



Active Democrat

General Meeting – May 14

The Budget Crisis at Culver City Unified School District



President's Message:

Déjà Vu All Over Again

Once again California's state government has a budget that can't be balanced. As usual the calls to cut spending on the elderly, the

sick, the handicapped and the young are heard loud and clear. Or at least they would be if the Republican side of the legislature and the Governor were straightforward about their intentions. Instead they fight to preserve tax cuts for the wealthy and "yacht owners" while quietly asking for deep cuts in social service spending.

If this was something that only affected State agencies it would be bad enough but, of course, it will also affect us very directly here in Culver City, especially through the CCUSD budget (see the letter from the school board on page 2). Despite efforts by the electorate to guarantee funding for schools we see the governor balancing the budget by reducing spending for schools statewide.

It's clear that CCUSD must do its best to preserve worthy programs and staff in our schools in the face of major budget shortfalls in the short term. We will have the Dr. Myrna Cote, Superintendent of CCUSD, Scott Zeidman, School Board Member, and David Mielke, President, Culver City Federation of Teachers discussing the problems and solutions at our next meeting.

It's equally clear that we, as a state, have got to find a way to move beyond the budget battles and finally find a way to fund our schools, and other state services, in a manner that isn't hostage to the ups and downs of the business cycle. Short term strategies may get us from one budget to another but solving the many future challenges facing our state will demand more comprehensive solutions. Are we as citizens finally ready to make the tough decisions that will lead to a balance between funding and services? For my children's sake I hope so.

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

7:30 PM Wednesday, May 14, 2008

7:00 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and
Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

- 2: Letters to the Editor
- 2: Di's Corner
- 3: Endorsements – continued
- 3: 10 Things...About John McCain

Club Notes

Seeking a Newsletter Editor:
Interested in taking charge of our Democratic message? Please send inquiries to the President, Greg Valtierra at President@CCDemClub.org or call (310) 204-1338.

Renew your membership!
2008 dues must be paid to vote at our General Meeting.

Electronic Newsletter:
Submit your email address to Info@CCDemClub.org and ask to get the newsletter by email!
Save a tree and save our club the postage!

Join the Culver City Peace Vigil: Protest the Iraq war every Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel.

Club Endorsements – Vote Tuesday, June 3:

- Mark Ridley-Thomas – Board of Supervisors, 2nd District
- Diane Watson – U.S. Congress, 33rd District
- Karen Bass – State Assembly, 47th District

California Democratic Party Positions:

NO – Proposition 98

YES – Proposition 99

Endorsements continued on page 3

Comments expressed in the Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club.

Letters To The Editor:

CCUSD Budget:

Since the Governor presented his 2008 – 2009 state budget, his "Year of Education" has turned into a year of painful, across-the-board cuts for public education. The Culver City USD faces a projected \$3.5 million gap of which \$2.7 million is a direct result of the Governor's proposed budget. The Board of Education started addressing this gap by making cuts approaching \$ 2.2 million in 33 areas on Feb 26th. Clearly, more work needs to be done to prepare for next year.

We have opposed the Governor's budget and requested adequate funding for public education. Our reasons included the following facts.

California is falling to the bottom in the nation regarding per-pupil funding. California now ranks 46th and spends \$1,900 less per student than the national average

California public schools have the most Byzantine, difficult to understand budget process in either the public or private sector. We're acutely aware that the governing boards of schools have virtually no discretionary funds.

California voters approved and supported Proposition 98 to protect students and schools from harmful budget cuts.

We want all of our students to attain California's academic standards, which are the highest in the nation. We want the best programs, teachers, administrators and support staff for our schools. We need more, not less, to educate our students. And the Governor's proposed budget gives us less, over \$800 per student less.

As our state legislators work on next year's budget, please share your support for public education and anger over potential cuts. Culver City's representatives are State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas and Assembly Speaker designee Karen Bass. If you need additional information or even sample letters, then please feel free to contact us through the district website (www.ccusd.k12.ca.us) or office (310-842-4220).

- *Culver City Unified School District Board of Education*

Thanks to the Members:

Thank you Democratic Club members for inviting me to speak at your February 13, Candidates' Forum. I enjoyed meeting those of you that I did not know. All of your questions were "On Point" addressing issues affecting Culver

City. It was an honor being considered for endorsement. I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

- *Loni Anderson*

Seeking Submissions

We would like your articles and letters to the editor. Let your voice be heard! Submissions will be published as space allows. Submissions may be edited for length.

The Club's Executive Board reserves the right to determine suitability of submissions for inclusion in the newsletter.

Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On Tuesday April 8, 2008 Election for Culver City City Council race with 3 seats open.

The results were for the two candidates that the club endorsed Christopher Armenta and Andrew Weissman we congratulate both of them. We also congratulate Micheál O' Leary on his win.

At our endorsement general meeting on Wed. April 9 the club endorsed 7 people who were running for Central Committee 6 were club members. Jimmie Woods-Gray, Evelyn Metoyer-Williams, Terrence M. Montgomery, Ruth & David Weisman and Lee Welinsky. We congratulate them. We also congratulate Rosa Russell.

We also endorsed by acclamation to re-elect to the 47th A.D. Assembly Assembly Speaker-Elect Karen Bass.

We endorsed for Supervisor 2nd District to fill in Supervisor Burke's seat, State Senator Mark Ridley Thomas.

We also endorsed to re-elect to Congress 33rd District our own Congresswoman Diane Watson.

