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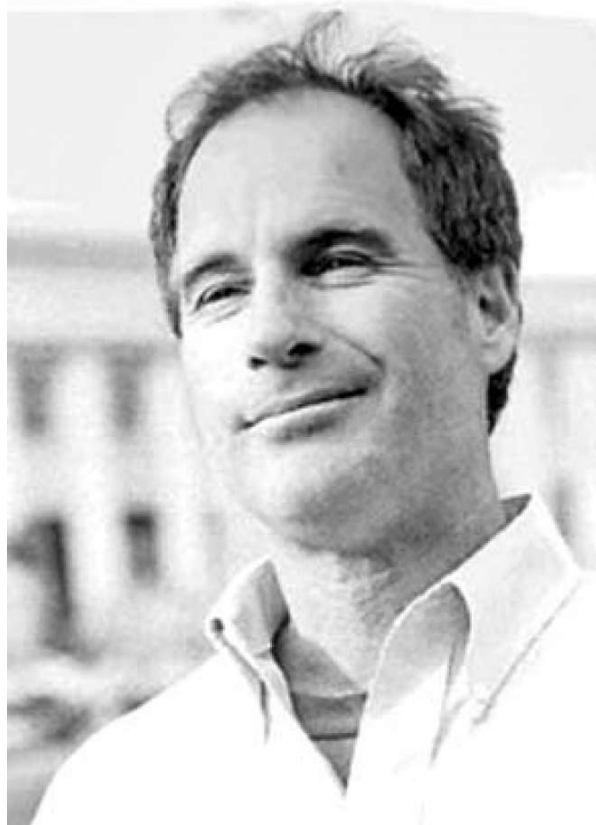
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# Berkeley ex-official gets 6-month sentence

**BERKELEY**

By **Henry K. Lee** Published 4:00 am PDT, Friday, May 2, 2008




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MR\_KAVANAGH Chris Kavanagh Ran on: 07-30-2007 Chris Kavanagh, who as a member of the Berkeley rent board is supposed to live in Berkeley, is fighting eviction from a cottage in Oakland. Ran on: 07-30-2007 Chris Kavanagh Ran on: 07-30-2007 Ran on: 07-30-2007 Chris Kavanagh Ran on: 08-01-2007 Chris Kavanagh, Berkeley rent board member, has been investigated previously. Ran on: 08-01-2007 Ran on: 08-01-2007 ALSO Ran on: 09-22-2007 Chris Kavanagh ALSO Ran on: 09-25-2007 Chris Kavanagh is accused of not living in Berkeley, required of board members. Ran on: 09-25-2007 Ran on: 09-28-2007 Chris Kavanagh is accused of living in Oakland while serving on a Berkeley commission. Ran on: 09-28-2007 Chris Kavanagh is accused of living in Oakland while serving on a Berkeley commission. Ran on: 02-13-2008 Chris Kavanagh faces charges of living in Oakland while serving on a Berkeley commission. Ran on: 02-13-2008 Ran on: 02-13-2008 Ran on: 02-13-2008 Ran on: 02-23-2008 Chris Kavanagh, ex- rent board member, makes a deal in case on improper registration. Ran on: 02-23-2008

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Former Berkeley rent board member **Chris Kavanagh** was sentenced Thursday to six months in jail for improperly registering to vote in Berkeley when he lived in Oakland.

Kavanagh, 50, will be barred from holding public office in California during a five-year probation and must pay \$10,835 to the city of Berkeley under a deal reached with Alameda County prosecutors, who dismissed five other charges against him.

Kavanagh submitted a check Thursday for \$5,800 toward that amount.

**Superior Court** Judge **Morris Jacobson** ordered Kavanagh to spend weekends at Santa Rita Jail from May 9 to July 1 - with each weekend counting as three days - after

which he will spend 60 consecutive days in jail and then additional weekends in the fall. He is not expected to serve a full six months in jail because of credit for good behavior.

Kavanagh declined to comment as he left an Oakland courtroom with his parents.

His attorney, **James Giller**, said having his weekdays free until summer would allow Kavanagh to continue teaching developmentally disabled students in San Francisco for the rest of the school year.

"Unfortunately, he used poor judgment," Giller said outside court. "But the fact is, this thing was devastating to him because he loves that town."

Giller said Kavanagh, a UC Berkeley graduate, "has been involved in the Berkeley community and Berkeley politics for a good part of his life."

Deputy District Attorney **Trevor White** called the sentence appropriate.

Kavanagh, a longtime tenants' rights activist, was elected to the rent board in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. His term was to have ended in 2010, but he resigned in February after his residency came into question.

Prosecutors took notice of him when he challenged an eviction order last year by his landlords on 63rd Street in Oakland, about two blocks south of the Berkeley border.

As recently as 2005, Kavanagh said he lived on the 2700 block of Dwight Way in Berkeley, when prosecutors had evidence that he did not, White said.

Kavanagh pleaded no contest in February to registering to vote in Berkeley on Nov. 8, 2005, even as he knew that he was "not entitled to registration."

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors dropped charges of voter fraud, filing false nomination papers, perjury by declaration, fraudulently voting in a June 2006 election in Berkeley and grand theft for allegedly accepting a monthly stipend and health insurance benefits while serving on the rent board.

In a statement after his no-contest plea, Kavanagh said he had been convicted of only a technical violation. Authorities said that statement probably contributed to Jacobson's decision to impose the six-month jail term, the maximum under the plea agreement.

"These are very serious offenses," White said. "We don't take violations of this sort lightly at all. The integrity of the voting system is crucial to our entire political system."

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