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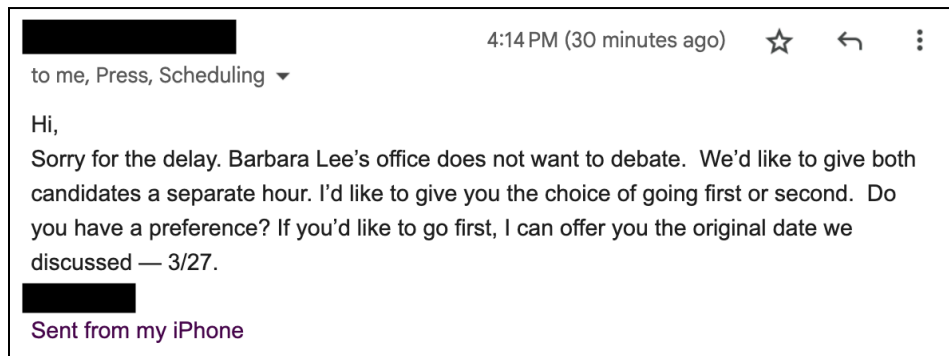
## **PROPOSED KQED DEBATE CANCELLED: BARBARA LEE DODGES SECOND DEBATE WITH LOREN TAYLOR**

**Oakland, CA** — KQED Forum’s planned mayoral debate for Oakland’s April 15 election has been canceled after Barbara Lee refused to debate Loren Taylor.

Expressing his deep disappointment, Loren Taylor said, “Our campaign accepted the KQED debate invitation weeks ago, on March 4, because we understand that Oaklanders want to hear real, unfiltered debate on the issues that matter most. Barbara Lee is dodging debates because her campaign understands that Oaklanders aren’t buying her vague promises and don’t want the failed status quo—she knows she can’t defend a broken system to those who live in it every day.”

After unfounded complaints that the Dave Clark–moderated KTVU debate was “unfair,” Barbara Lee’s refusal to accept the invitation from KQED—a trusted news source—is nothing short of baffling. When recalled Mayor Sheng Thao refused to participate in media interviews and avoided answering tough questions from the media, it foreshadowed how she would ultimately govern.

Refusing to debate is a callous dismissal of Oakland voters who deserve strong, accountable, transparent leadership in this time of crisis. If Barbara Lee is unwilling to step onto the debate stage, how can Oaklanders trust her to rise to the challenges of being Mayor when the stakes are even higher?



*Photo: Email from KQED that proposed debate is cancelled.*

Loren Taylor remains ready to participate and calls on Barbara Lee to respect the urgency of this moment for Oakland and participate in KQED’s Debate.