 2023, he served as the Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance. A lifelong Sacramentan, McCarty began his career as a Housing and Redevelopment Commissioner, and then served on the Sacramento City Council for a decade.



SABA does not endorse either candidate. (Disclosure: Cofer is a member of SABA and McCarty has lent financial support to a project that will launch in 2025.)

Here's where they stand on the issues:

Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, which includes a greenhouse gas reduction target for 2030 and a carbon neutrality goal for 2045.

Cofer: As a commissioner on the Mayor's Climate Commission, Cofer helped develop Sacramento's Climate Action Plan and would like to move the dates up to accomplish carbon neutrality sooner. As mayor she would commit to setting priorities for the city council and plan how the city can take on more to achieve climate goals sooner.

McCarty: He would like to achieve the goals that were set out in the plan and figure out how to pull down resources from the state and federal governments. When the city was in a budget crisis, he found resources to support city services like the firefighters and would do the same for the Climate Action Plan.

Funding for the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan Including Proposed 2026 Sales Tax (the Plan is budgeted at over \$3 billion)

Cofer: She believes we need to look at the Plan and figure out how to implement it; set a goal and figure out where to start; and decide on the major investments we need to make now to save money down the line and yield us dividends. Cofer says we should look at matching funds from the state and federal government, as well as local partnerships. She believes neighborhood associations, unions, nonprofits and businesses will step up and that we should see them as partners rather than adversaries. The public was frustrated that the sales tax from 2019 was not spent on homelessness, affordable housing and the arts, and Cofer says we need to build trust with the voters by righting things before going and asking for more money; and we also shouldn't impose a tax on people with lower incomes.

McCarty: He wants to look at opportunities to leverage funding for state efforts. McCarty says the State of California is our largest employer and landowner and we need them to step up to help us achieve our climate goals. Voters are very frustrated that things aren't getting done and McCarty believes we have to restore confidence in city leadership to pass traditional revenue. He says the sales tax is regressive and that people of lower income are disproportionately impacted by climate and should not bear disproportionate burden.

Commitments to Climate Initiatives

Cofer: She believes we need new leadership. Cofer has built coalitions and served on five different boards, committees, and coalitions. In the first 100 days, she commits to 1) set priorities for the city of Sacramento that include our climate goals and take action every year. 2) Make sure we have a standing committee on climate where we have community members helping us to figure out new innovative solutions.

McCarty: His top two initiatives are to promote active transportation and build more infill housing.

Public Transit & Active Transportation

Cofer: She supported a resolution to expand transit and make it free for kids K-12. She believes the best way to expand transit is to provide it at low or no cost and wants to get young people to ride so they become lifelong transit riders. Cofer wants to expand free rides to college students and to make public transit accessible for disabled and older people. She would like to see it kept running for major events - make it convenient and useful for everyone, not just low-income people.

Cofer served on the Active Transportation Commission because she is an avid bike rider and has been hit by a car. She wants to implement design features to make it safer for people to bike and walk. When there is new construction, Cofer wants to make bikes and pedestrians a priority to signal that safety is paramount.

McCarty: When he lived in Boston, McCarty took public transportation everywhere, but Sacramento's transit system isn't as comprehensive. McCarty believes we need more routes and frequency, and to look at land use so people can live closer to the things they need and won't always need to drive. He believes our transportation infrastructure prioritizes cars. As a medical consultant for a school district, McCarty tried to get kids to walk more. He says there's a need to make walking safer by not having people camping on sidewalks and by addressing

other public safety issues.

Cycling and Pedestrian Safety

Cofer: She acknowledges that traffic is the number one cause of fatalities and serious injuries. Cofer wants to invest money to draw matches at the state and federal level. She says traffic safety should be proactive.

McCarty: He believes that roads should be fixed to proactively eliminate deaths. He would like to improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure across Sacramento, not just midtown. McCarty acknowledges that there is an equity issue – some people ride by choice; some don't have another option.

Sprawl and Urban Development & Downtown Revitalization

Cofer: One of the things in the CAAP is prioritizing infill development. Cofer wants to develop housing and build near existing infrastructure to not increase emissions. As someone who served on the Climate commission, she doesn't want to start building in places where we already have trouble with transit. She believes we need to start building in places where we already have rail and bus lines and not create another car-centric community. Cofer doesn't want to offer downtown properties to developers "for free." She would like to use adaptive re-use for example, bringing Sacramento State downtown. Cofer says downtown needs to be an entertainment hub. She believes that bringing state workers back to the office is not the way – it goes against our climate goals.

McCarty: He says we have a housing shortage and we have people coming to Sacramento. McCarty believes we're not going to end sprawl by simply limiting construction within the city; we can't control what happens across another border. He says we need to facilitate infill development and that telework is here to stay. 45% of downtown property is state or federally owned and they pay zero property tax. McCarty would like to instead, put that property in private hands such as housing, entertainment, restaurants. He wants to work with Sacramento State to bring student housing downtown.

Ongoing events around town



SABA Bike Valet provides convenient, secure, no-cost bike parking at **Golden 1 Center** events. Find us near *Urban Outfitters*.

MEADOWVIEW FARMERS MARKET FREE BIKE REPAIR

SABA's Ride Ready Repair program provides basic bike repair and diagnostics at the Meadowview Farmers Market, 3501 Meadowview Road.

To reduce wait times, scan the QR code and digitally sign in while you stand in our queue.

Bike Valet provides bike parking at many Sacramento events.

Check our [events calendar](#) for Valet-supported events.

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday from 9am-12pm. Look for the Ride-Ready Repair trailer.

This is a free service provided by SABA and Alchemist CDC.

More information: robert@sacbike.org.

We're growing and hiring! If you have passion and interest in making the world a better place through bicycles, then we want to hear from you!

Bike Valet

Our Bike Valets are the heart and soul of SABA. We take care of your bike so you can attend an event or a market without worrying about whether your bike will be there when you get back to it.

We could use some more great people who believe in SABA's mission for Bike Valet. So, please shoot us an email.

Bike Mechanics

Our set of bike mechanics are the envy of town. Did you know that we just supported the AIDs LifeCycle ride with SABA's bike mechanics?

Basic knowledge is necessary, but everyone is constantly learning on the job and getting better together. Find out more! Come learn by doing and earn some dollars too.



If you can't make it to our events, you can still support SABA today and become an advocate for safe streets.

We're working for commuters, recreational riders, students, and seniors.

We're working for YOU.

Become a [SABA supporter](#) and help us continue offering programs like social rides, bicycle classes, bike valet, and *Ride Ready Repair* services.

Support our efforts to make the Sacramento region a safer place for **everyone** to ride!

JOIN SABA





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Find out how your organization or business can help make Sacramento the best place to ride a bike. [Join us!](#)

*Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.
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