

# About Gayle McLaughlin

## Meet Gayle McLaughlin

As a two-term Mayor of Richmond CA, Gayle led a successful grassroots movement to liberate Richmond from the grip of corporate giants and wealthy special interests. "Our progressive transformation returned political power to our residents and local businesses and we defeated the oil giant Chevron's attempts to buy our democracy." Gayle blazed the path in Richmond and in 2017 Richmond has a super-majority of five out of seven councilmembers who are true progressives, members of the RPA, and elected without a dime of corporate money.



## Early Years

Gayle was born in Chicago, Illinois into a working class union family. She is the middle child of five daughters. Her father was a carpenter and member of the Carpenter's Union and her mother was a factory worker and housewife. As a young activist during the 1980's, Gayle worked with the Central American solidarity movement, People United to Save Humanity (PUSH), and the Rainbow Coalition. Gayle is married to Paul Kilkenny, also a Richmond activist for social and environmental justice.

Gayle holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, from Bridgewater State University Massachusetts, graduating summa cum laude. Her graduate studies include psychology and education at Rhode Island College and UC Berkeley Extension.

## Background

Gayle has a background as an educator, and professional experience in nonprofit leadership organizations promoting literacy, social justice, and environmental health. She has also been involved in nonprofit research and data-driven projects addressing the needs of disadvantaged youth. Gayle also co-founded Solar Richmond, a nationally-recognized local program promoting solar power and green jobs in Richmond, and Richmond Residents for a Responsible General Plan, a community organization committed to ensuring that the General Plan process be transparent and open to public participation.

## Founding the Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA)

Gayle is a founding member (2003) of the Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA), a corporate-free grassroots political organization which has many successes in Richmond, California. The RPA is also an Our Revolution affiliated organization. Gayle was elected and served the people of Richmond for the 12 years as Richmond's first corporate-free councilmember (2005-2006/2015-2017) and two term mayor (2007-2014).

Bernie Sanders endorsed Gayle in 2014 when she ran for city council

Gayle is not registered with any party (NPP) and is a Bernie Sanders supporter.

## Awards

- 2016 "Millie Award, Leadership in the fight to pass rent control and just cause for eviction" from the Tenant Lawyer Network- a project of Tenants Together
- 2015 "Phil Burton Badge of Courage for Protecting Democracy and the Environment from Corporate Pollution" from the Sierra Club
- 2015 "13th Annual Human Rights Award: Democracy", from Human Agenda
- 2015 "Building Strength California Gala Honor, in Supporting The Innovative Richmond CARES Programs and Standing Up Against Corporate Greed", from ACCE Institute and the Center for Popular Democracy
- 2014 "Day of Peace Award of Appreciation" from San Quentin State Prison
- 2013 "Award for Excellent Leadership" Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment,
- 2013 "Best Politician Against All Odds" from East Bay Express
- 2011 "Homeless Advocacy in Action Award" from Saffron Strand,
- 2009 "Solar Champion Award Leading Solar City" from Environment California
- 2008 "Contribution to Environmental Justice Award" from Communities for a Better Environment