



Active Democrat

General Meeting – March 10, 2010 June Ballot Measures Propositions 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17

**Culver City Democratic Club
City Council Endorsement:**

Meghan Sahli-Wells

Vote Tuesday, April 13



President's Letter:

For the past few weeks I've been pleasantly distracted by "Olympic Fever". I confess, as much as I

was rooting for Team America, at any given time of the day or night anyone walking past my house would probably hear me yelling, "Go, go, go!!!!!" to anyone from any country blazing down a snowy hill or around a circle of ice. It's ironic – as the major reason I left New York City was to get away from the snow and ice!

Now with the 2010 Olympic Torch extinguished, I find myself with a hole in my heart, that can only be filled with:

Elections, Elections, and yet More Elections!!!

Yes, ... It's Election Season in Culver City. It seems like it always is, these days! In 6 weeks, on April 13, we'll be electing 2 members to the Culver City Council – and on June 8 we'll be voting in the Democratic Primary for Statewide offices, Congress, State Assembly, Judges, Democratic County Committee members and too many propositions.

Our Club will do our best to help guide you through the giant slalom of candidates and issues. Our March meeting will be dedicated to a discussion on Propositions 13 (No, ... not THAT Proposition 13, which I wish we could vote on again, and defeat in its current form), 14, 15, 16 and 17. The issues range from Seismic Retrofitting (13), to Open Primaries (14), Public Campaign Financing (15), Providing

(See President, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, March 10, 2010
6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

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Club Notes
Renew your membership!
Please use the form on page 4 to supply your renewal information.
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: Show your support for ending the war in Afghanistan every other Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel. Next on March 12, 26 and April 2.

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

(**President**, from Page 1)
Electricity (16) and Car Insurance
(17).

On Saturday April 10 we will be the host city of the Southern California Forum for Democratic Candidates running for Statewide offices. From 12 Noon to 4 PM, Vets Auditorium will be the home of numerous candidates and hundreds of interested Democrats. Be there!

On Wednesday April 14 at our regular Club meeting, we will hold a Forum and Endorsement Vote for our Democratic candidates for Congress and State Assembly. It should be a great evening!

So, as we race toward the election finish lines (my final Olympic reference), remember that the ends of these races are really only beginnings – because the REAL work starts up in Culver City Hall, Sacramento and Washington DC. We need to end the gridlock and have our leaders bring about the Progressive change for which we voted and so seriously need.

Ronnie Jayne, President

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.

From the Editor: Unintended Consequences?

As happens in every statewide election we have several propositions to consider on the June ballot. Some seem like good ideas, at least on the surface.

However, like the proposition 13 of the 70's we again have propositions that may appear to have an immediate benefit but have longer term consequences we don't intend. Be very wary of tinkering with the machinery of our democracy.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

At our February 10, 2010 General Meeting with the Candidates Forum for City Council the membership endorsed Club member Meghan Sahli-Wells. We congratulate her.

Saturday February 20 our annual Installation Luncheon was held at The Courtyard by Marriot in Culver City to install the 2010 Executive Board. They are President - Ronnie Jayne, First V.P. - Karlo Silbiger, Second V.P. - Bill Wynn, Recording Secretary - Sylvia Moore, Corresponding Secretary - Lee Welinsky, Treasurer - Eric Fine and Membership Chair - Diane Rosenberg. We congratulate them. Congresswoman Diane Watson conducted the installation ceremony. She is retiring at the end of this year. We congratulate the Congresswoman for all of her years in aiding and helping not only our Club but all of the people she has blessed with her kindness and understanding of their problems.

Ronnie Jayne was the Mistress of Ceremonies. She did a fantastic job and we thank her as usual she did one better thing than usual. She presented Diane Rosenberg with a special award for her dedication to the Club. We thank her for her thoughtfulness.

Also at the luncheon was our State Senator Curren Price, Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, and many other dignified guests

The Elected Leader of the Year Award was presented to Congresswoman Diane Watson, The Trudy Cherness Democrat of the Year Award was presented to Greg Valtierra. Ronnie Jayne received her plaque for serving as President for 2009-2010.

The luncheon was a complete success. And the food served was excellent. All that attended were pleased.

On Saturday February 27, 2010 Karen Bass held a kick-off celebration at the Wilshire United Methodist Church as a candidate running for the 33rd Congressional District. Several of Club members and many dignitaries attended including Congresswoman Diane Watson.

For being there our opinion is that Diane Watson fully supports giving up her seat to Karen Bass. As she believes Karen is the very best candidate when she retires.