Saturday April 12 we had a New Members Brunch which was hosted by Ronnie & Tom Camarella at their house. The food was great and we are sorry that you missed it. We thank Ronnie and Tom.

10 Things You Should Know About John McCain (But Probably Don't):

from MoveOn.Org – submitted by Lee Welinsky

1. John McCain voted against establishing a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Now he says his position has "evolved," yet he's continued to oppose key civil rights laws.

2. According to Bloomberg News, McCain is more hawkish than Bush on Iraq, Russia and China. Conservative columnist Pat Buchanan says McCain "will make Cheney look like Gandhi."

Club Endorsements

(Continued)

L.A. County Democratic Party Central Committee:
 Evelyn Metoyer-Williams
 Terrence Montgomery
 Rosa Russell
 David Weisman
 Ruth Weisman
 Mollie "Lee" Welinsky
 Jimmie Woods-Gray

L.A. County Judges:
 Endorsed by LA County Democratic Party
 Office 4: Ralph W. Dau
 Office 69: Harvey A. Silberman
 Office 72: Hilleri Grossman Merritt
 Office 82: Cynthia Loo
 Office 84: Lori-Ann Jones
 Office 94: C. Edward Mack
 Office 95: Patricia D. Nieto
 Office 119: Jared D. Moses
 Office 123: Kathleen Blanchard
 Office 125: James N. Bianco
 Office 154: Rocky L. Crabb

3. His reputation is built on his opposition to torture, but McCain voted against a bill to ban waterboarding, and then applauded President Bush for vetoing that ban.

4. McCain opposes a woman's right to choose. He said, "I do not support Roe versus Wade. It should be overturned."

5. The Children's Defense Fund rated McCain as the worst senator in Congress for children. He voted against the children's health care bill last year, then defended Bush's veto of the bill.

6. He's one of the richest people in a Senate filled with millionaires. The Associated Press reports he and his wife own at least eight homes! Yet McCain says the solution to the housing crisis is for people facing foreclosure to get a "second job" and skip their vacations.

7. Many of McCain's fellow Republican senators say he's too reckless to be commander in chief. One Republican senator said: "The thought of his being president sends a cold chill down my spine. He's erratic. He's hotheaded. He loses his temper and he worries me."

8. McCain talks a lot about taking on special interests, but his campaign manager and top advisers are actually lobbyists. The government watchdog group Public Citizen says McCain has 59 lobbyists raising money for his campaign, more than any of the other presidential candidates.

9. McCain has sought closer ties to the extreme religious right in recent years. The pastor McCain calls his "spiritual guide," Rod Parsley, believes America's founding mission is to destroy

Islam, which he calls a "false religion." McCain sought the political support of right-wing preacher John Hagee, who believes Hurricane Katrina was God's punishment for gay rights and called the Catholic Church "the Antichrist" and a "false cult."

10. He positions himself as pro-environment, but he scored a 0 - yes, zero - from the League of Conservation Voters last year.

2008 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Greg Valtierra
 President@CCDemClub.Org
First Vice President: Ronnie Jayne
 FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Second VP: Laura Stuart
 SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org
Treasurer: Eric Fine
 Treasurer@CCDemClub.Org
Recording Secretary: Sally Gardner
Corresponding Secretary: Lee Welinsky
Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg

Web Editor: Brian Pogue
 Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org
Newsletter: Greg Valtierra (Interim)
Publicity: Karlo Silbiger

Contact the Democratic Presidential Campaigns:

Hillary Clinton for President

Phone: 310.557.4287
 Website:
www.hillaryclinton.com

Barack Obama for America

Phone: 866.675.2008
 Website:
www.barackobama.com

Club Endorsements
U.S. Congress, 33rd District:
Diane Watson

State 47th Assembly
District:
Karen Bass

L.A. County Board of
Supervisors, 2nd District:
Mark Ridley-Thomas

LA County Democratic
Party Central Committee:
Evelyn Metoyer-
Williams
Terrence Montgomery
Rosa Russell
David Weisman
Ruth Weisman
Mollie "Lee" Welinsky
Jimmie Woods-Gray

Ballot Propositions:
California Democratic Party Positions
NO – Proposition 98
YES – Proposition 99

Renew your membership!
2008 dues must be paid by
renewing members before a
vote to get a ballot at the
general meeting. New and
lapsed members must have
paid dues at least 25 days in
advance to vote at a meeting.

Upcoming Events

► **Saturday, May 24**
Monthly Board Meeting:
9:00 AM at Ronnie and Tom's
home. All members welcome.
Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or
email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, June 11**
Monthly General Meeting:
7:30 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Greg at
(310)204 1338 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

Culver City Democratic Club
P.O. Box 4254
Culver City, CA 90231-4254

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Vote - Tuesday June 3

May 14 - Meeting Program:

The Budget Crisis at CC Unified School District

Featuring Dr. Myrna Cote, Superintendent of CCUSD,
Scott Zeidman, School Board Member, and David
Mielke, President, Culver City Federation of Teachers

Culver City Democratic Club Application/Renewal Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____

I declare that all the individuals listed for membership are registered Democrats.

Signed: _____

Membership Dues: Dues may be waived for financial hardship
 Member \$30 Student \$20
 Supporting Member \$75 Sustaining Member \$125

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to:

Culver City Democratic Club
P.O. Box 4254, Culver City, CA 90231-4254

For questions please call Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg at
(310) 398-5328

Please renew for 2008 if you haven't already done so.

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.
Renewals are due by January 1, 2008.