Summary of June Ballot Propositions

(Summaries from the Calif. Secretary of State Website)

Proposition 13 - Limits on Property Tax Assessment. Seismic retrofitting of existing buildings: Legislatively-referred constitutional amendment.

- Provides that construction to seismically retrofit buildings will not trigger reassessment of property tax value.
- Sets statewide standard for seismic retrofit improvements that qualify.
- Limits the exemption from reassessment to specific components of construction or reconstruction that qualify as seismic retrofit improvements, as defined by the Legislature

Fiscal Impact Estimate:

Minor reduction in local property tax revenues related to the assessment of earthquake upgrades

Proposition 14 -Primary election process reform. Greater participation in elections: Legislatively-referred constitutional amendment.

- Encourages increased participation in elections for congressional, legislative and statewide offices by reforming the procedure by which candidates are selected in primary elections.
- Gives voters increased options by allowing all voters to choose any candidate regardless of the candidate's or voter's political party preference.
- Ensures that the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will appear on the general election ballot regardless of party preference.
- Does not change primary elections for President, party committee offices, and nonpartisan offices.

Fiscal Impact Estimate:

No significant net change in state and local government costs to administer elections

Proposition 15 - California Fair Elections Act: legislatively-referred state statute.

- This act creates a voluntary system for candidates for Secretary of State to qualify for a public campaign grant if they agree to strict spending limits and take no private contributions
- Candidates would have to qualify before receiving the grant.
- Candidates who demonstrate sufficient public support would receive the same amount.
- Participating candidates would be prohibited from raising or spending money beyond the grant.
- There would be strict enforcement and accountability with published reports open to the public.
- Funded by voluntary contributions and by a \$350 annual registration fee on lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employees.

Fiscal Impact Estimate:

Increased revenues totaling over \$6 million every four years. These funds would be spent on public financing for campaigns of Secretary of State candidates for the 2014 and 2018 elections.

Proposition 16 – Imposes new two-thirds voter approval requirement for local public electricity providers: Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

- Requires local governments to obtain the approval of two-thirds of the voters before providing electricity service to new customers or expanding such service to new territories using public funds or bonds.
- Requires same two-thirds to provide electricity service through a community choice program using public funds or bonds.
- Requires the vote to be in the jurisdiction of the local government and any new territory to be served.
- Provides exceptions to the voting requirements for a limited number of identified projects.

Fiscal Impact Estimate:

Unknown net impact on state and local government costs and revenues due to uncertainty as to the measure's effects on public electricity providers and on electricity rates. These effects are unlikely to be significant in the short run.

Proposition 17 - Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage: Initiative Statute.

- Changes current law to permit insurance companies to offer a discount to drivers who have continuously maintained their auto insurance coverage, even if they change their insurance company, and not withstanding the ban on using absence of prior insurance for purposes of pricing.
- May allow insurance companies to increase cost of insurance to drivers who do not qualify for a discount.
- Establishes that lapses in coverage due to nonpayment of premiums may prevent a driver from qualifying for a discount.

Fiscal Impact Estimate:

Probably no significant fiscal effect on state insurance premium tax revenues.

2010 Club Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Ronnie Jayne
President@CCDemClub.Org
First Vice President: Karlo Silbiger
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Second VP: Bill Wynn
SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org
Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CCDemClub.Org
Recording Secretary: Sylvia Moore
Corresponding Secretary: Lee Welinsky
Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg
Web Editor: Brian Pogue
Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org
Newsletter: Greg Valtierra

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2010.
Dues for 2010 are due by
January 1, 2010. Current
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.

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

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March 10, 2010 - Meeting Program:

**June Ballot Measures
Propositions 13, 14, 15, 16,
& 17**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, March 10**

**Monthly General Meeting:
June Ballot Measures**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Ronnie at
(310) 836-7557 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, March 20**

Monthly Board Meeting:

1:00 PM at Tom Camarella &
Ronnie Jayne's home. All
members welcome. Call Karlo at
(310) 839-9793 or email
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, April 10**

**Democratic Candidate
Forum for Statewide
Offices:**

12 - 4 PM at the Veterans
Memorial Building. Public is
welcome. Arrive early as large
turnout expected. Call Ronnie at
(310) 836-7557 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, April 14**

**Monthly General Meeting:
State & Federal Office
Endorsements**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Ronnie at
(310) 836-7557 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

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 2010 if you haven't already done so.

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.

Renewals are due by January 1, of each year.